CHEROKEE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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October 13, 2026

El Paso County
Planning & Community Development
2880 International Circle, Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80910-3127

Re: PFAS Water Treatment Facility (WTF) and Distribution Project
Site Development Plan – County 1041 Permit Application
Letter of Intent

We respectfully submit the County 1041 Permit - Letter of Intent for approval by El Paso County of the PFAS Water Treatment Facility (WTF) and Distribution Project (Project). The Project includes construction of a PFAS WTF, raw and finished water transmission pipelines, finished water distribution improvements, raw and finished water storage, pumping, and supporting utility infrastructure within El Paso County. Our Letter of Intent provides an overview of the Project, the purpose and need, the anticipated benefits, and the key Project information relevant to El Paso County's review of the 1041 permit application.

Consultant and Owner Contact Information

Owner	Consultant
Cherokee Metropolitan District	Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services (AE2S)
6250 Palmer Park Blvd	9400 Station St, Suite 300
Colorado Springs, CO 80915	Lone Tree, CO 80124
Contact: Troy Slocum, PE	Contact: Kyria Bosma, PE
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Background

CMD provides potable water and wastewater service to approximately 25,000 residents, including Schriever Space Force Base, schools, businesses, and surrounding communities within unincorporated El Paso County. CMD operates a regional water system consisting of groundwater wells, chlorination facilities, storage tanks, transmission pipelines, and distribution infrastructure. Disinfection is the required treatment prior to distribution.

Project Purpose and Need

PFAS sampling completed in 2023 and 2024 identified concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in several production wells that are necessary to meet existing and future customer demand. The affected wells represent a significant portion of CMD's available supply and cannot be removed from service without impacting long-term

reliability. Federal and State drinking water regulations require treatment of the PFAS. CMD evaluated multiple alternatives and determined that construction of a dedicated PFAS WTF provides a reliable and sustainable long-term solution.

Alternatives Evaluation

CMD evaluated new water source development, blending, and centralized treatment alternatives. New source development was determined to be infeasible due to water availability and legal constraints. Blending was determined to be insufficient because PFAS concentrations in several high-producing wells would continue to threaten compliance. Following treatment evaluations and pilot testing, a centralized PFAS WTF approach utilizing ion exchange (IX) technology was selected as the preferred alternative.

Proposed Improvements

The Project includes: (1) raw water conveyance and storage facilities; (2) a PFAS WTF with an anticipated treatment capacity of approximately 8.64 MGD; (3) finished water pumping and storage facilities; (4) site access, electrical, instrumentation, controls, and appurtenant facilities; and (5) associated drainage, utility, and operational improvements required for long-term operation of the PFAS WTF.

Project Location and Site Selection

The PFAS WTF is located in eastern El Paso County near CMD's existing well field and transmission infrastructure. The PFAS WTF location allows treatment of groundwater before entering the distribution system, minimizes required infrastructure improvements, and maximizes operational efficiency. The PFAS WTF location provides sufficient room for treatment processes, storage, vehicle access, maintenance activities, and future operational needs.

Existing and Future Operations

The PFAS WTF will be owned, operated, and maintained by CMD. The IX treatment process was selected based upon treatment effectiveness, operational simplicity, footprint requirements, and lifecycle cost considerations. The PFAS WTF will be integrated into CMD's existing operational framework and monitored through a supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA). The Project has been designed to support long-term reliability while minimizing operational complexity.

Environmental Considerations

The Project area is characterized primarily by rural land uses, open rangeland, agricultural properties, transportation corridors, and utility infrastructure. The PFAS WTF site is outside mapped flood hazard areas. Pipeline improvements will generally follow existing roadway or utility corridors where practical in order to minimize impacts. CMD will coordinate with applicable agencies regarding floodplain crossings, stormwater management, cultural resources, and environmental permitting requirements. Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented during construction.

Land Use Compatibility

The Project constitutes essential public utility infrastructure intended to protect public health and maintain compliance with drinking water regulations. The PFAS WTF is planned to be compatible with the surrounding area through the use of appropriate architectural treatments, site design, and operational controls. The PFAS WTF will not generate significant traffic, noise, or adverse impacts beyond those typically associated with utility infrastructure.

Public Health and Community Benefits

The Project will provide substantial public benefits by ensuring compliance with existing and future drinking water regulations, improving drinking water quality, protecting public health, increasing system resiliency, and safeguarding critical water supplies. The Project will support continued service to residents, schools, businesses, and regional economic drivers within CMD's service area.

Construction Considerations

Construction activities will be phased to minimize impacts to existing customers and surrounding properties. CMD anticipates utilizing qualified contractors and implementing best management practices for traffic control, safety, dust suppression, erosion control, and site restoration. The majority of impacts are expected to be temporary and construction-related in nature.

Project Schedule

Design and permitting activities are underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027 with substantial completion targeted in 2028 to support Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) regulatory compliance milestones and long-term operational objectives of CMD.

Conclusion

The PFAS Water Treatment and Distribution Project is a critical public infrastructure investment that will protect public health, maintain regulatory compliance, preserve CMD's water resources, and support reliable water service throughout El Paso County.

We respectfully submit the County 1041 Permit - Letter of Intent for approval by El Paso County of the PFAS Water Treatment Facility (WTF) and Distribution Project (Project).

Thank you for your assistance with this important project. We look forward to continued coordination with El Paso County. Please contact us at tslocum@cherokeemetro.org or (719) 597-5080 with questions.

Respectfully,



Troy Slocum
District Engineer

Attachments

cc: Ms. Kyria Bosma (with attachments via email)