



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 821
Denver, CO 80203

November 20, 2017

El Paso County Development Services Department
2880 International Circle, Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

RE: Grant Minor Subdivision
Sec. 5, Twp. 12S, Rng. 66W, 6th P.M.
Water Division 2, Water District 10
CDWR Assigned Subdivision No. 24133

To Whom It May Concern,

We have received the submittal concerning the above referenced proposal to subdivide a 41± acres tract of land into two new lots. The first lot would be approximately 11.04 acres, and the second approximately 30.0 acres. Our records indicate that an existing well with Permit No. 81317-F is located on the property. The proposed supply of water to the subdivision will be individual on-lot wells for each lot, with wastewater being disposed of through individual on-lot septic disposal systems.

Water Supply Demand

According to the Water Supply Information Summary received in the submittal, the estimated water demand for the development is 1.0 acre-feet/year/household. Based on the Division 2 Water Court case no. 2016CW3066 this amount breaks down to 0.35 acre-feet/year for in house use, 0.6 acre-feet/year for 10,500 square feet of home gardens and lawns, and 0.05 acre-foot per year for up to 4 large domestic animals.

Please note that standard water use rates, as found in the Guide to Colorado Well Permits, Water Rights, and Water Administration, are 0.3 acre-foot/year for each ordinary household, 0.05 acre-foot/year for four large domestic animals, and 0.05 acre-foot/year for each 1,000 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation.

Source of Water Supply

The anticipated source of water is to be provided by on-lot wells producing from the Dawson aquifer that will operate pursuant to the augmentation plan decreed by the Division 2 Water Court in case no. 2016CW3066. This case adjudicated water in the Dawson, Denver,



Arapahoe and Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers underlying the 41 acres of land which make up the entire proposed Grant Minor Subdivision.

According to the decrees entered by the Division 2 Water Court in case no. 2016CW3066, the following amounts of water shown in Table 1, below, were determined to be available underlying the 41 acre property.

Table 1 - Denver Basin Ground Water Rights

Aquifer	Tributary Status	Volume (AF)	Annual Allocation 100 Year (AF/Year)	Annual Allocation 300 Year (AF/Year)
Dawson	NNT	600	6.0	2.0
Denver	NNT4%	1,496	15.0	5.0
Arapahoe	NNT	1,632	16.3	5.4
Laramie-Fox	NT	1,110	11.1	3.7

The plan for augmentation decreed in Division 2 Water Court case no. 2016CW3066 allows for diversion of 2.0 acre-foot annually from the Dawson aquifer for a maximum of 300 years.

Permit No. 81317-F was issued on September 7, 2017 pursuant to CRS 37-90-137(4) to use an existing well on the condition that this well is operated in accordance with the plan for augmentation approved by the Division 2 Water Court in case no. 2016CW3066. It appears that the well will be located on the property and can continue to operate under the existing well permit.

The proposed source of water for this subdivision is a bedrock aquifer in the Denver Basin. The State Engineer's Office does not have evidence regarding the length of time for which this source will be a physically and economically viable source of water. According to 37-90-137(4)(b)(I), C.R.S., "Permits issued pursuant to this subsection (4) shall allow withdrawals on the basis of an aquifer life of one hundred years." Based on this **allocation** approach, the annual amounts of water decreed is equal to one percent of the total amount available as determined by Rules 8.A and 8.B of the Statewide Nontributary Ground Water Rules, 2 CCR 402-7. Therefore, the water may be withdrawn in those amounts for a maximum of 100 years.

In the El Paso County Land Development Code, effective November, 1986, Chapter 5, Section 49.5, (D), (2) states:

"-Finding of Sufficient Quantity – The water supply shall be of sufficient quantity to meet the average annual demand of the proposed subdivision for a period of three hundred (300) years."

The State Engineer's Office does not have evidence regarding the length of time for which this source will "meet the average annual demand of the proposed subdivision." However, treating El Paso County's requirement as an **allocation** approach based on three hundred years, the annual estimated demand, for the entire subdivision, is 2.0 acre-feet as allowed by the



augmentation plan. As a result, the water may be withdrawn in that annual amount for a maximum of 300 years.

State Engineer's Office Opinion

Based on the above, it is our opinion, pursuant to CRS 30-28-136(1)(h)(l), that the anticipated water supply can be provided without causing material injury to decreed water rights so long as the applicant obtains well permits issued pursuant to C.R.S. 37-90-137(2) and the plan for augmentation noted herein, for all wells in the subdivision and operates the wells in accordance with the terms and conditions of any future well permits.

Our opinion that the water supply is **adequate** is based on our determination that the amount of water required annually to serve the subdivision is currently physically available, based on current estimated aquifer conditions.

Our opinion that the water supply can be **provided without causing injury** is based on our determination that the amount of water that is legally available on an annual basis, according to the statutory **allocation** approach, for the proposed uses is greater than the annual amount of water required to supply the demands of the proposed subdivision.

Our opinion is qualified by the following:

The Division 2 Water Court has retained jurisdiction over the final amount of water available pursuant to the above-referenced decrees, pending actual geophysical data from the aquifer.

The amounts of water in the Denver Basin aquifers, and identified in Division 2 Water Court case no. 2017CW3066, was calculated based on estimated current aquifer conditions. For planning purposes the county should be aware that the economic life of a water supply based on wells in a given Denver Basin aquifer may be less than the 300 years used for allocation due to anticipated water level declines. We recommend that the county determine whether it is appropriate to require development of renewable water resources for this subdivision to provide for a long-term water supply.

Should you or the applicant have questions regarding any of the above, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,



Ivan Franco, P.E.
Water Resource Engineer

cc: Steve Witte, Division 2 Engineer (via email)
Doug Hollister, District 10 Water Commissioner (via email)

