



Utilities
electric · stormwater · wastewater · water
700 Wood Street
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522
970.221.6700
970.221.6619 – fax
970.224.6003 – TDD
utilities@fcgov.com
fcgov.com/utilities

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2013

TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers

THRU: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *DA*
Brian Janonis, Utilities Executive Director

FROM: Kevin R. Gertig, Water Resources & Treatment Operations Manager
Lance Smith, Strategic Utilities Finance Manager

RE: March 19, 2013 City Council Meeting – Agenda Item #17

There were a few questions and comments regarding the need for the new pre sedimentation basin and the Emergency Watershed Protection from the March 18th Council Leadership Team meeting. The following is a brief summary addressing these issues, which can be further addressed tonight.

Pre Sedimentation Basin

What is it? A pre-sedimentation basin is a large concrete structure where particulate sedimentation is removed from the water. The water is diverted from the river into the basin where it slows down, allowing the sediment to settle out of the water before the water is sent downstream for treatment.

Why is it important? The sediment removal through the basin will allow for a more consistent raw water quality coming into the plant, which is beneficial for determining chemical additions, process control and other treatment strategies. It will also remove sediment that is normal in the river during the spring run off season, when debris is carried into the water treatment facility pipelines and affects treatment.

Additional Fire-related Water Quality Efforts

In addition to the pre-sedimentation basin currently being constructed at the Munroe Turnout of the Pleasant Valley Pipeline, the soil remediation efforts that began last year will continue this spring. This will continue to be a cooperative regional effort with the City of Greeley and the Tri-Districts.

Other work includes updating our pre-treatment facilities in preparation for challenging treatment conditions in late spring and throughout the summer months. Our upper watershed monitoring group will continue to monitor conditions throughout our watershed.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program Funding

U.S. Senate Bill Last week, Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet along with the City of Fort Collins welcomed the inclusion of a \$65.5 million watershed and flood mitigation funding bill for the Emergency Watershed Protection money that we have been pursuing. The proposed funding, pending approval from the House and Senate, will help stabilize and restore the high severity burn areas in the Cache la Poudre watershed. The funds would be split between High Park and Waldo Canyon fires based upon needs.

The Emergency Watershed Protection program supports efforts to restore eroded watersheds and damaged drinking water infrastructure.

Next Steps Our city staff will immediately be working with both the county and water utility stakeholders to finalize the priority areas. Our team will be ready to implement changes if the bill passes both the House and Senate.

The co-sponsors of the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, City of Greeley, and Tri-Districts, will take the lead on implementation of the funding if approved.