



April 26, 2019

Mr. Jeff Robbins
Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Ste. 801
Denver, CO 80203

RE: ECCV's Comments on Draft Objective Criteria No. 5

Dear Director Robbins:

East Cherry Creek Valley Water & Sanitation District (ECCV) respectfully provides these comments on the Director's Draft Objective Criteria created April 19, 2019. In particular, *ECCV urges the Director to clarify Criteria No. 5 to include special water districts such as ECCV.*

ECCV is a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado registered with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as a public water supply system (PWSID #CO0103035). ECCV provides water and sanitary sewer services to approximately 50,500 permanent residents in the eastern portions of the City of Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe County.

ECCV's supply area is in Adams County and consists of a series of 19 alluvial wells, a treatment plant, 2 brine injection wells, a 2.5 million gallon water tank, multiple aquifer recharge facilities, and an "off-spec" storage pond. Water from the supply area is provided to the service area by a 31-mile underground pipeline.

ECCV's supply area wells overlie the Beebe Draw Aquifer, a unique, highly permeable, very shallow, alluvial aquifer with water levels often lying 10 feet or less from ground surface. This, combined with the very permeable nature of the aquifer gravels, makes the Beebe Draw Aquifer highly susceptible to contamination from surface and near surface releases. Together with ECCV, the City of Brighton, Town of Lochbuie, and Arapahoe County Water and Waste Water Authority derive municipal drinking water from the Beebe Draw Aquifer for a total of over 100,000 people.

ECCV has attempted to protect the quality of ground water in the Beebe Draw through the implementation of a Well Head Protection Program as originally authorized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and administered by CDPHE under the Source Water Assessment Program. In addition, ECCV has worked with Marc Morton and Greg Deranleau at COGCC since 2017 to attempt to develop protections for the ECCV well field similar to the City of Brighton. Despite ECCV's efforts, COGCC and Adams County near-monthly approve oil and gas permit applications in ECCV's supply area over the sensitive Beebe Draw Aquifer. ECCV still does not

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receive notice of these applications. ECCV has been told part of COGCC's difficulty in assigning Rule 317B or local government status to ECCV is due to ECCV's supply area being located 31 miles apart from its service area.

ECCV has expressed its concerns regarding oil and gas development over its supply area in comments on multiple permit applications filed by Extraction Oil and Gas Inc., Verdad Resources LLC, and Petro Operating Company, LLC, from 2017 to present. ECCV is particularly concerned with spills of petroleum products on the pads, leaks in the underground piping, leaks from storage tanks, fuel spills, fires, and releases from petroleum pipelines transporting product from the facilities. With the ever growing population of well sites over the aquifer, ECCV anticipates it may only be a matter of time before some kind of surface or shallow release of petroleum or petroleum related contaminants occurs. Because of the highly permeable nature of the aquifer and the steep gradients in the water table, any contamination reaching the aquifer will travel very quickly and may contaminate large portions of the gravel formation before it can be controlled or even identified. ECCV has produced ground water modeling data which specifically documents transit times and flow rates in this aquifer and believe that this letter should be in the files of both COGCC and Adams County.

Now is an opportune time for COGCC to clarify that special water districts such as ECCV are included within COGCC's Rule 317B public water system protection rules. ECCV urges the Director to clarify his Draft Objective Criteria No. 5 by making the following underlined revisions:

- 5) Locations within:
 - a) a Floodplain;
 - b) an identified public drinking water supply area (i.e. Rule 317B buffer zone, ~~or~~ the Brighton Public Water System, or special water districts); or
 - c) a sensitive area for water resources (e.g. the Beebe Draw Aquifer).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



David J. Kaunisto
District Manager