



Public Works Department

2525 13th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80304 • 303-441-3900
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • BoulderCounty.gov

Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee

November 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
TEAMS Video Conference Meeting

November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alex North, Heidi Gerstung

Guests: Gabby Begeman (ORC)

County Staff: Taylor Ladenburg (PW), Robin Higham (PW), Kate Burke (CA)

Minutes: October minutes were approved.

Compliance reports:

- The plant continues to exceed Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) limits (10 mg/L). Six exceedances have been recorded this year.
- E. coli limits were met, which was a positive development.
- Field testing is ongoing; most recent TIN field result: 11 mg/L, slightly improved. Gabby will share a spreadsheet with real-time data.
- The facility remains under a Cease & Desist Order from CDPHE, with potential fines of \$65,000/day for continuing violations. Kate emphasized the seriousness of having additional or ongoing violations.

ORC Ops Report:

- A major issue this month involved the jet mixer pump, which was discovered to have a welded-shut contactor, causing it to run continuously and disrupt settling processes. This significantly increased operator time and costs.
- The pump failure interfered with Micro C implementation, preventing proper biological treatment.
- ORC staff spent substantial hours removing sludge from the EQ tank and repairing the pump.

Invoices and Budget

- ORC invoice is significantly higher due to substantial labor hours involved in repairing a jet-pump mixer and removing sludge from the EQ tank.

New/Old Business:

- To stabilize operations before the major upgrade (“Alternative 3”), JVA recommends implementing several “interim” improvements:

Claire Levy
County Commissioner



Marta Loachamin
County Commissioner



Ashley Stolzmann
County Commissioner

- Radar level sensor — to better detect sludge/water interface.
- Floating decanter — replaces fixed decanter; cost estimated under \$10,000.
- Control panel upgrades — especially adding a time-delay relay so decanting does not immediately send unsettled water to UV treatment.

Total estimated cost: ~\$20,000–\$40,000.

- JVA may need a small contract extension to complete design work on these interim fixes.
- These mechanical fixes could improve solids/E.coli performance but likely will not solve TIN exceedances.
- Gabby recommends consulting Fluidyne, the original system designer, for process optimization. However, Fluidyne has historically been resistant to acknowledging system limitations.
- They have previously stated the plant is overloaded beyond original ammonia design capacity.
- Gabby suggested first sending Fluidyne data for remote review before deciding if it would be worth paying for a site visit (~\$5,000 estimated).
- Boulder County Commissioners unanimously selected Alternative 3, the ~\$1M major plant renovation option.
 - CDPHE requires an implementation timeline by Dec 10.
 - Funding will likely involve a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan, which could take ~2 years, making earliest construction timeline 2027.
 - Because repayment mechanisms must be voter-approved, the earliest ballot opportunity is Nov 2026.
- Operator Transition
 - ORC failed to submit their bid on time. Under procurement rules, the county could not accept a late bid.
 - ORC expressed disappointment but committed to supporting a smooth transition and assisting the new operator.
- Need for Potential Rate Increase
 - The new operator, Water Quality Control Professionals (John Volk), bid \$7,000/month, compared to the previous contract's \$3,900/month, an ~80% increase.
 - This cost increase alone could require a ~27–30% rate increase.
 - Further increases may be required to rebuild depleted reserves and fund interim fixes.
- PID Transition & Rules/Regulations Review
 - The district will soon transition legally from an LID to a PID, shifting ownership/management of the plant from the County to the PID.
 - County Commissioners will act as the PID Board; committee members continue in their advisory role.
 - No increased personal liability for residents.
 - Opportunity exists to review rules & regulations, including tapping fees, grinder pump responsibilities, and plant investment fees.

New Action/Agenda Items:

- Gabby will reach out and later advise whether an on-site visit from Fluidyne is worthwhile.
- Taylor to create varying rate increase forecast to show options on balancing the budget given the new operator costs as well as options for building up the capital improvement fund.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.