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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

**Coal Creek Flood Mitigation Project,
Larimer County, Colorado
February 16, 2011**

Larimer County has applied for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and a **Finding of No Significant Impact** (FONSI) was issued July 6, 2009 for the Coal Creek Flood Mitigation Project. A supplemental EA has been prepared to document and transmit revisions made to the final design of that Project. The design phase is nearly complete, and construction will take place during 2011. The Project will address the purpose and goals as described in the original EA and approved in the original FONSI, both of which are incorporated here by reference. The overall project elements, location and approach are the same, but refinements in the final design have resulted in fewer impacts than assumed in the original EA. All original stipulations, mitigation measures and project conditions apply, except as noted below.

There are two project components, the outlet channel improvements and the culvert and swale installation in Wellington that are no longer necessary for this project. Analysis by the Larimer County Engineer determined that the existing outlet channel has adequate conveyance and the installation of culverts in Wellington would not have further changed the new floodplain limits. Therefore, both items and their potential impacts have been eliminated from the project.

In addition, the final design has reduced anticipated wetland impacts by 97%, from 11.8 acres to 0.33 acres. The wetland mitigation for this project will still be on a 1:1 basis as stipulated in Item 6 of the original FONSI. Therefore, only 0.33 acres of wetlands will be constructed for mitigation. The amount of material to be dredged from the existing reservoir will be reduced from 500,000 cubic yards to 200,000 cubic yards and the emergency spillway will be raised by 1.0 feet rather than 1.5 feet. The significant reduction in impact is possible because instead of making the reservoir larger through excavation of existing wetlands, reservoir volume needed to retain floodwaters is being gained through an agreement with the North Poudre Irrigation Company to utilize a portion of their existing storage capacity during the flood season.

The final revision is to eliminate the construction of a temporary roadway at the County Road 7 crossing. Instead, traffic will be detoured to CR-9 to the west or Interstate 25 to the east, a maximum detour of 2 miles. The detour is anticipated to remain effective for approximately 90 days after the start of construction. The public has been duly notified of these changes through project specific meetings, newspaper articles and outreach to individuals within the proposed project area.

Based on the information contained in the supplemental EA, completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA's regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental considerations, and Executive Orders (EO) addressing Floodplains (EO 11988), Wetlands (EO 11990), the Endangered Species Act, and Environmental Justice (EO 12898), it is found that the Proposed Action with the prescribed mitigation measures and stipulations (as amended) will have no significant adverse impact on the human environment. As a result of this **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the Proposed Action with the associated mitigation measures and stipulations as described in the amended Environmental Assessment may proceed.

APPROVAL

Signed _____

Jomar Maldonado
FEMA Environmental Officer

_____ Date