

## Excerpt from Unapproved DRAFT MINUTES WATER COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Hybrid in Person at 222 Laporte Ave and online via Zoom

#### **Agreements Regarding the Michigan Ditch Forest Health and Pre-Fire Mitigation Project**

*Richard Thorp, Lead Specialist, Sciences*

The Michigan Ditch is critical water supply infrastructure owned by the City and located near Cameron Pass within Colorado State Forest State Park. Watershed Program staff seek a recommendation from the Water Commission that City Council approve the Watershed Program entering into the attached Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Forest Health and Pre-Fire Mitigation Services through the Colorado State Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service Financial Assistance Program for Michigan Ditch Pre-Fire Mitigation.

#### Discussion Highlights

Commissioners commented on or inquired about various related topics including the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) budget makeup, the Watershed Program fund, program intent, and the proposed agreements. A Commissioner inquired if the strategy is to simply thin the forest to prevent fires. Mr. Thorp responded that though it's a part of the strategy, there would need to be a good mitigation plan beyond just thinning, as the area around Michigan Ditch is a sensitive ecozone and there could be risks of drying out the land even further and making it more susceptible to fires. A Commissioner inquired about the two agreements, to which Mr. Thorp responded that the two are co-dependent, namely that one agreement would fund the work of the other, and thus the motion requires the acceptance and recommendation of both agreements for the IGA to move forward as intended.

**Commissioner Primsky moved** that the Water Commission recommend City Council formally approve of Utilities' Watershed Program entering into the Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Forest Health and Pre-Fire Mitigation Services through the Colorado State Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service Financial Assistance Program for Michigan Ditch Pre-Fire Mitigation.

**Commissioner Eldridge seconded the motion.**

Vote on the Motion: it passed unanimously, 5-0