



# PIPELINE

JANUARY 2011

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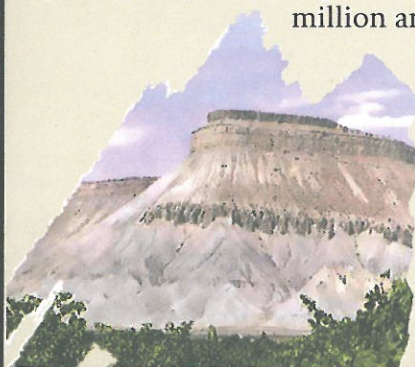
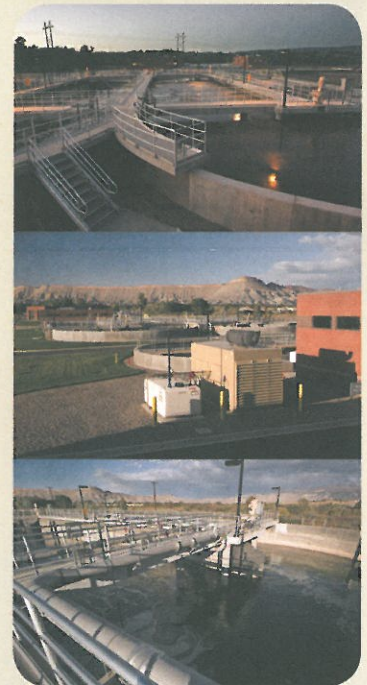
- Updating Website

from the  
Pipeline  
to the  
*Grape Vine*

## UP & RUNNING...

Completion of YOUR Clifton Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, which was designed with a vision that went beyond a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, has been achieved! The District collaborated with Tetra Tech Engineering over the last several years to design and build a new facility that would meet regulatory requirements and ultimately reuse the treated water and biosolids to sustain a natural wildlife habitat, landscaping, water features, and agriculture. The multimillion-dollar facility has been completed and the surrounding bioscape is naturally blooming to completion. The construction of the new facilities and transformation were a unique process in that they involved numerous public and private entities at the direction of the District board with its customers in mind. Local and regional resources were utilized to implement the design and construction of the improvements.

When Clifton Sanitation Districts 1 and 2 were combined to form the current Clifton Sanitation District, your sewage removal and treatment advanced to a new level. The District utilized capital financial reserves from new development tap fees (plant investment fees) accrued over the last 25 years for the transformation. Low interest loans from the State Revolving Loan Fund and grants were used to supplement the District's capital. The District board and staff involved with the project explored alternative funding sources and were successful in obtaining grant monies from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the USDA NRCS EQIP Salinity funds, and the DOLA (Energy Impact Funds). The engineering and construction of the mechanical facility cost \$22.7 million and the onsite reclamation and decommission of the three lagoon facilities cost \$1.3 million. District reserves and \$2.9 million of grant monies were utilized for upgrades and improvements to the District infrastructure, which included 35,000 linear feet of sewer supply pipeline to the new facility. Despite the challenging costs of the projects all were completed under budget by \$400,000. One of the most astounding points to note is that over 65% of the funds for this construction were derived from reserves held by the District. The remainder of the costs was made up of the aforementioned grants and low interest loans,



## Up & Running - *continued*

which is to be repaid over time by the District. The end result is a regional wastewater treatment facility serving multiple districts in unincorporated Mesa County with the potential of serving the Whitewater Public Improvement District (agreement in place), the Town of Palisade (pending agreements), and other areas of unincorporated Mesa County.

Clifton Sanitation District has achieved many accomplishments that the community and customers can be proud of. The facility had been completed and is settling into the surrounding natural environment well. Soon you will be able to follow the new Whitewater Pipeline across the Colorado River pedestrian bridge to an area with a view of the wild side of the facility. A jaunt down the recently completed riverside trail through the District's



expansive properties offers a peek at the handiwork of local contractors, vendors, and consultants who have converted the former lagoons from a river-impacting treatment site to a sustainable,

environmentally-appealing landscape.

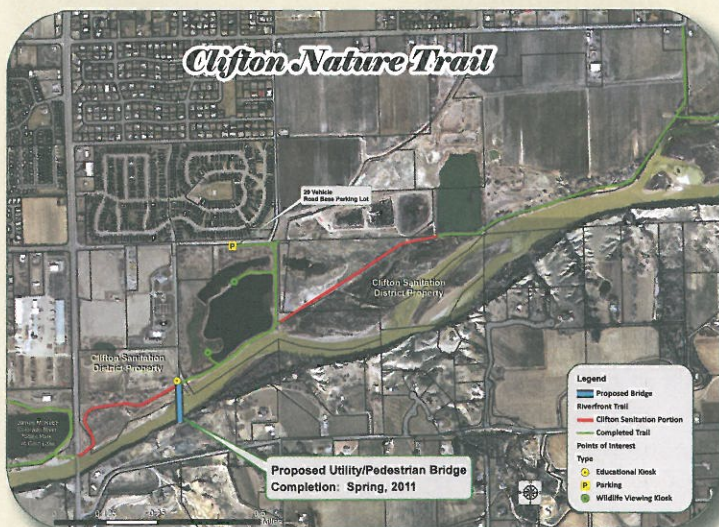
From the treatment facility, the effluent has been utilized to augment the irrigation of the site's landscape and bioscope—a diverse mix of viticulture, agriculture, and wildlife habitat. The treated biosolids from the new facility and the former lagoons are being used as soil amendments to provide for the diverse plant community to grow upon. This is an accomplishment that came to fruition with the hard work of more than eleven different local contractors who used locally-available products and suppliers while following the design of a local engineering firm, Water Engineering & BioResource Consultants, a division of Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Company. The goal was to go beyond a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility and incorporate the local culture, community, and environment and to meet the regulatory requirements. Mission accomplished!



Come by and take a tour, learn about the technologies used to stop pathogens in their tracks, see waterfowl in their award winning habitat, and enjoy the riverfront trail. ■

## Time to Hit the Trail

Mesa County officially opened a new section of the Colorado Riverfront Trail near Corn Lake in late 2010. The trail follows the winding path of the river east of 32 road, and opens up an additional two miles of riding and walking for users. Until now, the Riverfront Trail ended at the Corn Lake section of James M. Robb Colorado River State Park. Now the trail extends under 32 Road (Highway 141) east to 33 ½ Road. Clifton Sanitation has provided trail easements across nearly one mile of the new section.



The new section helps connect the Clifton community to the riverfront, by bringing the trail within a half mile of three elementary schools: Pear Park, Chipeta and Rocky Mountain. The trail serves as the entryway for the Clifton Nature Park at 32 ½ Road. The overall Riverfront Trail project is a unique collaboration of private, public and non-profit organizations.

Access to the trail section near 32 ¼ Road has been temporarily closed to allow for the construction of a pedestrian/utility bridge across the Colorado River and 4000 linear feet of 30-inch gravity line, to be completed by April 1, 2011. When completed the trail and bridge crossing will provide a safe alternate route for pedestrians and bicyclists across the Colorado River to East Orchard Mesa. ■



# Clifton to Provide Wastewater Treatment to Whitewater Community

Clifton Sanitation and the Mesa County Whitewater Public Improvement Districts (WWPID) have reached an agreement for providing sanitary sewer service for the Whitewater community. The Intergovernmental Agreement was concluded in late 2008. The WWPID is currently in the process of designing and constructing the collection system that will convey the sewer to the new Clifton treatment facility.

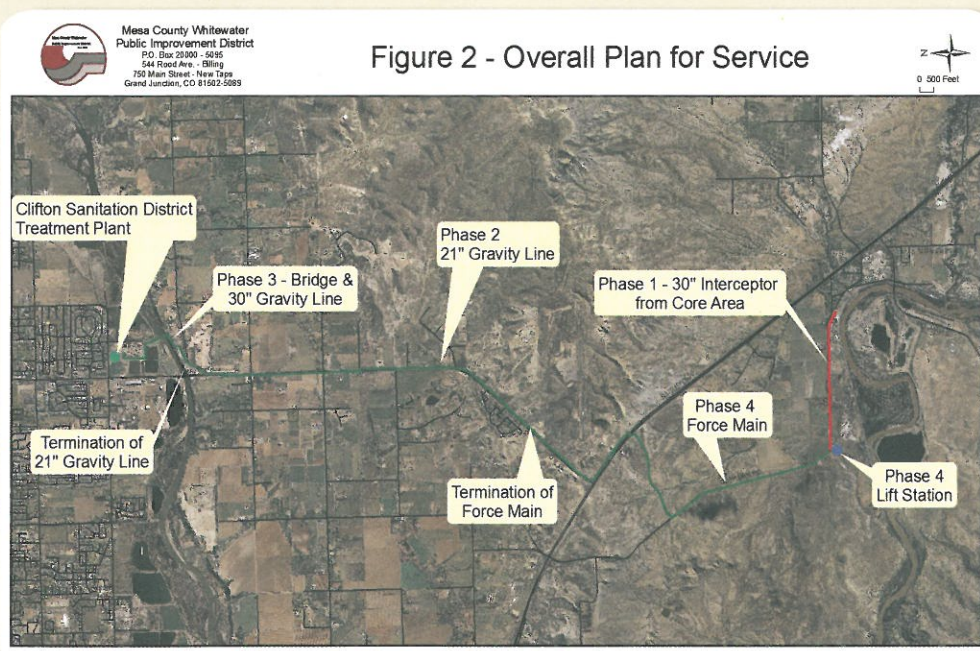
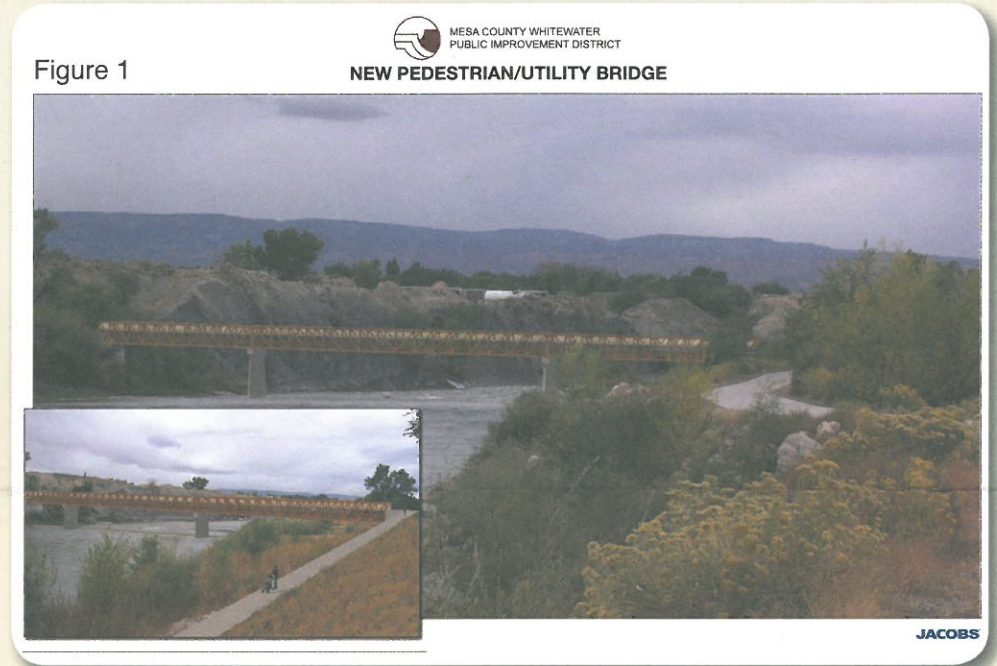
The overall plan for sewer service in the Whitewater Area is to collect the wastewater at the proposed lift station, and transmit the wastewater to Clifton Sanitation District for treatment, at the new regional wastewater treatment plant, as shown on Figure 2.

The system is being constructed in 4 major phases. The first phase, completed in May 2009, was the installation of a collection system in the area immediately adjacent to the Whitewater Post Office.

The second phase was completed in 2010 this portion of the project consisted of constructing the 21-inch gravity line, paralleling CDOT Highway 141 or 32 Road, as shown on Figure 2.

The third phase, which is currently being installed and will be completed by April 1, 2011, is the construction of a pedestrian/utility bridge across the Colorado River, and 4,000 linear feet of 30-inch gravity line, as shown on Figure 1 (architectural rendering).

The fourth phase of the project is expected to be completed by May 2011 and includes the construction of the force main and lift station. The Whitewater



Public Improvement District plans to have the whole project complete and operational by May 31, 2011.

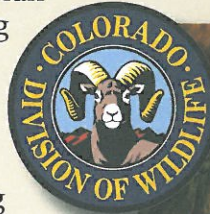
The agreement will allow for a cost-effective solution to the long-term wastewater planning for both communities without placing any financial burden on the Clifton Sanitation customers. Clifton Sanitation is looking forward to working with the newly established WWPID. ■

### Did you know...

Storm-water sewers built by the Romans are still in service today.

## Wetland and Riparian Restoration, Enhancement, and Creation

Clifton Sanitation in partnership with Colorado Division of Wildlife, Wetlands Program, DOLA and the USDA-NRCS has transformed the former lagoon system into a sustainable agricultural and wildlife habitat that will benefit many species associated with wetlands and riparian habitat. The developing habitat will enhance the distribution and abundance of ducks and other important species, while providing additional hunting and viewing recreational opportunities.



Public Hunting/ Public Use: Clifton Sanitation District property is closed to general use by the public, though the District allows scheduled: tours, classroom sessions, and youth hunting opportunities. The District currently participates in youth waterfowl hunting with assistance of the CDOW. The program is a partnership

with landowners and the Hunter Outreach program which offers hunts to youth hunters, ages 10 to 17. All youth hunters are accompanied by a mentor designated by the CDOW.

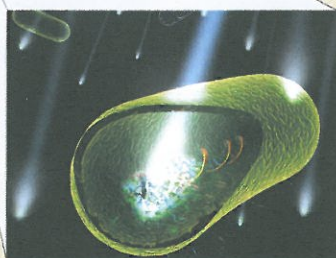
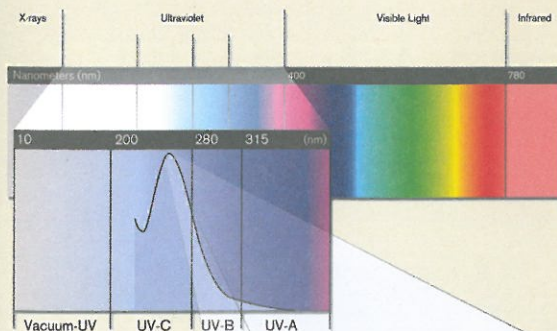
For more information regarding this opportunity please visit the CDOW on line at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/HunterOutreach/YouthHuntingBirds/> or visit their offices at 711 Independent Avenue. The new amenities will allow for expanded waterfowl hunting opportunities with specific blind locations designed into the project. The

establishment of the tall wheat grasses and upland wildlife habitat will allow for youth pheasant hunting and possibly other upland bird hunts by youth in the future. ■

## Doing Our Part for Safe Clean Water Comparing the Environmental Impact of Disinfection Technologies

### What is Ultraviolet (UV) Light?

Ultraviolet (UV) light is a form of light that is invisible to the human eye. Specific wavelengths, between 200 and 300 nanometers (or billionths of a meter), are categorized as germicidal – meaning they eliminate bacteria and viruses. UV light is an environmentally-friendly, chemical-free, highly effective way to safeguard water against harmful microorganisms.



### Why Disinfect with UV?

- UV is simple, chemical-free and highly effective
- UV inactivates bacteria, viruses and chlorine-resistant protozoa
- UV is used at over 20% of all North American wastewater treatment plants
- UV is extremely safe – it eliminates the transportation, storage and handling of toxic, corrosive chemicals
- UV does not require special staff training, certification, or emergency response & evacuation plans
- UV is environmentally-friendly and has no negative effects on aquatic life
- Unlike chlorine, UV cannot be overdosed and it does not create and release carcinogenic disinfection by-products or toxins into receiving lakes and rivers
- UV is very cost-competitive with chemical disinfection and offers lower annual operating costs



## News on Rates

### Rate Summary:

The monthly sewer service charges are based upon the cost to collect, treat and dispose of wastewater from one single-family unit. These charges comprise the funds for operations, maintenance and debt service. Clifton Sanitation District is an Enterprise Fund that is self-supporting from its own revenue sources and does not receive any revenues from property or sales taxes.

### Rate Increase:

The current monthly rate of \$22 per single-family unit will be adjusted to \$25 per month effective April 1, 2011. The increased cost of service is necessary to fund the new mandated regulatory permit requirements, and keep rates aligned with the actual cost of providing sewer service in our community. Rates were last adjusted in March 2009 from \$20 to \$22 per month, less than the earlier estimates.

January 1, 2007	March 1, 2009	April 1, 2011
\$20.00	\$22.00	\$25.00

We have taken aggressive steps to manage the impact of increasing expenses. Our operational and capital spending has been reduced to minimal levels to support operations while remaining committed to meeting the federally mandated requirements and maintaining a dependable service. Even with the higher rates, we will remain comparable to neighboring wastewater utilities.

### Action to Keep Rates Down:

Clifton Sanitation District has retained Red Oak Consulting to conduct a wastewater rate study with the purpose of determining fair and equitable rates for its customers. Red Oak professionals have developed utility rates for over 70 Colorado entities including Grand Junction, Montrose, Craig, Steamboat Springs, Summit County Sanitation District and Aspen.

Red Oak will develop a ten-year financial plan to determine the level of service fee revenue needed to meet future revenue requirements; analyze the cost of providing wastewater service to single family, multifamily, schools and commercial customer classes; and design adequate, equitable and understandable service fees. The equitability of the current EQU (equivalent residential unit) service fee structure will be reviewed and alternative structures will be considered. ■

Clifton Sanitation is committed to providing quality service while keeping costs in line. The number of employees is kept at levels only necessary to provide quality service and to assure efficient, cost-effective operations. Our employees are a major contributor to Clifton Sanitation's success and the Board and management sincerely appreciate everyone's dedication and hard work.



For any questions about the rates please contact Clifton Sanitation District 970-434-7422



For billing questions please contact Clifton Water District 970-434-7328

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**  
**970-434-7422 OR 911**

Colorado State Senator Josh Penry was the guest speaker at Clifton Sanitation District's open house on October 6, 2009, and on February 16, 2010 Clifton Sanitation District welcomed Colorado State Senator Mark Udall and his staff. Both Senator Penry and Senator Udall were able to tour the new facility, recognized the facilities environmentally sustainable system for treating wastewater, and cost effective measures to its customers. ■



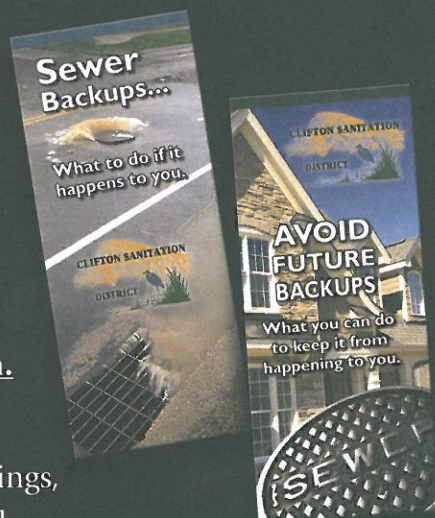
**Clifton Sanitation District website** is currently being modified. The new site will enhance previous content with dynamic features and improved organization. The new website will include easy access and more information to help our valued customers with any questions or concerns.

## Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or need more information about the facility, please contact the District at 434-7422 or stop by the office at 3217 D Road in Clifton. You may also submit comments on-line at our web site. We value your input and comments.

## On the Web

Visit our website at [www.cliftonsanitation.com](http://www.cliftonsanitation.com) for frequently asked question, such as sewer backups and how to avoid future backups, you can also find upcoming meetings, rates, services and other information. If you don't have access to a computer please call us directly at 970-434-7422.



**Mesa State College** through Western Colorado Community College now offers a program in **Water Quality Management** to prepare students for entry-level employment as technicians in the water and wastewater processing industry. Clifton Sanitation is proud to partner along with other local entities to provide this program. For more information visit [mesastate.edu/wccc](http://mesastate.edu/wccc) or call **970.255.2600** to learn more.

## Our Mission...

...to provide excellent wastewater service of the highest possible standards at the lowest practical cost in keeping with sound business practice and the public trust. We will conduct cooperative affairs with the highest degree of integrity. We will serve the needs of consumers fairly and impartially. We proclaim district development in the best interest of public health and to improve harmony with the natural environment.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**  
Kent Brumback  
• *Chairman*  
Lori Cosslett  
• *Director*  
Greg Martin  
• *Secretary/Treasurer*  
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Clifton Sanitation District  
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Clifton, CO 81520



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