

## **Clifton and Palisade Intergovernmental Agreement Signed**

Through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Clifton Sanitation District and the Town of Palisade, the District has agreed to allow Palisade to move forward with planning and constructing a connection from Palisade to the District's sewer collection system and treatment facility. Quantity and strength of the wastewater generated by the Town of Palisade and conveyed to Clifton for treatment will be monitored at a designated point allowing for accurate billing as a single large out of District customer. The Town will be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the District, providing uniformity for both agencies.

This is a positive step for both organizations and their constituents by utilizing the available treatment capacity at the Clifton Regional Wastewater Treatment facility and providing long-term rate stabilization for both communities. In 2011 the District entered into a similar Intergovernmental Agreement to provide wastewater services to the Whitewater community and the relationship has been positive for both communities.

Positive environmental impacts from this project include removing a discharge to the Colorado River from an inefficient and struggling wastewater treatment system as well as relocating the Palisade wastewater discharge point downstream of the public water intake on the Colorado River for the 35,000 Clifton Water District customers.

Our neighboring community is failing to consistently maintain discharge permit compliance established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resulting in water quality impacts to the environment we all depend upon. Clifton Sanitation District is in a position through careful planning over the last 20 years to extend wastewater treatment capacity to assist Palisade in resolving their wastewater treatment compliance issues, resulting in a fiscally and environmentally positive impact for both communities. The District is currently operating at 48% capacity and with the addition of Palisade the capacity would be approximately 56%, still allowing adequate capacity for future growth and development.

Palisade has proposed a multi-year project initiating in 2021, estimating up to one year for engineering design, right-of-way acquisitions, and financing. The construction schedule is estimated to start in 2022 and be completed by 2024. Due to this proposed schedule by Palisade, the IGA has been written with the intent of Clifton Sanitation District providing wastewater treatment services to Palisade in 2024.