### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

2000

STAGECOACH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

FOR

MINOR WATER POWER PROJECT

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UPPER YAMPA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

to referred to as the "Project") as described hereinafter. license Colorado the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the "Commission") for for (hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant" or the "District") apply The the Upper Stagecoach Hydroelectric Yampa Water Conservancy Project District (hereinafter of the an initial sometimes State of

(Acres)

Yampa River. electric economic Project development The Applicant has determined that their proposed is feasible of the water resources for and will provide for the affected reach of the most comprehensive Stagecoach Hydrothe and

Wright Sheldon - BLM/Grand Junction Office

243-6552

Contact:

2. The location of the Project is:

State or Colorado Territory:

PHUMBA

County: Routt

Township or Nearby Town The Stagecoach Hydroelectric located near the town of Stea Steamboat Springs, Project will be

Colorado

Stream or Yampa River Body of Water:

c c

ω The exact name and business address 0f the Applicant S Sp

follows:

Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District John Fetcher, Secretary/Treasurer Steamboat Springs, CO 80488-0339

are correspondence, as agents Sp follows: for, The and orders n ame s accept and and service business pleadings 2 address behalf 'n this of, 9 proceeding the the persons Applicant should authorized and be to addressed whom ţ al 1 act

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John Fetcher, Secretary/Treasurer Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Steamboat Springs, CO 80488-0339

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John Williams Project Manager Tudor Engineering Company Suite 610 Denver, CO 80202

Jean Yves Perez Woodward-Clyde Consultants Harlequin Plaza-North 7600 East Orchard Road, Suite 101 Englewood, CO 80111

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The Applicant is മ public corporation org an i zed under the 1 aws 약

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- municipality within the meaning of Section 3(7) of the Federal Power Act. the State of Colorado and is authorized to carry on the business of developtransmitting, The Applicant is utilizing a public corporation organized under the laws of or distributing power. The Applicant ij. ρ
- which Power Act are shown on the following table: business necessary to accomplish the purposes of the license under the Federal water for with respect to bed and banks and to the appropriation, diversion and use business the 앜 power purposes, and with respect to the right to engage in the project would be located developing, The statutory or regulatory requirements transmitting and that affect and distributing power the project of and the in any other as state proposed of ≓.

# REVIEWS, PERMITS, AND LICENSES REQUIRED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES

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U.S. Forest Service (USFS)		U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)			U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Agency
FLPMA	NEPA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)	NEPA	ESA, FWCA, Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act, Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Bald Eagle Protection Act	NEPA, CWA and FWPCA	Executive Orders 11988 and 11990	NEPA	Clean Water Act (CWA)	Act or Regulation
Compliance with provisions of the Act	EIS	Compliance with provisions of the Act	EIS	Compliance with provisions of the Acts	EIS, 404 Permit application, Colorado Pollutant Discharge System (CPDS) Permit, and state water quality certificate (Section 401) review	Wetlands study and mitigation	EIS	Dredge and Fill Permit (404 Permit)	Reguirement
<pre>Initiate application if federal lands involved.</pre>	BLM reviews EIS.	<pre>Initiate application if federal lands involved.</pre>	USFWS cooperates with USBR in preparation of EIS.	Request listing of endangered and threatened species; submit biological assessment report and request biological opinion.	EPA reviews. COE and Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) coordinate their activities with EPA.	Prepare wetlands study.	COE cooperates with USBR in preparation of EIS.	Submit application.	Procedure for Compliance

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NEPA

EIS

USFS reviews ElS.

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# REQUIRED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES

		Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), CDOH		Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), Colorado Department of Health (CDOH)	U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	Agency
CRS 1973, 25-1-107 5 CCR 1003-1 (Location and construction of water works)	FWPCA, Sec. 401 Colorado Water Quality Control Act CRS 25-8-302(f)	FWPCA, CWA, CRS 1973, 25-8-501 through 508 5 CCR 1002-2	CRS 1973, 25-7-112, 5 CCR 1001-5, Regulation No. 3	CRS 1973, 25-7-123, 5 CCR 1001-3 Regulation No. 1	National Historic Preservation Act, Sec. 106 (NHPA) and Executive Order 11593, Sec. 2 (b) (36 CFR 800)	Act or Regulation
100-year floodplain certification	Water Quality Certificate (401 Certificate) required prior to issuance of 404 Permit by COE.	Colorado Pollutant Discharge System (CPDS) Permit which fulfills requirements for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.	Air Contaminant Emissions Notice (ACEN)	Open Burning Permit	Compliance with provisions of the Act and Executive Order	Requirement
Submit information on location and size of proposed works; request certification.	Submit application.	Submit application for permit.	Notice of fugitive dust must be given and application made for a fugitive dust permit.	Submit application for permit approval.	Request and engage in consultation with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) ACHP.	Procedure for Compliance

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# REVIEWS, PERMITS, AND LICENSES REQUIRED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES

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	Routt County, Colorado	Colorado Division of Labor (DOL), Public Safety Section	Colorado Soils Conservation Board (SCB)	Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW),	Mined Land Reclamation Division (MLRD), CDNR		State Engineer (SE), Division of Water Resources (DWR), Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CDNR)	Адепсу
County regulations 1041 regulations	Comprehensive Plan	CRS 1973, 9-7-101 et seq. 7 CCR 1101-9	CRS 1973, 35-72-101 et seq.	CRS 1973, 24-80.1-101 through 108; 24-65.1-104(6), 201(C), 202(3), 302	CRS 1973, 34-32-101 et seq. CCR 2.04.11	CRS 1973, 34-32-100 et seq. 2 CCR 4071, Rules 2, 3, 4	CRS 1973, 37-87-122 2 CCR 402-1	CRS 1973, 37-87-105 2 CCR 402-1	Act or Regulation
Regular impact Permit	Conform to Plan	Permit for Explosive Materials	Compliance with statute	Cultural Resource clearance	Compliance with regulations	Limited Impact, Regular, or Special Mining and Reclamation Permit for riprap, sand, and gravel for project	Permit to construct temporary erosion control dams	Approval of plans for dam and reservoir	Requirement
Submit application for permit to Planning Department.	Comply with Comprehensive Plan.	Submit application.	Prevent blowing soil conditions as directed.	Request clearance.	Submit plans and request consultation.	Submit application.	Submit application, including plans of proposed works.	Submit plans and specifications for proposed works.	Procedure for Compliance

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# REVIEWS, PERMITS, AND LICENSES REQUIRED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES

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				Routt County, Colorado (Continued)	Agency
County regulations	County regulations and Uniform Building Code (UBC)	County regulations	County regulations	County regulations	Act or Regulation
Vacation and dedication of county roads	Obtain necessary building permits	Road Use Permit (overweight and overlength vehicle)	County Road Access Permit	Rezoning to Impact Zone with underlying Agriculture Zone	Requirement
Make application to Planning Department for subdivision exemption.	Make application to County Building Department	Submit application for permit to applicable department.	Submit application for permit to applicale department.	Same as for Regular Impact Permit.	Procedure for Compliance

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take 6(i) of this initial to comply with each of the laws cited above are set forth 6.(ii)The various steps which the Applicant has statement. taken or in paragraph plan to

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- $\widehat{\exists}$ The proposed installed generating capacity is 800 kW
- (ii) Check appropriate box:
- [ ] existing dam

[x] unconstructed dam

] exiting dam, major modified project

Project. affected by the Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project or the Stagecoach Reservoir  $\infty$ There are no lands of the United States or any other public l and s

the and IJ. license planned to be completed within 36 months from the date of 9. Construction of the Project is planned to start within 18 months issuance of

of this application: The following exhibits are filed herewith and are hereby made a part

Exhibit A

Project Description

Exhibit E

Environmental Report

Exhibit F

Design Drawings

Exhibit G

Project Map

#### VERIFICATION

knows the contents thereof, and that the	applying for a license, and that he has	the Secretary of the Upper Yampa Water	John Fetcher, being first duly	State of Colorado ) ss: County of Routt )
that the	hat he ha	mpa Water	first dul	

duly sworn, deposes and says that he is

John Fetcher, Secretary Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

of his knowledge and belief.

the same are true and correct to the best

has read the foregoing Application

and

Conservancy District,

the Applicant

Colorado this Subscribed and sworn to before me, day of a Notary Public of the State of 1985.

Notary Public

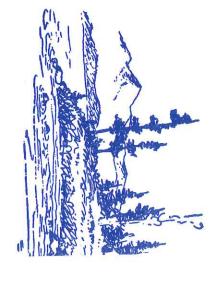
My Commission expires

, Endoig

## EXHIBIT A

<del>Q</del>F **PROJECT** 

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RECEIVED

RCRPC

UPPER YAMPA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOX 5220 - STEAMBOAT VILLAGE, CO 80499
Mr. David Yamada

12.

Routt Planning Department P.O. Box 773749 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

11 February 1985

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:: Application for Federal Power License Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

Dear Dave:

application Project. Regulatory Upper Yampa Commission (FERC) 40 "license to E O CT Conservancy District ise to produce power" produce et et et et proposed Stagecoach the Federal Energy submitting RESERVOIT

t T Bureau of Environmental Stagecoach foderal Application. Reclamation as part agency in preparing an Environmental Reservoir Assessment The Bureau of Project Report Ç, a PL-984 Which ijΊ ₩1. Reclamation will currently Will be Small Reclamations Project Submitted beling Impact prepared Statement. to the iùi Di 计工作 

run-of-river hydroelectric reservoir approximately equipment. penstock purposes Stagecoach Hydroelectric To <u>Q</u> E rt Tr 古市 proposed flows using releases made to as irrigation and municipal 4,260,000 TOXAL. 800 kw horizontal Francis Stagecoach planned valve outlet 27974 142741 142741 TWITE THE hydropower <u>p</u> works conduit Project will utilize house will and Reservoir energy plant to accommodate each year turbine, which will produce and industrial gia dia just s just s just s just s in in the second Project the hydroelectric become the operate ₩. Ul けつの planned. C Water develop turbine Project

comments and local さいか requires he final r regulations and recommendations to obtain input agencies report. complete require during documentation of from coordination the preparation þest e tarej those T T final application.
Tof this coordinat agencies between 9 coordination ct fi various incorporate "Application federal, THE FERC Ç) LÜ their 40 Part

receive the license comments in TOVIOE. eubmitting 计加加 C C application final applic ai ai application for Exhibit purpose draft. to TEXC. IJ. E-Environmental Report" to permit C) Spri t t formal TA-T-BT "Application C submittal TOVIOW. rt D include rt Cl 4 before submitting TERC, YOUT ZOL Military 4

11 February 1985 Page Two

Ę presenting the best invite you to ij D ting the best project for all concerned. "Application for License" contains the respond with your contains the following: comments to andist us in 

ONMD Description project

Environmental Impact Report

Extibit Design Drawings

m X T C C Project Map

juga Juri 14 T U H and our achedule, Picording 1985. e can include S days ď en wollo rt Ci TIME! THE DE MY them in the appreciate your requiations, comments. final application. (1) |---| |---| # | || comments application On that must さいりた to FERC on Ú, requirement March

YOU FOR ANDA questions jrř Cl in thin rotion in in in

7600 Englewood, Senior THE ECONE Woodward Clyde Thomas m U U T 303-694-2770 THUMB ZOFTS Orchard Road Colorado Consultants Johnson 

S OPE 

Operatury/Treasurer

President

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#### EXHIBIT A DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

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	(c)	(a)	PROJECT	(a) (b)	HYDRAULIC	(a) (c)	RESERVOIR	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	(a) (b)	METHOD	TYPE	(c)	TURBI
Number of gates/valves	<b>C</b> +	Outlet Works Conduit  (i) Type	CT FEATURES	Plant (maximum)109 cfs Average stream flow	ULIC CAPACITY	Surface area at spillway crest elevation 7,200.033,738 Ac. ft. Net storage capacity	VOIR	GE HEAD118 feet	GE ANNUAL ENERGY4,260,000 kwh	Manual or automaticAutomatic Base loading or peakingBase load	D OF PLANT OPERATION	OF HYDRAULIC TURBINE Francis	Number of units	TURBINE/GENERATOR

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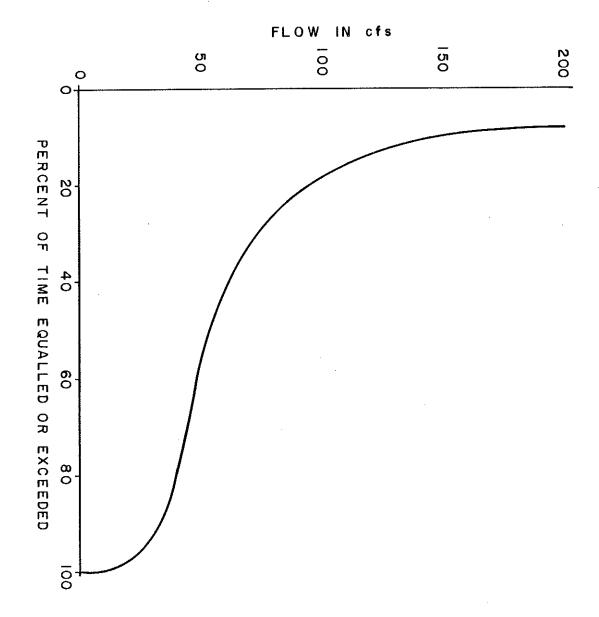
(e)	Powerhouse
,	(i) Exterior dimensions
	(ii) Type of construction
(f)	Transmission lines
	(i) Size
	(ii) Length of line
	(iii) Tower construction
ESTI	ESTIMATED COST\$1,100,000
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#### 10. PURPOSE OF PROJECT

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To utilize the releases from the proposed Stagecoach Reservoir Project in the most cost effective and economical manner. Power revenues from the project will be used by the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District to help payoff the capital investment in the Stagecoach Reservoir Project and subsequently to help to cover the reservoir operation and maintenance costs.



## EXHIBIT E

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

#### EXHIBIT E ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

#### .1. GENERAL

report has been prepared and is included, in draft form, in Appendix E-1. Law 84-984). As part of this loan application, an environmental assessment Bureau of application for a PL-984 loan under the Small Reclamations Project Act (Public submitted to the hydraulic The Stagecoach Reservoir Project, which will provide the water supply Reclamation Reservoir Project head U.S. Department of for the has assumed and Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project, has will the the Interior, prepare position the of. Bureau of Reclamation lead Environmental agency for Impact the

the Appendix E-1. Stagecoach the environmental In order is taken directly from the environmental assessment report included in [18CFR  $\S4.61(d)(2)$ ] this Exhibit to comply with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regu-Hydroelectric Project. concerns directly related to the hydropower aspects of The majority of E - Environmental Report addresses this environmental

#### .2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### E.2.1. General

Sing Topic

feet, msl at the normal high water line, projects is surrounded by comparatively low mountains. and comprised of about 7065 feet, associated wil! approximately 17 miles south of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and is occupy Stagecoach Reservoir Project is made up by the dam and reservoir a hydroelectric msl at the streambed and center line of the dam axis a portion of the Yampa River Valley. Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project generating plant and transmission line. to 8971 feet, msl on Woodchuck hill, ż situated Elevations range The site of on the and from

of the valley averages about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile wide. tributaries confluence with the river in the valley. reservoir, on which dam site 2 miles northwest SMOGXO southeast of the dam site. is the of the upper end of the reservoir, is over 9200 feet, msl. are at elevation 8681 feet, msl and the Thorpe Mountain, Stagecoach visible in aerial photographs of the ski facilities The river is meandering in the area and Blacktail Mountain, one mile north of the are located, 2 miles south of is at 8892 feet, msl. The cultivated area. Several small 2-1/2 miles The ridge, portion the

#### E.2.2. Wegetative Cover

atmospheric conditions as well as the wide range of edaphic conditions, area are listed in the following tabulation: communities region. (7) diverse plant communities which are generally typical of the some wet as The vegetation's and The vegetation of the their respective well as structural diversity reflect both the cool, excessively drained soils. acreages project and percentages of the study area s. comprised The seven surrounding total of which plant moist study

Developed Total	Open Water	Rockland	Subtotal	Agricultural	Riparian Rush	Willow	Deciduous Forest	Coniferous Forests	Brush	Sagebrush	Vegetation Community
4.166	3 33 3 88	81	3,981	1,033.5	274.5	165	458	113	429	1,508	Stud Acres
100	). H	2	96	25	7	4	11	ω	10	36	Study Area Percent

#### .2.2.1. Description

area comprising 36 percent of the study area. sagebrush the floodplain. and mountain snowberry and The This sagebrush community type is the most prevalent in the study community occur on the lower more type is dominated gentle slopes 5

prevalent percent of the project study area. are smooth brome, and dryland pastures and hayland meadows. in the project study area. Dominant plant species in the community alfalfa, The agricultural community and bluegrass. The agricultural community occupies type is This community covers 25 the most

percent of are presented in Appendix E-1. occupy over 60 percent of the community types vegetation the community type units and four miscellaneous map units total study area. and all the other vegetation community and miscellaneous units Together the sagebrush project study area with none of the other five Additional and agricultural community types descriptions 약 the two dominate exceeding 10

# E.2.2.2. Threatened or Endangered Species

project study area. Stagecoach Hydroelectric with Section 7 of the indicates there Endangered Species Act of 1973 and ammendments of This assessment represents efforts  $\triangleright$ are no threatened or endangered plant species in the Project biological and Stagecoach Reservoir Project on listed assessment of. potential in full compliance impacts

## .2.3. Fish and Wildlife Resources

population. accordingly are fish population the fish population (game fish) with 85.4 percent study A number of inventories of various reaches of the Yampa River in Species 12.2 area indicate mountain whitefish (Prosepium williamsoni) inventories and 2.4 percent of trout and ⊒. the of the total population, suckers Yampa River within are far fewer in number of the respectively. the proposed

fish reservoir Yampa River in the project study area are presented in Appendix production. low trout numbers, basin, above Additional information on the fisheries characteristics and below the basin, and creel census study data OW species diversity, small fish size, and of

residents and wildlife managers documented and potential wildlife species including 49 species of mammals, by brief amphibians. as 237 field inventories, literature Wildlife species The project of birds, 4 species data relevant study area is to the project study area were collected searches, occupied of reptiles, and and by a contacts large 4 species variety with local of Sp of

unit the portion (10 to 25 percent) of these the south facing g ame project Yampa unit. 약 have summer range in the higher mountains, east, south, and southeast Migration the animals in the project study area and in big game management unit project study area. study The A range of 1,000 to 3,000 elk in the northern portions f1 anks data indicate elk are the most numerous and important routes for the elk between the winter and area. For winter, of Blacktail Mountain just north of elk cross and especially during severe the Yampa River and winter on summer the project study winters, of. of the

Valley for winter range. habitations, For this e]k Deep seldom use reason SMOMS and normally the wetlands because cover the the area and riparian areas study is in close proximity area from November along the to Y amp a human

beaver are discussed in detail in Appendix E-1. are œik. much more K Z Mule deer are relatively less concentrated and mule adaptable to the presence of humans deer along with black bear, mountain lion, muskrat in the study area, in their environment and

Additional game birds observed 1980-81, of non-game birds were identified in the project study area including ゴ including game management unit 26, blue grouse, were ducks, geese, doves, four upland game birds were sage and magpies. grouse, and A total of 45 observed

mourning wrens. doves, ravens, warblers, robins, swifts, hummingbirds, meadowlarks, bluebirds, magpies, sparrows, flycatchers, tohees, and

expected because of the lack of habitat. However, the cliffs at the proposed raptors, although none have been observed. raptors prairie raptors, site along the falcon, American kestrel, and the and on turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, Swainson's hawk, golden eagle, seven of The potential natural fauna of the study area includes the Blacktail Mountain provide potential nesting habitat Yampa River which were observed during field trips. Valley was not great horned documented and should owl. Those observed Nesting 23 species of.

cottontails, habitat types in the study area. predators. deer mice, These Numerous species snowshoe species have prairie dogs, squirrels, hares, a wide range of of small coyotes, Many serve as an excellent food base mammals inhabit jackrabbits, habitat pocket gophers, shrews, moles, preference but occur in marmots, unit 26 porcupines, including

streams, wet meadows, ponds the study area. snakes. Potential fauna includes a toad, two frogs, a salamander, Reptiles Snake species generally inhabit canyon areas near water Amphibians and amphibians are and lakes. Lizards are restricted to of minor importance moist prefer the dry slopes within habitats in the study a lizard, provided and

and October, 1984. Reservoir Project on listed threatened or endangered assessment addressed indicated that the bald eagle, black footed ferret, Colorado River squawfish, humback chub may be affected by the Stagecoach Reservoir Project. Endangered or breed an occasional visitor A biological assessment of in the This Species potential assessment represents area Act of project to the project 1973 and impacts on these potential impacts of the Stagecoach full compliance with amendments area but species was of. cannot species. 1978. þe Section 7 completed expected bald 0f

to endangered species is required unless a significant change in project plans Pending receipt of such concurrence from the USFWS, no further action related anticipated, and the project would have no significant effect or additional biological information is acquired. Concurrence of assessment concluded that major long-term impacts would the USFWS of this assessment should on any of ь́е obtained. the

present time. The Colorado River cutthroat trout has not been reported projects if they were present in the project white-faced ibis. official listing as threatened or endangered: Colorado River cutthroat trout, long-billed curlew, white-faced ibis, and snowy plover) would benefit from the Swainson's hawk, ferruginous area and their presence Yampa River hawk, long-billed curlew, mountain The USFWS western snowy plover, western yellow-billed system. The assessment indicated that three of these species also indicated that eight species are candidates is unlikely. The other four species have not been reported area which they are not plover, razorback cuckoo, the and

## E.2.4. Water Quality and Quantity

originate on the high slopes drainage basin above the dam site is 227 square miles according to the USGS major above tributary of the the Yampa River is a major tributary of the Green River which in turn dan site are of the Flat Top Mountains Colorado River. Major tributaries of the Bear River and Hunt Creek. to the southwest. These streams

basin by way of the Stillwater Reservoir and Stillwater Ditch. During this to year 1944 period period and for The USGS had a gaging station near the dam site for 5 years from of of 16 record, record years from 1957 to 1972. was 86.1 CFS there were depletions or 62,380 The to average discharge acre-feet the Colorado per River

River and Wheeler Creek to the confluence with Elkhead Creek just above Craig, is the main stream of the Yampa River This The stream segment of the Yampa segment has been classified from the confluence of the by the River on which the MQCC as "Recreation project is

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suitable for water supply and agricultural uses. coliforms 2 2= and "Aquatic Life - Class 1 - cold water fishery." classification generally results per 100 milliliters (ml). The segment has in a standard been classified The "recreation of 2,000 feca]

comes close to qualifying for "Recreation - Class 1" for contact swimming with those parameters that (dissolved), mercury, and silver. However, in ammon i a 1970 low fecal coliforms counts. Yampa River is good, (both un-ionized and as N), nitrates, cadmium, copper, indicates A review of EPA secured sampling data for water quality beginning that are sometimes several standards is capable of supporting exceeded under existing conditions are exceeded occasionally. general, a cold water fishery, the water quality of

### .2.5. Land and Water Uses

livestock grazing. end of agricultural both in the reservoir area and within one mile of the normal high line (NHWL). The primary exception is approximately 180 residential south of the reservoir together with a nonoperational ski area the Stagecoach Reservoir treatment The plant. existing A private gravel pit is The 1 and agricultural uses use ٦. the 3/4 of a mile west project are irrigated haylands vicinity is of the upper primarily

neighboring Meadow Green Subdivision, both, are also zoned AF. The South Shore Subdivision, containing undeveloped zoned farm lands and all government lands, including BLM, USFS, and All project lands Low Density Residential (LR). are zoned Agricultural and Forestry (AF). are zoned High Density Residential (HR). The condominium and

currently used meadow hay. Cattle currently use most of the basin with the exclusion only area is developed primarily to range livestock operations and raising steepest Agricultural land, irrigated The use of these lands has not appreciably changed in the as hayland, slopes. as are some of the gently sloping terraces Much of the and Yampa irrigable, within the floodplain ij. Stagecoach above.

ditch book of the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District's that 2,415 year. and 966 (40 percent) is in hay. Hi s acres is estimate currently being irrigated sometime .. S that 1,449 acres (60 percent) is in irrigated during ditch each

been classified The segment of the Yampa River through the project study as suitable for water supply and agricultural uses area has

quality of the fish habitat. limited sport fish and fishermen use of the Fishing recreational success <u>۔</u> area the potential appear is minimal. Yampa River :t Low fish production and within be related the study ţ the area poor

#### E.2.6. Recreational Uses

hunting, the total skier visits in the state. county had over 839,000 skier visits in 1983-84 and had nearly 10 percent of annually sports leads golf, fishing, camping, hiking Recreation placing Routt county among the the state horseback riding, is a most significant regional factor with skiing in number of elk harvested. snowmobiling, and Other very popular pursuits are big game backpacking, top five and sightseeing. picnicking, in the state. The boating,

basically limited to the hunting of small game and big game hunting is limited to mainly deer. Recreational uses of the lands within the and gamebirds. project study area Fishing is poor

# E.2.7. Historical and Archeological Resources

production of prehistoric sites that were recorded during the inventory indicate was little, if any, prehistoric residential occupation in the The primary aboriginal activities indicated by the evidence and and field investigated during A total of three prehistoric sites and eleven historic sites chipped initial stone artifacts, with the final manufacturing reduction of chalcedony the cultural resources Зb primary inventory. stages are project 글. stages that the

evidence occurring from the river outside the project area. of residential occupation, i.e., campsites, is typically found elsewhere. Information from local artifact collectors suggest some

techniques, eligible concluded activities or and finished usefulness of this information. prehistoric further for nomination to that the sites archeological research problems 귽 other stone the is concluded that further archeological reserach at the information absence is unlikely to provide significant amounts of information prehistoric sites recorded during the inventory activity patterning at the sites. artifacts to the National Register of Historic Places of temporal diagnostics would severely might precludes Also, be obtained the rare occurrence of the investigation of in the prehistory of about Consequently, it primary utilized flakes subsistence limit reduction Colorado.

their associated structures have either vanished long ago or are located well Only two of the homesteads Schoolhouse, Place); and no further work is necessary. Resource county records Overman each valley residents. found. the survey boundaries. it was preferred to follow contemporary social usage and five Early Stage Place, the Pieper Survey Forms were completed, and structure For none the Yellow A total of eleven historical sites Six are homesteads each site recorded, as included in part by the project are organizational or institutional in nature (Yellow Jacket are 9 and eligible feature. Several other early Jacket Roping Club Corral, the Gravel Pit/Gardner Wagon Routes, and Place, were settled by those for whom the for These homesteads were therefore not recorded (the the National Register of the sketch maps were drawn, Colorado Cultural Documentation Pedersen McKnight at least two photographs Traditional Irrigation Systems). homesteads were identified Place, Place, in the reservoir survey 약 area, but the the and eleven Black Place, Historic the as expressed by all traces Jule were taken sites Places, area are of

## E.2.8. Scenic and Aesthetic Resources

parking areas, pollution, and fishing and wildlife harvesting and harassment. man-caused past and present, rock removal gaging station, revegetated areas, wood gathering and timber harvesting both irrigation ditches, area have already been made by power farm grass and single family home and condominium developments, an abandoned equipment storage following and telephone lines മ sewage forest modifications disposal plant, fires, and displacement, jeep trails and hiking paths, areas, cultivated and poles, farm and ranch buildings, reservoirs, human activities: ţ the ski lifts and runs, natural environment campsites, fields, haystacks, roads, bridges, air and മ

### E.3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### E.3.1. General

associated primarily with the construction of the switchyard and transmission Reclamation Act PL-984 loan. and the mitigation measures are underlined. anticipated The powerhouse construction will coincide with the dam construction, expected impacts, both positive and negative, are enumerated Environmental generating facilities financing for Short-term impacts of the proposed project impacts both will be at Stagecoach resulting through a Dam from are installation expected Small 0 of.

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#### .3.2. Wegetative Cover

communities of minimized primarily from the proposed damsite, which are not likely to be affected and in the big sagebrush communities. Disturbance of restoration of particular concern are the old blue spruce forests downstream areas all appropriate for construction and sites carried out. These disturbed areas will be access will occur on ly

erection Minor short-term impacts will occur of the transmission line. Proper measures for revegetation of on botanical species during

materials will be used from the construction process to re-establish disturbed disturbed areas will be taken to avoid problems of erosion. botanical populations are anticipated. according to Colorado reclamation laws. 8 long-term Soil and sub-soil impacts

result of the hydropower project, however, Appendix E-1.) replace the wetland acreage impacted by the creation of the reservoir. 8 impact İS anticipated on the extensive mitigation is proposed to wetland community direct (See

wildlife other open space areas pub]ic of the perimeter of trails and reservoir, habitat, Specifically, the proposed mitigations include provisions the reservoir, recreation facilities, preservation waterfowl pond, of. public access buffer elk winter range on Blacktail Mountain reservoir island, convenience center, wet 1 and zone on two marinas, creation around the south shore of. and and

#### .3.3. Fish and Wildlife

### E.3.3.1. Fishery Measures

downstream fishery will be impacted in several ways.

- will Due project. to sediment entrapment, be much clearer than the release waters below the the present flows without the dam
- diminished and low flows will be increased. Project flows will become more consistent; peak flows wil1 be
- 39°F level Temperatures of and 59°F. releases, the releases the temperatures wi 11 be moderated; due to multican be maintained between
- W.1 trout clear waters. Degradation of leave spawning. gravel the The flushing and cobble substrate of the silt that will be more will occur from the release from the conducive streambed of

- resulting gravel and cobble substrate will also provide habitat for aquatic insects and invertebrates
- to the downstream fishery. The project will provide 1/2 mile of additional public

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spawning months for the Colorado River squawfish. Green River, especially during July and August, the critical impacts listed above should result in a much improved sports Yampa River in the Dinosaur National Monument and project will have an insignificant effect on the flows of of. the project on the downstream fishery due The overall ťο on the

horizontal Francis turbine which utilizes a low speed runner. Most research pressure changes, velocity changes and acceleration may occur in the penstock and turbine. The rate of incidence is dependent upon the size and the life been demonstrated in well designed power plants. unit maximum survival of fish during passage on the place at the highest operating efficiency. of the fish as well as the characteristics of the hydroelectric proposed for the Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project is Francis turbine indicates that a survival rate of 60-80 percent Fish mortality resulting from collision with moving through hydroelectric It is also indicated a small plants parts,

multilevel outlet release structure as the power plant intake. The multilevel likelihood of fish mortality is greatest. will minimize intake structure will be designed to operate at flow velocities of foot per second when all the flow is passing through the turbine. the potential for entrainment of fish during the times when the proposed hydroelectric project will use the reservoir less

significantly increased acreage of coldwater fishery. The 31 acres of current streambed will be It is proposed stocked in the reservoir. Stagecoach that fry-fingerling trout, areas Reservoir will be increased to will create If the growth and survival rate one to four inches 777 potential acres of standing

coordinated by the USFWS and CDOW implementation of a stocking be required to However, if spawning areas comprehensive stocked. fishes size Ιţ were Si f:|| gravel fish assumed to the void created by the lack of management prove inadequate, J. are not that present schedule to ผ available, an annual stocking program would sufficient plan, ᆿ. stream include species catchable-size including number of reaches natural reproduction the above composition could be spawning fish development could areas then with and

maintenance will migrate hour of 5-inch trout (5 lb.) per acre could provide an acceptable reservoir fishery. pressure environment. effort and stocking may be required. An annual stocking rate of 100, could result in decreased numbers, size, of to upstream reaches The net result of these spawning activities self-sustaining fish populations. anticipated that stream spawning and return to the more hospitable reservoir and a reduced catch per However, increased fishing g ame and could lead to the nong ame

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migration or spawning. regular stocked by the District. Negotiations will be made by the District with the cleaner conditions the CDOW, and private individuals or entities for such stocking basis. water. because The downstream fishery should be improved There is a proposed minimum flow of 40 cfs to be released from There will be no passage for fish through the dam for upstream Neither the of minimum flows, regulated temperature reservoir nor the downstream fishery will be from releases, the and

### .3.3.2. Wildlife Measures

electrocution KV transmission line along County Road Number 14. between two conductors transmission line will have the birds with primarily from along of. the transmission lines. 1 arge the the transmission lines which will follow the proposed north shore Long-term impacts during landing and take-off, raptors, whose of the reservoir westerly to an existing potential for increased incidences wingspan can stretch on the The conductors will be terrestrial population and of The existence of collision of the spaced 介

Art Suggested Practices minimize the electricution danger, and all transmission line construction will incorporate in 1981" techniques for outlined Raptor Protection , 1 the "Raptor on Power Research Report Lines ı The State No. 4 of

water fowl, found to underground routing of d am to be quite costly and posed substantial technical difficulties crest the top of the transmission lines will remain below the elevation In order as they run to minimize along the transmission lines, but this the the danger of toe of the dam. collision, Consideration alternative for

passerine birds. additional roosting A positive and even nesting opportunities for impact of the transmission lines will be the raptoral the presence

the Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project has only minimal impacts populations, viewpoint indicator species, elk, in the following ways: one, of of wildlife managers and however, The which the terrestrial the proposed elk herd vertebrate fauna is Stagecoach the local perhaps the of Reservoir Project population. southern Routt greatest to the terrestrial concern The proposed County is will impact from the

- the There range Yampa River is designated Resource Category 2. reservoir. and 244 HU of critical winter range due to inundation by would 50 a loss The affected of 228 habitat units reparian habitat corridor along (HU) of winter
- There a very small number of elk due to the reservoir. will be മ loss of relatively minor migration routes for
- cold attempting migrations across the reservoir. S The formation of ice possible weather could be hazardous to elk and other they could break on the surface the ice of the reservoir during and big game. drown while
- pets increased Possible increase human use of of. harassment of elk and all wildlife the project area and from unleashed from

as follows: Other impacts from the Stagecoach Reservoir Project on wildlife

- which are amphibians, Loss for many small non-game mamals, furbearers, reptiles, of breeding habitat for and non-game varmints. 280 acres of wetlands shorebirds and and reparian willow thickets songbirds and
- disturb raptor nesting. Although no raptor nests in the project area, construction have been observed or are known to 약 the project may

and cats, and increased four-season residences, increased access, Important secondary effects interaction between humans and wildlife the encouragement of ancillary development, including increased human population density with attendant include increased human use

elk winter range on the south-facing slope of Blacktail Mountain. of habitat for waterfowl, and the potential for better protection for critical include an increase in habitat for shorebirds, possible increase in the amount Positive effects of the proposed Stagecoach Reservoir Project

### E.3.3.3. Endangered Species

an occasional visitor to the project area but cannot be expected to winter or threatened or endangered plant species in the project area. humpback Endangered Species Act of 1973 and amendments of 1978. The USFWS indicated any of the assessment addressed potential project impacts on these species. Stagecoach Reservoir Project the in the This assessment represents chub bald be species. Pending anticipated, and the project would have no significant effect area. may be eagle, receipt The Concurrence affected by the Stagecoach Reservoir Project. black footed ferret, biological assessment concluded that major long-term of. on listed such concurrence from the USFWS, no of the assessment full compliance with Section 7 USFWS of this species was completed in Colorado River 약 potential impacts assessment The bald eagle squawfish, There should further impacts 약 October of are no

(1957).9

in project plans is made or additional biological information is action related to endangered species Si required unless a significant acquired

hawk, The they were present in the project area which they are not at the present curlew, white-faced ibis, and snowy plover) listing as threatened or endangered; their presence Colorado River hawk, system. western snowy plover, western yellow-billed The USFWS also indicated that eight species The assessment indicated that three long-billed curlew, mountain plover, is unlikely. The other four species have not been reported in the area and cutthroat trout has not Colorado River cutthroat trout, ferruginof these species (the long-billed would benefit from the been reported in the upper razorback sucker, are candidates for official cuckoo, and white-faced project if Swainson's Y amp a time.

#### .3.4. Water Quality

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plant for the project operation. will match the are expected to be negligible. The flow regime for the proposed power Impacts to the water quality irrigation, municipal and industrial releases proposed by the Stagecoach Hydroelectric

fish-food organisms, mixtures of blue-ribbon In this fashion bottom water (4°C) can be released in the winter and various possible, the reservoir outflow temperature temperatures C., and this will be possible because the multilevel intake structure will reservoirs 읔 Recent series of the reservoir in the of 'n of developments course, the outflow results in an exceptionally dense population of angling below the dam simply by regulating the can be controlled in such a way as the reservoir outflow. three or four regulated outlets spaced summer as well as a dense population of fast-growing water mass on to in fisheries science the produce favorable warm weather temperatures, changing specific temperatures will be A relatively constant have temperature to create one shown kept from bottom that between 4° stratification to ten miles the amounts year-round trout. and

a beneficial The minimum flow immediately downstream from the whereas the minimum recorded flow at the damsite is effect on the downstream fishery. dam is 9 cfs. proposed This Will

decrease and increase habitat for trout fry. decrease in spring flows will decrease habitat available for whitefish fry produce The instream flow analysis This decreased peak in the spring and increased flow in late summer in the peak flow and an increase in the monthly flows on a year-round in downstream flowing water habitat over The a flow regime closer to the optimum for trout fry and analysis of the Stagecoach Reservoir Project operations shows a for the Stagecoach Reservoir Project shows the existing river juveniles.

spring during the winter and early spring Average reservoir during late spring, summer, and fall seasons. runoff. annual drawdown will This low average drawdown will allow recreationists full be 0.75 seasons immediately preceding feet with the greatest drawdowns

concrete, oil and other petroleum products, and aggregate processing tailings treatment plant or at some other approved site. disposed Approved Construction necessary pollutants include, but are not restricted to, refuse, garbage, be monitored by government personnel to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including all pollutants All Stagecoach Reservoir Project contractors of at the Morrison Creek Water and Sanitation District (MCWSD) ဝှ portable toilets will be located permits, Sanitary wastes from these toilets will be periodically removed laws and regulations. accidental spillage of activities into streams, water concerning the control and abatement will be performed by methods that will prevent solid matter, courses, at appropriate or underground The contractors' will be required to comply contaminants, debris, of water pollution. sites within water sources. activities cement, sewage the

Reservoir Existing Project domestic to be ab and oned sewage will be disposal removed and/or disinfected systems within the Stagecoach

include provisions that will ensure: Pollutant comply with contractors will provide Discharge contracts between the owner and the contractors state requirements for erosion System (CPDS) permit. and implement an control dams The erosion control plan will erosion control plan that shall specify and the Colorado w i 1 1 that

- early placement of the permanent river diversion; fewest stream diversions possible will be made including the
- ? undisturbed; Leaving a specified buffer zone on each side of the stream channel
- ω sediment load reaching the stream; diversion of. storm runoff around disturbed areas to reduce the
- 4 encroach upon the stream itself; where stream Excavated materials will not they could banks, steep be washed away by high water or storm runoff slopes, wetlands, or other be stockpiled or deposited stream near perimeters ೪ 9
- <u>ن</u> construction schedule as possible; clearing just prior to filling the reservoir would be the optimum schedule, and; clearance of the reservoir area will be done as 1 ate ij
- <u>ڻ</u> will operate from the stream banks, not in the stream. To the maximum extent possible, equipment for instream construction

gaging station just below the Stagecoach Reservoir Project damsite established oxygen contract with the district. at district expense. The USGS commenced sampling the water in July 1984 under of the Yampa River above its confluence with Oak Creek since November 17, in July 1984. samples, (the STORET The EPA and the WQCD of the CDOH have been monitoring the water quality samples. Sp program). well as water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and dissolved The USGS sampling program will be ongoing and will monitor any The location of the USGS collection of samples is at the Several This program includes sediment and bedload samples were obtained in June and July of 1970

Stagecoach Reservoir Project. ⊒. stream water quality due to construction and operation of.

### .3.5. Land and Water Uses

used for agricultural purposes, specifically for the raising of hay and reservoir will inundate approximately 466 acres of irrigated agricultural approximately 1.5 percent of the total irrigated hayland in the county. operated of. of livestock and some haying within the wetlands. on a run-of-the-river basis with no change in flow regime from 윽 procedures livestock. proposed The Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project will have no impact l and planned for In addition, or water uses. the Stagecoach another 150 The hydropower project to Reservoir 200 acres This constitutes Project. are used on the 1 and for ∄e

and exchanging of hay Yamcolo taking the 4,000 acre-feet of designated irrigation water in the project of non-productive Mitigation for the loss of this irrigated farmland will be accomplished The net effect of this mitigation is an estimated doubling of the value and pasture Reservoir will be used for supplemental irrigation of Reservoir. The 4,000 acre-feet of it for 4,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water to Routt County. or low-productive land in the Toponas-Egeri additional irrigation water up to 3,000

#### .3.6. Recreation

reduce their vacancy rate and provide steady year-round employment, stations, and other businesses catering to the tourist and recreationist would step towards balancing the recreation seasons. and ation facilities will attract about 150,000 people (recreation days) during recreational facilities. It is anticipated that the project with its recrefirst year of boating lake, that number could double in ten years. This would be a big days season county. Stagecoach Reservoir Project includes extensive plans for providing per year) are now being attracted to Steamboat lake. can be more or less balanced, motels, operation. If the reservoir proves to be a popular fishery About 250,000 people (recrerestaurants, a big plus

facility will provide for additional parking and access proposed Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project will not have any negative recreation facilities. 웈 the other to the area below the hand, the hydropower impact

# .3.7. Historical and Archaeological Resources

documentation has been made of remainder are in close proximity. Since no significant information is likely inventory. Project. impacts recorded and Investigations gained on the a total of Some from 14 sites from implementation of of the sites will be inundated by the three prehistoric sites field investigated during the relative preservation of to each site, there will be no environmental the any of Stagecoach and eleven historic sites. the the Reservoir sites Stagecoach Resevoir reservoir while cultural and Project resources sufficient have

will need additional survey work prior to project construction struction will be limited to land that is part of the proposed CFR 800 in consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. ject construction. logical findings would become evident during the course of the proposed prostruction, consultation will also include determination of which land areas the majority of the proposed Stagecoach Hydroelectric Project it is highly unlikely that However, the Applicant will follow the regulations any additional historical 욱 dam conarchaeo-

## .3.8. Scenic and Aesthetic Resources

obstruct any horizon lines structure similar to the stilling basin. 5 feet w:11 order environment, above be below grade to ensure grade. മ or major views. that the major portion This low profile powerhouse structure will not and the roof of the powerhouse proposed of. Materials used will be concrete, the project hydroelectric will blend with will only be power

provided with the addition of a parking area. will not be open to the public. coming in contact with the high increased opportunity for public usage of the impede access A fence will be constructed around the switchyard to lands that are presently available to the public. In fact, However, voltage lines. the proposed project will area below the dam will be In addition, to avoid the the powerhouse in no way public

blends and revegetated in compliance with Colorado State disturbed areas with the rest 약 ٦. the relationship setting below to the above the dam. construction 1 aws and in a manner be

be designed to minimize adverse environmental impacts. switchyard will be some new visual impact from this transmission and the existing line transmission will extend line approximately transmission line, but it will west of the **N** miles proposed project. between the

reservoir struction and recreation areas, and new trails including new wetland areas, relocated power and telephone lines, Modifications quarry, borrow a campground, marinas, parking areas, modified of the Stagecoach Reservoir Project to the excavations, existing environment and paths cut and fill are as follows: that will result areas, newly revegetated and new roads, from a dam, park an

retention of existing above-ground location of individual campsites impacts on Changes in topography and the natural shape of the landscape, Mitigation the aesthetic quality of the mountain project components will be mitigated as discussed in Appendix measures roads to will include the greatest revegetation of extent possible, and valley disturbed terrain from and discreet and visual

materials cleared just detract from the localized areas where During project construction, batch plant and equipment storage areas, and construction camps will temporarily prior scenery. Such detractions, however, will to filling; the activities and aggregate for certain activities including surface a short occur. plant operations, period, it will appear The reservoir basin will be be visible only in temporary roads,

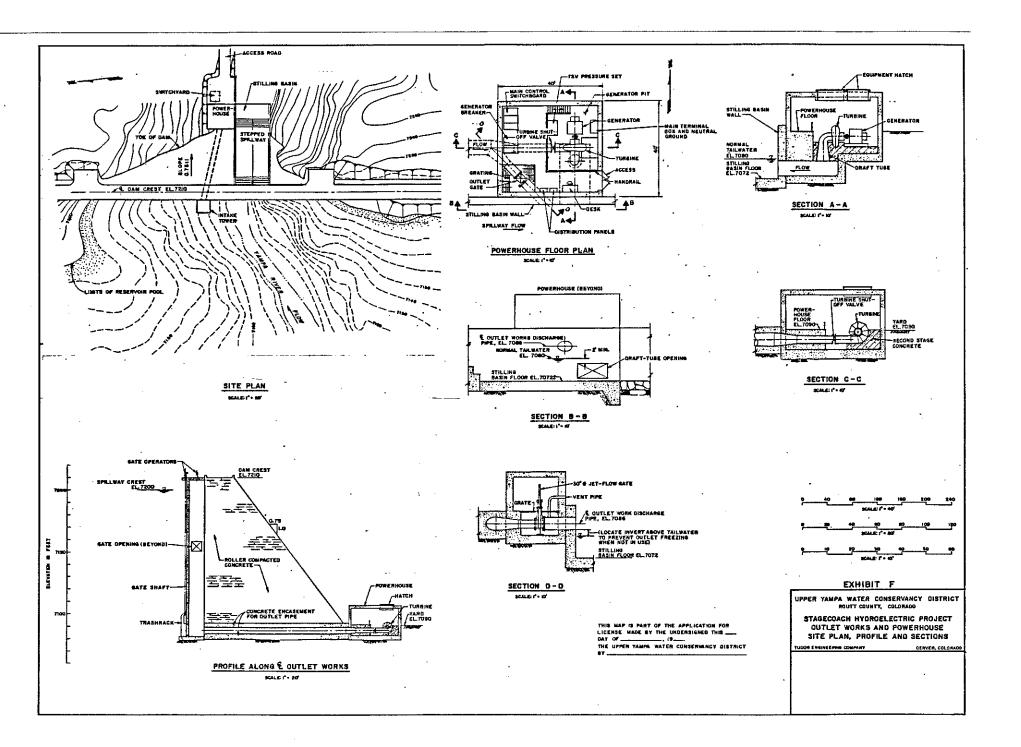
full maturity or preproject conditions. activity areas will probably take attractive. Successful restoration of visual quality by revegetation of the N to ഗ years and up to 25 years to reach

(5075)

## **EXHIBIT** F

DESIGN DRAWINGS

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### EXHIBIT G

PROJECT MAP

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