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Ken Krug, Commissioner
Kevin Stirton, Commissioner
Bryan Stirton, Commissioner
Steve Davies, Commissioner

October 30, 2006

Administrative Offices
Levi Henry, City Administrator
Candy Schmitt, City Clerk
Carol Stirton, Deputy Clerk
Lisa Merz, Utilities Clerk

Mr. Hakim Saadi, P.E.
Program Manager
Kansas State Conservation Commission
109 SW 9th Street, Ste. 500
Topeka, Kan. 66612-1215

RE: Phase I Letter of Interest, Multipurpose Small Lakes Program.

Dear Mr. Saadi,

Enclosed is the Phase I Letter of Interest for the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program. The purpose of this letter is to elaborate on a few points that the Phase I Letter of Interest did not provide sufficient space to elaborate upon.

First, while the City of Horton has maintained many of its engineering documents through the years, the original engineering report prepared by *Black & Vaetch* of Kansas City, Missouri, is no longer in the records of the City. However, upon reviewing subsequent engineering reports, specifically the Phase I Report: National Dam Inspection Report, produced by the Division of Water Resources in June, 1980, the Division of Water Resources states that, from its research, Mission Dam was built for water supply and recreational purposes. It is undetermined as to whether the original structure was built for flood control purposes, and, therefore, in preparation of this Phase I Letter, that space was left blank.

Second, it is the goal of the City of Horton and Horton City Commission that Mission Lake again be used for municipal water supply. While all parties involved on behalf of the City of Horton that renovations must be made to the City's current water treatment plant in order ensure compliance with the EPA's Stage I DDBP Rule, predicted growth patterns and a blooming industry are going to require that the City of Horton have additional water supplies available beyond the 220,000 GPD that is the current maximum of the six (6) wells the City owns in Atchison County. When drilling was conducted in 2001, there were very few groundwater sources available that did not exceed the 10 mg/l limitation on nitrates. Enclosed is a document from the Kansas Geological Society expressing their frustration with the drilling and possible sources of contamination of groundwater in the area.

To put it boldly, the City of Horton is going to be limited in economic and population growth by the amount of water that is available to the City. The Water Treatment Plant is currently treating and distributing approximately 170,000 GPD on an annual average, leaving only 50,000 GPD to spare for continued growth. The economic viability of the City of Horton is dependent upon the dredging of Mission Lake, and the City of Horton has stood steadfastly ready to restore Mission Lake.

Out of 616 non-entitlement incorporated cities in the State of Kansas, the City of Horton ranks 546 in the number of low-to-moderate income homes. Adding to this equation, moreover, is a potential industry seeking to locate a new plant to the City of Horton. This industry will supply 300 construction jobs for a period 14 to 16 months and 150 full-time jobs, with the beginning wage starting at \$11.50 per hour in an area where the beginning wage is approximately \$8.50 per hour. The economic viability of our City is dependent upon state dollars for the success of the Horton community.

Finally, it is important to note, that the City of Horton has taken the steps necessary and stands prepared to proceed with this project: (a) the Governing Body commissioned a study of Mission Lake in 2004 to determine the degree of pollution and the bathymetrics of Mission Lake; (b) the voters in April 2005 approved by a margin of 2-to-1 bonding authority in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 to match any and all state and/or federal monies that could be contributed to the project; (c) City representatives testified before both the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee to encourage legislators to make the diversion of Clean Drinking Water Fees to the Kansas Conservation Commission for MPSTP; (d) City representatives have been extensively involved with the Delaware River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) funded by KDHE and administered by Glacial Hills RC&D in order to prepare a upper watershed management plan; and (e) the City of Horton was the only City to present testimony in favor of the MPSTP Rules and Regulations.

It is my hope that you will find that this letter in addition to our Phase I Letter of Interest demonstrates this fine City's activism in the creation and development of the MPSTP and also demonstrates the urgent need for which these program funds are needed to restore Mission Lake.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (785) 486-2681 or by e-mail at levi.henry@hortonkansas.net. I look forward to working with you on this project in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Levi J. Henry, J.D.
City Administrator
City of Horton, Kansas

Enclosures