



Above (L to R): Lower Fountain Metropolitan Sewage Disposal District Manager Jim Heckman and Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund with a map showing which state wastewater facilities will receive state nutrient planning and construction grants totaling \$14.7 million under House Bill 13-1191 to treat total phosphorus and total nitrogen. This map is available at the state Water Quality Control Division's Nutrients Management Grant Program website. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

The Monument district staff spent numerous hours in Denver educating the Grants and Loans Unit staffers, the Water Quality Control Division leadership, and the state Legislature staff members who will administer this unprecedented grant program. The Monument staff informed the state about the substantial differences in the various types of unique ownership structures for jointly owned and operated wastewater special districts throughout Colorado.

No one in the Legislature, its staff, or the Water Quality Control Division had considered this type of grant eligibility issue for a facility like Tri-Lakes or how to award a grant to a jointly owned treatment facility until the Monument district brought up these issues at Water Quality Control Division nutrient grant program stakeholder meetings after passage of HB 13-1191.

For example, it took several

weeks of education and negotiations to ensure that there would be flexibility in dividing the Tri-Lakes construction grant among the three Tri-Lakes owner districts in a manner that would not create unintended TABOR complications. Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund persuaded the Grants

and Loans unit to add a step to the award granting process and to extend the amount of time for every eligible owner district to hold a TABOR waiver election.

While the Monument district board has already approved holding a TABOR waiver election, the Palmer Lake and Woodmoor district boards have declined to hold one. Further negotiations on how reimbursements from the \$1 million grant will have to be allocated among the three owner districts for costs incurred over the next three years will be held with the Grants and Loans unit after Monument's constituents vote on the one-time TABOR waiver for the state nutrients construction grant.

Also, the grant application forms had to be modified by adding separate signature blocks for the board presidents of the Monument, Palmer Lake, and Woodmoor wastewater districts and wording that reflected that a treatment facility may be owned by more than one special district and/or town or city.

Four years of meetings and testimony

The award of these nutrient plan-

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