

From: [Helen El Mallakh](#)
To: [Dean, Kristin](#); [Knapp, Katie](#)
Subject: Re: Credibility Issue with this process
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 5:18:25 AM

Dear Kristin,

Regarding the Gregory Creek Feb. 13 Revised Alternative Analysis, the consultants still have not put in the HEC-RAS variables and their parameters that they used to make the suggestions on the culvert sizes. Can you please have them send these variables and parameters to me so we can have them for our neighborhood organization - even if they are not included in the analysis itself?

Also, the maps in the Feb. 13 Revised Alternative Figures are not drawn to scale in regards to the size of the culverts. This causes confusion and is misleading.

Lastly, given that so many of the sewer lines broke going into people's houses, there is no mention of what the city is doing related to this problem.

Regards

Helen El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

On Friday, January 30, 2015 6:20 PM, Helen El Mallakh <elmallak@swbell.net> wrote:

Hi Kristin

Having used HEC-RAS, I find that the underlying variables and assumptions are critical. It is fundamentally driven -as is all modeling software - on the validity, scope, and rigor of the inputs. Since many of us have had to hire our own hydrologists, I think that in the memorandum the key variables, their parameters, underlying assumptions, and various cases/scenarios that were fed into the model should be listed. This information would be useful for our hydrologists. Moreover, the sediment assumptions are very important for this particular creek. This should not be very difficult to add to the updated report.

Thanks
Helen El Mallakh

On Friday, January 30, 2015 4:26 PM, "Dean, Kristin" <DeanK@bouldercolorado.gov> wrote:

Hello Helen,
The proposed culverts were modeled using the HEC-RAS floodplain analysis software, available on this website:
<http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-ras/>

There is a significant amount of information that goes into the modeling. Are you interested

in reviewing the input files, or are there any specific variables that you would like us to provide?

Also, when you do return from travelling, we would be happy to meet with you

Best Regards,
Kristin Dean, AICP
Utilities Planner
City of Boulder, Public Works - Utilities
303.441.4289

From: Helen El Mallakh [mailto:elmallak@swbell.net]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 5:01 AM
To: Dean, Kristin
Subject: Re: Credibility Issue with this process

Hi Kristin

I am traveling and am unable to meet. Can you please include the equations, variables, and assumptions used by CH2M Hill to determine their suggested culvert sizes in the next report.

Thanks

Helen El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302

On Monday, January 26, 2015 9:58 AM, "Dean, Kristin" <DeanK@bouldercolorado.gov> wrote:

Hi Helen,
Perhaps it would be best if we set up a time to meet you at your property. Please let me know your availability over the next week or so and I would be happy to set that up.

Best Regards,
Kristin Dean, AICP
Utilities Planner
City of Boulder, Public Works - Utilities
303.441.4289

From: Helen El Mallakh [mailto:elmallak@swbell.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2015 7:21 AM
To: Knapp, Katie; Dean, Kristin
Subject: Credibility Issue with this process

Hi Katie and Kristin,

I did get Kristin's voice mail on Friday explaining that the numbers for the culverts on Willowbrook and Aurora are accurate as presented in the memorandum. This memorandum seems to be somewhat lacking in presenting an integrated plan, rather it is a "scatter-gun" approach of throwing out ideas lacking rationals and methodologies within a report filled with inaccuracies (such as easements). Moreover, there is a lack of an approach to even dealing with the sediment issues and the larger upstream issues of Gregory Creek on county property. Given what is missing and what is included in this report, I see this process as undermined in terms of credibility.

Helen El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Rd.

From: [Helen El Mallakh](#)
To: [Knapp, Katie](#); [Dean, Kristin](#)
Subject: Engineers Preferred Alternative -new storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Road
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:51:45 AM
Attachments: [1996-Willowbrook-Culvert-Replacement.pdf](#)

Dear Katie and Kristin

I just reviewed the Engineers Preferred Alternative for Gregory Creek. Please be advised that the location as drawn for the new storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Rd. would interfere with our sewer line connection. In fact, the idea of a storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Road was already evaluated and deemed as infeasible because of the sewer line issues in the 1996 Willowbrook Road Culvert Replacement project as part of flood control. Moreover, due to the somewhat odd connection angle with our sewer line coming into the city sewer line (due to the culvert and 1996 flood control project), there have been numerous problems, including its breaking in the 2013 flood event.

You should probably speak with public works as they have more detailed records of this including having to repair issues.

Regards

Helen El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

From: [Helen El Mallakh](#)
To: [Knapp, Katie](#)
Cc: [Dean, Kristin](#)
Subject: Re: Engineers Preferred Alternative -new storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Road
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015 8:43:17 AM

Hi Katie and Kristin

I wanted to give you the contact at Public Works who had to fix our sewer line/inspect it. His name is David Garcia and his phone number is 303-441-3350. He can better explain the issues around the sewer line connection. I really would not want the city to do anything that would further compromise the sewer line connection unless David Garcia was consulted first.

Regards

Helen El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

On Thursday, March 26, 2015 8:28 AM, "Knapp, Katie" <KnappK@bouldercolorado.gov> wrote:

Helen,

Thank you for this information. I will forward your email to CH2M Hill, our engineering consultant to make sure they are also aware of this issue. At this phase, the plan is very schematic. Utility conflicts will be evaluated with the development of the conceptual plans.

Katie

From: Helen El Mallakh [mailto:elmallak@swbell.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:52 AM
To: Knapp, Katie; Dean, Kristin
Subject: Engineers Preferred Alternative -new storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Road

Dear Katie and Kristin

I just reviewed the Engineers Preferred Alternative for Gregory Creek. Please be advised that the location as drawn for the new storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Rd. would interfere with our sewer line connection. In fact, the idea of a storm inlet in front of 850 Willowbrook Road was already evaluated and deemed as infeasible because of the sewer line issues in the 1996 Willowbrook Road Culvert Replacement project as part of flood control. Moreover, due to the somewhat odd connection angle with our sewer line coming into the city sewer line (due to the culvert and 1996 flood control project), there have been numerous problems, including its breaking in the 2013 flood event.

You should probably speak with public works as they have more detailed records of this including having to repair issues.

Regards

Helen El Mallakh

850 Willowbrook Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

From: [Helen El Mallakh](#)
To: [Dean, Kristin](#); [Knapp, Katie](#)
Subject: Re: Concerns regarding proposed storm inlets on Willowbrook Road Culvert - Gregory Creek Draft Staff Recommended Plan
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:13:40 AM

As a follow up comment, I am not sure that when the storm inlet on the Willowbrook culvert was suggested it was realized that, in the event the storm inlet was plugged up, we would have a very difficult time getting out of our driveway with water pooling/flooding which would hinder vehicular exiting. This is based on how the storm inlet has been drawn on the draft staff recommendation. It may be that the storm inlet would not be as wide as indicated on your figure, however, staff does need to keep in mind the ability for property owners to be able to physically leave their homes (i.e., ingress and egress) in a flood by vehicle is critical. In fact, in this entire draft, there is not one other property besides 850 Willowbrook Road where the ingress/egress is potentially being hampered by a proposed flood control mechanism.

I would appreciate a written response clarifying the width of the proposed storm inlet in front of the 850 Willowbrook Road driveway and what you would do to minimize ingress/egress concerns along with our sewer line issues.

Regards

Helen and Dorothea El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Road
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

On Monday, March 30, 2015 6:06 AM, Helen El Mallakh <elmallak@swbell.net> wrote:

I am writing you to express my opposition to and concerns regarding the two proposed storm inlets on the Willowbrook culvert (one to the west side of the culvert on 445 Christmas Tree and the other to east side of the culvert in front of my family's property at 850 Willowbrook Road) as outlined in the Draft-Staff Recommended Plan for Gregory Creek.

As I will most likely not be able to attend the meeting at Flatirons Elementary School this afternoon, I am offering my concerns to you both via email and cc'ing the owner of 445 Christmas Tree (Scott Pluzynski) on this email. The concerns expressed here are my own and I do not speak for the owner of 445 Christmas Tree. I would like this email to be entered into the "emails received - public comments."

(1) SEDIMENT & CARRYING CAPACITY CONCERNS: The idea of storm inlets located where staff is now proposing them was ruled out in the 1996 flood plan by engineers from the City of Boulder. That was because there were concerns about (a) adding greater sediment and debris into the culvert, which would reduce the culvert's

carrying capacity, (b) the belief that inlets located at these locations would fill with debris very quickly, and (c) by adding more water into the system at these locations, you'd have a greater for potential for water to "back up." There had been smaller storm inlets on these two properties before the 1996 flood control initiative so the engineers were aware of water flow issues.

(2) ENGINEERING PROBLEMS WITH EXISTING SEWER CONNECTIONS AND SEWER LINE BREAKS: A storm inlet on the eastern side of the culvert will be highly difficult to engineer due to the problems with the existing hook up of the 850 Willowbrook Road home sewer line to the city sewer line. Please speak with David Garcia in Public Works who can explain the challenges with this and problems that occurred during the last flood. Like other parts of the city, we experienced problems with the sewer line breaking so these issues are extremely relevant.

(3) INEFFECTIVE IN DIVERTING FLOOD WATERS OFF OF THE STREETS: The existing storm inlets on Willowbrook Road filled up very quickly (within hours of the flood) and were overall ineffective in carrying flood waters off of the streets. In addition, it took around 12 hours for Public Works to clean out the sediment from one of the storm inlets.

(4) POTENTIAL TO DO MORE HARM WITH LIMITED UPSIDE: Adding more sediment into the culvert area when we know that the area is already a debris trap really doesn't make a lot of sense. The driveway on 850 Willowbrook is made of gravel, which will easily and quickly fill up the inlet in a flood. While storm inlets are not particularly costly, there seems limited upside and the potential to do more harm.

(5) EASEMENT ISSUES: When the city first did this flood analysis, the consultant's memo had erroneously marked 850 Willowbrook as having an easement. That was the temporary easement from the 1996 flood control and not a permanent easement. While there probably are ways that the city could work around not having an easement on 850 Willowbrook to install a storm inlet, ultimately, the likelihood of the property owner on 850 Willowbrook granting another easement for a storm inlet to be constructed is extremely small. This lack of willingness is based on the fact that the city ran out of money in the 1996 flood control effort leaving large parts of the property on 850 Willowbrook destroyed and not burying the natural gas line as was promised to the homeowner in return for the loss of property due to the flood control effort and as documented in the city's own plans.

(6) FUNDS ARE BETTER SPENT ON OTHER PARTS OF GREGORY CREEK: Because the city's 1996 flood control project on Gregory Creek ran over budget and out of money far earlier than anticipated, other areas along the creek that were promised flood control improvements never received them. Nearly two decades later, it seems that it would be best to spend the money on areas such as near Flatirons School that are in dire need of upgrades. While working with the grassroots Gregory Creek improvement organization, I have come to understand how my neighbors downstream are resentful of the amount of resources and money that have been spent on two culverts (Aurora and Willowbrook), while other areas of the creek have been neglected.

Helen and Dorothea El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Road
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

From: [Helen El Mallakh](#)
To: [Dean, Kristin](#); [Knapp, Katie](#)
Subject: Storm Inlets cannot be placed in front of driveways - Draft Proposal for Gregory Creek
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:05:16 AM

Dear Kristin and Katie

I thought this would be useful to include with the comments at today's open house. The individual most familiar with our sewer problems has left public works, however, I just spoke with another water distribution operator from Boulder's Utility Maintenance who assisted us during the flood. He informed me that storm inlets cannot be placed in front of driveways. Thus, as proposed by the Gregory Creek draft staff recommendation, the storm inlet cannot be implemented as demarcated in front of 850 Willowbrook Road due to our driveway. I am attaching the PDF of staff's plans with my comments and area of concern indicated by a red circle.

Thanks

Helen El Mallakh
850 Willowbrook Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4014

Gregory Canyon Creek City of Boulder Staff Recommended Plan

DRAFT 2015

