



*Serving Municipal Utilities*

July 24, 2018

Dear Mrs. Erin Keys:

The Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) is in support of Columbia's Integrated Management Plan. MPUA supports the efforts to fund and finalize the Integrated Management Plan in the near future. We recognize that the Integrated Management Plan is a compliance tool supported by both the Department of Natural Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency which provides the City with the opportunity to prioritize their own projects necessary to comply with wastewater and stormwater regulations. This keeps the compliance schedule under local control which is then ultimately agreed upon by the Department of Natural Resources.

We are supportive that the Integrated Management Plan addresses compliance with the Clean Water Act by incorporating the Collaborative Adaptive Management agreement that continues to address Total Maximum Daily Loads and impairments on Hinkson Creek and progresses toward meeting and maintaining water quality standards. Additionally, the plan addresses critical infrastructure upgrades necessary to maintain the current population while meeting the needs of Columbia's continued growth and economic development.

MPUA appreciates that the City has chosen a planning process that incorporates an affordability factor. It is important for communities to consider the effect that the increase of rates will have on all rate payers of the community. We feel that the City-Wide Socioeconomic Evaluation and the Residential Billing Impact Analysis is an important part of the overall plan because it allowed the City to consider the rate impact of each alternative project. Then the City was able to further determine the optimized funding level as it provides the most overall value to the community while maintaining user rates below two percent of Columbia's median household income.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Columbia Integrated Management Plan. We support Columbia's Integrated Management Plan approach that includes funding for necessary capital improvements that will replace outdated infrastructure and enhance human and environmental safety. Please contact me at 573-445-3279 with any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacey Hirschvogel".

Lacey Hirschvogel  
Environmental and Public Policy Coordinator  
Missouri Public Utility Alliance  
573-445-3279