DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PROPOSED PERMITS/EASEMENTS FOR WEST QUINCY AVENUE WIDENING PROJECT ON FCI ENGLEWOOD

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The County of Jefferson, Colorado, through the Jefferson County Transportation and Engineering Division (County), is proposing to reconstruct and widen a section of West Quincy Avenue from South Wadsworth Boulevard to South Kipling Parkway. The widened roadway would include relocating the Stickford Lateral irrigation ditch and landscaping and irrigation improvements within the roadway corridor. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and address issues with traffic capacity along this section of the road. To accommodate the wider roadway cross section, the project would also include relocating an overhead Xcel Energy double-circuit 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line prior to widening the road.

In order to implement the activities and install the road and related project improvements affecting portions of the Federal Correctional Institution, Englewood, Colorado (FCI Englewood), the County and Xcel Energy/Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel) have proposed and requested that the Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) issue permits and easements to the County and Xcel, for use of pertinent portions of the FCI Englewood property.

Two alternatives were considered for the project – the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the Bureau would not issue permits and easements for the proposed road reconstruction and widening project and the project would not be constructed. The No Action Alternative was eliminated because it would not address the need for improved traffic capacity and improved safety on the section of West Quincy Avenue from South Wadsworth Boulevard to South Kipling Parkway.

The Preferred Alternative consists of three phases: 1) relocating the Xcel Energy double-circuit 115-kV power transmission line north of West Quincy Avenue; 2) reconstructing and widening West Quincy Avenue, including realignment, drainage improvements, sidewalks, and a stormwater water quality pond; and 3) landscaping and irrigation improvements within the corridor. The project would require that the County and Xcel acquire permits and easements on FCI Englewood land. The County's permanent roadway easement would be 7.06 acres and the new permanent Xcel utility easement would be 4.15 acres. A temporary construction easement of 5.53 acres also would be required for roadway and utility construction.

The impacts of the Preferred Alternative on the environment were considered in an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The Preferred Alternative would not result in significant impacts on the environment. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would result in minor adverse impacts on topography, soils, hydrology, vegetation, wildlife habitat, wetlands, prairie dogs, air quality, land use, utilities, and noise levels as described in the EA.

The Preferred Alternative would not result in impacts on federally listed threatened or endangered species. No impacts would occur on cultural resources eligible for inclusion on the

National Register of Historic Places. No impacts on aesthetics would occur, other than temporary visual impacts during construction. No hazardous materials have been identified in the project area. Construction-related spending would have a beneficial effect by generating economic benefits for the region. The Preferred Alternative is not expected to result in any changes that would affect public safety or community services. Widening West Quincy Avenue would have a beneficial impact on transportation.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the attached EA, which has been independently evaluated by the Bureau and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. The EA provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an environmental impact statement is not required.

DECLARATION

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and subsequent guidelines for preparing environmental documents, I have determined that this proposed action is not a federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

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Warden, Federal Correctional Institution, Englewood Date