# 2014 Soil Survey of Palmer Lake Field Geological Engineering Report

March 12th, 2014

## **Field Results:**

A field investigation was conducted in and around the former Palmer Lake in Palmer Lake, Colorado. This occurred on January 27, 2014 and results from the field investigation are summarized below. The investigation included: Visual examination, Geo-Probe direct push drilling, photographic logging, and conducting interviews with local witnesses for documenting the changing conditions over a significant period following the lakes regression. Field procedures were investigating why Palmer Lake reverted back into a dry state.

Through field examination similar distinct layers were noticed in most of the boring locations indicating a common stratigraphy across the entire lake bed. It also seems reasonable to believe that the sidewalls had some amount of overburden based on walking upslope around the lake perimeter. When the bank locations reached approximately the same elevation height as the lake bed borings, the layers of analyzed soil seemed fairly consistent with the same soil stratigraphy noticed in the lake bed itself. This will have to be confirmed or denied with soil and groundwater modeling. These initial results should be verified by analyzing the collected data and plotting the soil types at the differing elevations. JDS-Hydro Consultants (JDS) was on site and collected GPS data that could be used in conjunction here. An inclusive figure showing all of the collected locations is also attached within this report.

#### Field Data Collected:

11 soil boring logs are included in this report. Data was collected by Patrick Duby an independent Geo-Environmental Engineer who also authored this report. The soil drilling company was Resource Geoscience, Inc. Also collecting data on site was JDS as mentioned above. These corresponding soil boring logs are to be analyzed for soil stratigraphy and soil classification. Analyzing these geologic patterns may show an anomaly or unknown that could affect the flow of water into and out of Palmer Lake as well the ability for the lake bed to continue to hold and maintain water.

#### Where Further Study is Needed:

A second day of field investigation was scheduled to occur and was called off due to weather. The Geo-Environmental Engineer doing the field study recommends collecting that second phase of field data before final conclusions are reached. Through previous emails and discussions the recommendation of JDS Hydro Engineering is to include laboratory material testing and this study agrees that a limited material testing investigation of should be included. This transition is between 5-11 feet below ground surface (BGS) in the lake bed itself and between 8-15 feet BGS around the perimeter edges and outside the lake bed. Recommend conducting material testing for Atterberg Limits, moisture content, and gradation (grain size sieve analysis). Recommend collecting 2 samples per soil boring at approximately 3-5 locations at the transition locations between the native sandy material and the clay bottom confining (layer.

## **Immediate Concerns and Recommendations:**

An immediate recommendation is to finish capping off the groundwater monitoring wells, file the mandated paperwork for the well information with the state, and begin taking water level readings on a monthly basis to record static water levels during different seasonal periods of the year.

Recommend collecting two years of monthly water level data. Recommend requesting the city water department or another vested city agency or local resource to familiarize with water level monitoring and conduct the monthly level readings to save costs for the city and overall project.

## **Geological Conclusions:**

Over time it seems that sediment has built up on the lake bed. This sediment has hardened as the Lake has dried. It is a reasonable conclusion to reach, that if a significant portion of the non-native sediment was removed from the lake bed, the basin would be much more suited to contain and hold water. In addition it is possible that this hardened sediment could be acting as an upper confining layer causing pressure downward which could be forcing the static water level lower. In addition there does seem to be an extensive amount of clay found deeper in borings as a confining layer which seems to debunk the rumor that the lake is leaking. Additional information was further derived by noting that in local interviews it was described as natural springs surfacing in lower areas where the clay sediment was less thick. This was later confirmed by visual examination. It seems to indicate that the lake bed could be carefully altered removing overburden to revert back to a former soil level that would still be above the water table but closer to a workable elevation for maintaining water.

## **Altered Historic Conditions:**

There is a historically changed condition by the height and directional flow of the railroad ditch that seems to be interrupting the surface flow to Palmer Lake from the alluvial fan coming out of the mountains. This can be easily noted during any rain storm with significant precipitation. There does seem to be a correlation between the railroads directional drainage changes impacting the surface water to the lake and near subsurface water entering the lake bed itself. This, in turn, negatively effecting the long term stability of the lake and may have been a significant factor in its demise.

There seems to be no doubt that some surface water and part of the shallow groundwater table has been affected by changes to the drainage trench running alongside the railroad tracks. It was noted that the directional flow of the water in the ditch was changed during previous excavation along with changes to a culvert now impede the natural water flow into the lake with the water now traveling in a northward direction away from the lake. Further study would be needed to determine if this was the entirety of the cause of the changing situation and problems for the lake or whether it was just a contributing factor.

# Environmental and Ecological Impact:

It should be noted that the above referenced conditions have ecological impact that is devastating for the **bird life**, plant life, and animal life in general. They were all unnaturally altered. Although obvious it should be noted that above all the fish life is completely destroyed due to the conditions that have removed all traces of water from Palmer Lake itself. This altered condition could be results of the railroad changing the drainage conditions, sediment buildup within the lake bed bottom itself, construction/development in the area, or from changing climate conditions that would have to be determined under a different scope of study. If it is determined that an outside party is responsible for the ecological destruction of Palmer Lake then recommend seeking a federal government agency such as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The USACE has an area office in Colorado Springs.

### **Additional Recommendation:**

Soil striping which in this case would remove the hardened sediment down to native soil, likely leaving a sandier bottom good for human and animal life. This soil stripping should not interfere with the groundwater table but removes a non-natural sediment upper confining layer allowing water to expose itself in higher rain periods. Results indicate that there is a deeper clay layer that would act as a bottom confining layer. This bottom confining layer would not be harmed by removing overburden. If the dry hardened clay overburden sediment and the top few feet of the clayey sand layer were stripped back, the results could lessen the cost impact for filling and maintaining water and could reduce the necessity to purchase water credits for the lake. This would be accomplished using excavators or other large equipment to strip or pull back the overburden and place it in berms or placing in areas around the lake as needed. Noting the thickness of the sand and the overburden it seems that removing about 8 feet of material could dramatically change the condition of the lake and even removing 3-5 feet of overburden could help the long term stability of Palmer Lake.

## **Optional Investigations:**

Geo-Physics is an accurate method if a greater overall picture of the lake bed and surrounding area is required. An Electromagnetic Survey (EM-31) should then be conducted, followed by Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). This EM-31 in conjunction with a GPR survey would be the Geo-Physics techniques required that would give a highly detailed picture of the soil, water, metal, rock layers, and overall structure of the entire region. While more expensive than many field methods the data logger takes nearly continuous field results and plots figures that are impressive and highly detailed which would provide a clearer picture of the current geological conditions. At the moment, recommend restraint and holding off on the Geo-Physics until it is known if that option is needed.

### **Final Summary and Recommendations:**

- A field investigation of the dry former Palmer Lake in Palmer Lake, Colorado occurred on January 27, 2014. The results are summarized in this report and the investigation including 11 soil boring logs.
- Groundwater monitoring wells should be capped and water level data should be collected on a monthly basis for a period of 2 years. This should be completed with a water level meter and could be collected by the local water department or another vested local city resource.
- Recommend 5-7 additional soil boring locations to a depth of 25' to collect soil stratigraphy and log soils to complete the second phase of the field investigation.
- Recommend a limited material testing investigation at the transition layer between native sandy material and the clay layer believed to be a confining layer. Recommend collecting 2 samples per soil boring at approximately 4 locations at this transition which appear located between 5-11 feet below ground surface (BGS) in the lake bed itself and between 8-15 feet BGS around the perimeter edges and outside the lake bed. Recommend conducting material testing for Atterberg Limits, moisture content, and gradation (grain size sieve analysis).
- Determine the lake soil structure through soil and groundwater modeling and classification using the borings attached within this document.
- Determine if striping off the non-native dried sediment layer may have a positive long term impact for the lake. The dried clay surface layer seems to be overburden that could be removed while the lake bed is dry. This could open up a natural source for spring water to collect, hold rain water longer, be closer to the water table, and possibly may lower the long term costs of maintaining the lake once restored.
- At the moment, recommend restraint and holding off on the Geo-Physics survey until it is known if that option is needed. If proceeding use an Electromagnetic Survey (EM-31) followed by Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). This EM-31 in conjunction with a GPR survey would be the Geo-Physics techniques collecting nearly continuous field results that would give a highly detailed picture of the soil, water, metal, rock layers, and overall structure of the entire region.

Patrick Duby Geo-Environmental Engineer

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RESOURCE ocation Man 3740 Wabash Street EOSCIENCE. Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 635-0229 5B hw ern and Enth Scientists BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION Awake Palmer Lake Boring / Well 1 IMW-1 Date: January 27,2014 Drilled By REGOUTLE GEOSCIENCE Patrick Dyby d By: Direct Push 5 plastic liners hepth to Water Depth Completed: creenType: 2110 5 lotted 5B-1 / MW-1 MW-SCS Symbol Depth Penetration Resistance Rur outside lake bed, closer to railroad ample # Moisture Content (feet Secol. Completion bgs) surface: light brown sandy gravel, dry u'l5' recovery 1,5-8,5 Clayey gravely sand, reddish 1 1005e 3 1 3 Well Niser bentailte DrV 6 Ţ - moisture at 8,75'BGS 2 0058 1,9e/h 8.5'-13' solid mottled Clayidkgreys Moist 10 11 12 3 -Saturated mid level 13 13'-18' Clayey Sand, brown, saturated 1 tight of 14 well Screen sand Pack 15 <5aturateo 16 51/51 17 18-20' Clay, trace silt, consistent 4 mid level 18 altress 19 20 End of Boring 20'BGS well 21 22 caf 20' BG 9 23 24 25 26 27 25 29 30

Location Map: RESOURCE 3740 Wabash Street EOSCIENCE, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 635-0229 IC **BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION** Boring / Well Number 5B-2 Palmer Lake Awake January 27,2014 Project Nu Logged By: Patrick Duby Drilled By RESOURCE GEOSCIENCE 5B-2 Method 5 plastic liners Push Direct Hole Diameter. 14 Depth to Water: Length asingType Depth Completed: ScreenType: Length Boring Depth: 58-2 N0 Well ISCS Symbol Sample Run RPCOVE/ Depth Penetration Resistance ample # Moisture Content Lithology / Remarks (feet Completion bgs) surface: Tree area outside of Northedge 51/5' recommed 0-3.5' Brn sand+gravel, dry, roots 1 loose 2 Dry 1 3,5-8' DK bin to black Sand, dry, rocks 3 4 5 6 7 8-12' Clayey Sand, It brown, dry Dry Backfilled Boring Fight З 4,/5, 9 10 11 12'-18' Hard Clay, mothed, greys dry, tight, consistent **M** 12 Dry 3 tight -13 14 1 15 ć. 16 ×9 17 5/5 1 4 Dr 18 Ŕ 18'-25' Sandy, gravely Clay, dry mottled, It brn and mixed colors 19 ×٩ 20 Ŕ 21 ź 22 5'51 5 Dry tight 1 23 24 ý A 25 ź End of Boring 25' No water level noted 26 ý. 27 1 28 ź 29 **A** 30 31

Location Map RESOURCE 3740 Wabash Street GEOSCIENCE. Colorado Springs, CO 80906 TNC (719) 635-0229 BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION Boring / Well Number \*Awake Palmer Lake 5B-3 January 27,2014 Drillod By Regource Geoscience 5B-3 Patrick Duby 5 plastic liners Direct Denth to Water ng Depth: Seath Consisted mType 5B-3 NO Well Symbol Depth (feet Penetration Resistance ample # Moisture Lithology / Remarks Completion SCS bgs) surface: Lake Bed near slope 3,515 recovery 0.75' Dark sand and gravel 1 MPOlinM 2 0.75'-6' Clayey sand, It gray, dry 1 tightness Dry 61-85' Hard clay, tan, dry-Mottled, \* 6 Boring tight 7 8.5-9,5 Sandy Clay 4*,*5/5/ 2 -9.5' Saturated • wet 18 Back filled 11  $\checkmark$ 9.5'-20' Brown Clay w/silt, trace gravel = Low recovery in last 5' 12 4 15 3 tight to 13 14 medium  $\checkmark$ 2141895 15 26 unknown 17  $\checkmark$ 4 Saturated 18 19 20 EOB 20', meaning ful to 15' 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 23 29 30 31

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RESOURCE 3740 Wabash Street GEOSCIENCE. Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 635-8229 BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION Awake Palmer Lake January 27,2014 Dilled By REGOUTLE GEOSCIENCE 3B-4 Logged By: Patrick Duby Mentods plastic liners Pus Direct lenth to Water oreanType: Boring Depth Depth Completed 5B-4 SCS Symbol Depth cnetratio: Lesistance (feet ample # Moisture Content Lithology / Remarks Completion bgs) surface: Lake Bed Slope transition to bank 1810Da 0-3' Gravely Black topsoil medium 1 a) 00521259 2 1 3'-5' Sandy Clay, black, dry 3 ر م m a - Moist at 5' 5 5'-11' grey Mottled Clay, some sitt, moist. 6 7 5 2 Backfilled Boring talt . 9 11-20 clayey sand - 11-15'grey, moist 10 Moi 57 11 51/51 12 3 B tiald Saturated at 15'BGS 14 15 Saturated From a bove 16 17 5/5 tigM 4 18 19 20 End of Boring 20'BGS 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 22 29 30

ocation Map RESOURCE 3740 Webash Street GEOSCIENCE. Colorado Springs, CO 80906 NC (719) 635-0229 5B-5 **BORING LOG / MONTTORING** COMPLETION Boring / Wall Number: SB Lake Awake m√₹ January 27,2014 Degred By: Patrick Duby Resource Geoscience plastic liners Push Direct CasingType Hole Diameter Depth to Water: Boring Depth: Depth Completed: creenType 5B-5 SCS Symbol NO Wali Depth Penetration Resistance ample # Moisture Content Lithology / Remarks (feet Completion bgs) surface: Lake Bed to bank Transition Slope 3' 15' recover 0-4' Clayey Sand, black, dry 1 Medium drv 1 2 tightness 3 4'-9' Rocky Sand, trace clay, Red Stones 4 \$ 6 Very 7 151/5 9 Backfilled Boring 9'-15' Silty, Clayer Sand, wet MOIST 9 10 -saturated at 11' 11 12 51/51 tight 3 13 14 Saturated 15-16.5' - Tight clay, confining, grey 15 16 5'/5/ 17 16.5-25' - Clayey Sand to Sandy Clay some gravel, wet tight 4 18 4 19 20 21 22 5/5 5 tight 23 24 25 End of Boring 25' 26 27 28 29 30 31

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RESOURCE ocation Map 3740 Wabash Street **FEOSCIENCE.** Colorado Springs, CO 80906 NC (719) 635-0229 **BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION** Borine / Well Nu Awake Palmer Lake -6 5B-6 January 27,2014 MILLOO BY RESOUTCE GEDSCIENCE Logged By. Patrick Duby plastic liners Direct Pust Length Hole Diameter: Depth to Water: Depth Completed: SaroonType: Diametra Length Boring Depth: 5B-6 Lake bed **ISCS Symbol** NO Well Samplo Run Depth Penetration Resistance ample # Moisture Content (feet Lithology / Remarks Completion bgs) surface: 0 *<i>PecoVerV* 0'-6.5' Black Clay, consistent, hard, overburden, dry 1 2 1 tight 2 VV 51/51 6.5'-10' Silty Clay = 6.5'-8'-grey dry moist Boring 5 water line at 7.5' Moist below 7 З Eight ter M Backfilled 30 End of Boring 10'BGS 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 30 31

cention Man RESOURCE 3740 Wabash Street GEOSCIENCE, Colorado Springs, CO 88906 (719) 635-0229 5B-7 BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION Awake Palmer Lake January 27,2014 Drilled By ROGOUTA GEDICANCE Patrick Duby 5 plastic liners Direc Hole Diameter Denth to Water: trine Death Depth Completed crocsType: 1 Lake bea 5B-7 SCS Symbol Depth Penetration Resistance Molature Content RECOU ample # Lithology / Remarks (feet Completion bgs) surface: Dry Black Clay recover 1'-7' Greenish grey Clay, hard, dry 1 Tight 2 1 U /5/ damp \* 1 7'-9'- Reddish Clay, trace silt, dry dry to 7 5 9 q'-11' Greenish Clay, thick, moist Backfilled Boring Tight • 18 - water line 11 11-16' Gravely Sand, saturated 12 5 1 Tight 3 13 5 Saturated 14 15 16-20' Consistent brown Clay, thick 1 16 S Confining, tig H 17 1 ight 4 13 1 Ś 19 28 1 End of Boring 20'BGS 21 1 22 10 23 \* Notes - Lakebed bottom sample with 4'of solid confining layer 16-20'below ground 24 . 25 .... 26 Surface 27 22 1 29 ٨ 30

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ocation Man RESOURCE 3740 Wabash Street GEOSCIENCE. Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 635-0229 INC **BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION** Boring / Well Nu Awake Palmer Lake 5B-8 January 27,2014 Patrick Duby Drilled By Resource Geoscience ed By: Methods plastic liners Pust irect Hole Diameter Depth to Water: Boring Depth: ScreenType Length Depth Completed: 5B-8 Lake bed NØ **JSCS Symbol** Depth Penetration Resistance Run Well Sample # Moisture Content (feet Lithology / Remarks Record Completion bgs) surface: remilen 0'-4' Dry greenish grey cky sediment 1 tight 2 1 5/5/ 3 4-6' Gravely sand, dry, Roblish Dry 4 5 -moisture at 6'BGS 6'-8' clayey sand, reddish, wet V Boring 6 7 Wet 5'15' 2 8 8'-10' Clay, trace fines, reddish brown. tight 9 18 End of Boring (EOB) at 10 B65 11 Backfilled 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

RESOURCE continue Man 3740 Wabash Street GEOSCIENCE, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 635-0229 58-9 BORING LOG / MONITORING WELL COMPLETION Rocine / Wall Awake Palmer Lake January 27,2014 By Resource Geoscience Patrick Duby d By: "s' plastic liners PLA Direct Hole Diameter. epth to Water 2 reenType loning Depth: Ø. 5B-9 Lake bed JSCS Symbol N0 Well Depth (feet Penetration Resistance A Molisture Contant Recov amplo # Lithology / Remarks Completion . bgs) *i* surface: 6" Gravely Sand -A 31/5' recorder 0.5'-3'. Greenish Clay, hard, dry, sediment 4 Medium 2 <u>مُر</u> 1 Found. 3'-7.5' Clayey sand, dry, brown ish A 4 \$ A - No water 6 A 7 7.5'-18' Mottled Clay, brown, dry Consistent, native 9 Backfilled Boring Â 4'/5/ tight A 9 À 19 11 Drv. À 12 ù À tight 3 13 -In A 14 íA) 15 1 16 įŔ 17 5 tight 4 18-20' Gravely Sandy Clay, tans/reds 18 jA) 5 19 **)** 28 A EBat 20 BGS - No water Found 21 P) 22 2 23 H) 24 25 26 27 23 ø 25 30 3

ntion Man RESOURCE 3740 Wabash Street GEOSCIENCE, 5B-10 Colorado Springs, CO \$9906 INC (719) 635-0229 WELL COMPLETION OG / MONITORING 1 5B-10 Pa Imer Lake Awake. January 27,2014 1 Patrick Duby Drilled By RESOUTCE GEDICIENCE ogged By: plastic liners Direct Pust 1 Hole Diameter: Depth to Water: asing Type <u>ي</u> arcenType: (conth) oring Depth: Depth Consisted: 1 ISCS Symbol 5B-10 Depth **Penetinetio** Resistance Recov ample # Molature Content (feet Lithology / Remarks Completion bgs) 1 surface: Lake Bed to bank transition 0.5'-8' Sandy Clay, gravel, reddish brown A 1 51/5 medium 3 ji Pa 1 tightness Dr V 10 1 4 10 - moisture at 7' 5 8-15' Hard Mottled Clay, reddiah brown, mont Backfilled Boring A 2 tight / 1 iA) 5 11-12' lens of softer sandy clay, moist PA) 10 NO 5.0 11 1 12 1 £t tight 3 13 1 PrV 1 14 -saturated at 15' A 15 15'-18' Siltstone, gravel, some sand, wet 1 36 A A R 17 18-20' Silty Clay, moist from above 4 18 í) Moist Á 19 20 į٩ EOBat 20' BGS 21 A (Below ground Surface) 22 (Ead of Boring) Á 23 А 24 A 25 íA) 26 27 A 21 29 źÂ 30

ocation Man LSOURCE 3749 Webash Street Geoscience. Celerado Springs, CO 80906 (719) 635-0229 5B-11 BORING LOG / MONITOP HW2 er Lake MW-2 January 27,2014 Resource Geoscience Patrick Duby Push plastic liners Direct 8'risel BGS VC slotter 5'screen 2.5 5B-11, MW-2 Mw-2 ISCS Symbol Depth Penetration Resistance Molsture Content ampie # (feet Lithology / Remarks Completion bgs) surface: clayey topsoil frozen H 15/ recovery 0.5-5' Hard Brown Sandy Cay Tight 2 1 3 well 1500 attailt 5'-9' Hard Mottled Clay, Brownish, native 5 6 515 7 2 7-10" Clayer Sand, Fouchgravel igN well Screen 10 - Wer tight 13 9 12 12,5'BGS. 3 OVEROIN! 13 FOB 10'BGS well Cap 14 overdrill well set to 125'BGS ŝ 15 16 17 18 19 \* Notes - Weather conditions 20 became too severe and this was last soil boring and well for the day 21 27 23 24 25 26 27 2. 29 30