ORDER OF THE LA PLATA COUNTY COLORADO SHERIFF

TERMINATING THE USE RESTRICTIONS ON THE ANIMAS RIVER

AUGUST 14, 2015

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under C.R.S. §§ 33-13-111 and 112, I, Sean Smith, Sheriff of La Plata County, Colorado, hereby issue this Order dated August 14, 2015.

I. Background

A. On August 5, 2015, the EPA and State Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colorado unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek located in San Juan County, Colorado. Revised estimates are that the release contained approximately 3 million gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal.

B. The EPA recommended that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passed.

C. After consultation with the EPA, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and San Juan Basin Health Department, I determined that a hazard to human life and safety existed within La Plata County and on August 6, 2015 issued an order imposing use restrictions on the Animas River.

D. The San Juan Basin Health Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have determined and advised me that it is safe to reopen the river to recreational use, subject to the attached list of advisements.

D. Based upon sampling data that has now been produced and in consultation with local, state and federal officials, I have determined that the threat to human life and safety has passed and that it is appropriate to terminate the restrictions put in place on August 6, 2015, subject to the attached advisements.

II. Directive

As of August 14, 2015 at 12:01 p.m., the official use restrictions put in place on August 6, 2015 shall be lifted and recreational activities on the entirety of the Animas River located within the jurisdiction of La Plata County may be fully restored, subject to the attached health advisements.

Sean M. Smith, La Plata County Sheriff

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