



Water delivery project can benefit Fremont County

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Mayor of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs, Security and Fountain are evaluating two alternatives for delivering water to our communities. A pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir is our preferred option because it takes the most direct route. Yet, a pipeline partially in Fremont County remains another viable option.

With this second option, project participants would draw water they own from the north bank of the Arkansas River at Colo. 115 near Florence. An underground pipeline and three pump stations would be built in Fremont County to transport water to Penrose and then along Colo. 115 to our communities in El Paso County.

To stay on schedule, we have started the permitting process required by Fremont County while doing the same in Pueblo County.

I assure you that we're taking significant steps to ensure Fremont County benefits from the project, and I'd like to share with you some examples.

The estimated construction budget for the first phase is \$600 million. We are committed to using competitively-priced companies and labor in the area, plus purchasing local goods and services, such as gas, supplies, fencing, meals and lodging. With the State reporting a jobless rate of 7.8 percent in Fremont County, we hope the project will substantially boost the region's economy.

We're exploring ways to partner with County water providers on the pipeline to help meet the needs of their growing communities at considerable cost-savings. Local fire fighters will also be able to use hydrants near the three pump stations.

For the SDS Highway 115 alternative, we will locate the proposed pipeline intake far downstream on the Arkansas River at the Lester-Attebery ditch across from the Florence River Park. The new diversion will better regulate river flows to meet fishery and recreational needs. A boat chute will also be constructed, allowing boaters and kayakers to pass through or dock there to enjoy the park.

Improvements will also be made to the park's landscaping. The existing wetlands will be replenished with new water to help the native vegetation thrive. Recreational amenities will be added, such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and bridges. We have developed concepts of the possibilities with a goal of enhancing the natural surroundings and making the park more inviting and useful for residents and wildlife.

We are committed to minimizing and addressing project impacts. We will work with affected landowners to ensure fair compensation for purchased easements. During construction, vigorous measures will be taken to control dust, repair roads and bridges, and re-vegetate disturbed land – restoring it to previous conditions and in some cases, leaving it better than we found it.

We recognize it is important for every community to carefully consider such projects. Our communities want to be good neighbors, and we appreciate Fremont County's consideration of our permit. I believe the Southern Delivery System can be mutually beneficial for all involved.