



Southern Delivery System goes forward

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An historic vote means the Southern Delivery System will be built. The final vote by the utility board was eight to one in favor of SDS. Now they must convince ratepayers it is the right call. Because customers will shoulder the bulk of the \$880 million dollar price-tag.

The utility board was told the pipeline's cost had changed as had the construction schedule. Originally SDS was to be built faster and cost considerably more. But CSU proposed lengthening the construction schedule to spread out the cost, and removing reservoir construction from the initial plan to lower the price-tag.

The new time-line means water bills will go up between 10% and 12% each year starting next year through 2017 - roughly doubling. There was talk at the meeting that part of that cost could be born by new water partners in parts of the county currently relying on wells and groundwater.

Colorado Springs Utilities must have the pipeline operational before 2017 to meet projected demand and comply with permits. Construction of the 62 mile pipeline will begin in 2010. Water will run through the pipeline by early 2016.