

## SDS and Lake Pueblo State Park

# Southern Delivery System

Cost Effective. Dependable.  
Environmentally Responsible.

## Southern Delivery System and Pueblo Reservoir

After a decade of study, discussion and regulatory review, construction is scheduled to begin this year on the Southern Delivery System (SDS) – a regional water project that will provide a cost-effective, environmentally responsible and dependable way to deliver water to Colorado Springs, Pueblo West, Fountain and Security. SDS will make use of rights to water in the Arkansas River currently owned by the four communities to be served by the project.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Reclamation conducted an extensive 5½-year study of hundreds of options for SDS and concluded that a pipeline originating from Pueblo Dam is the preferred alternative for the project. The preferred alternative was confirmed by the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers. There are significant operational advantages and cost efficiencies in connecting to Pueblo Reservoir. The project partner communities have contributed more than \$68 million in property taxes which has been used to help repay the construction, operation and maintenance costs for Fryngpan-Arkansas Project facilities which includes Pueblo Reservoir.

Reclamation's environmental review of SDS included a thorough analysis of the impacts on Pueblo Reservoir. Historically, Pueblo Reservoir fluctuates up to 60 to 70 feet during a season. Reclamation's studies concluded that when the existing SDS project partners are at their maximum projected use, lake levels would be, on average, about six feet lower than they are today.

Reclamation's review didn't consider the potential for the SDS project to transport water owned by any communities other than the current project partners, and any new users of the pipeline would need to request their own NEPA review from Reclamation to study those impacts.

The 1041 land-use permit approved by the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners also considered impacts of SDS on Pueblo Reservoir and limits the amount of water that can be transported through the pipeline. The Pueblo County 1041 permit does allow other communities within the Arkansas River Basin to transport water through SDS, yet specifies that total daily deliveries cannot exceed 78 million gallons and any new users would be required to comply with the conditions of the 1041 permit. Any potential new participants in SDS will not use SDS facilities until they fully comply with all environmental and land use requirements, and obtain a separate contract from the Bureau of Reclamation.

## Recreation and noise during construction

Recreational uses on the reservoir, including boating and fishing, won't be impacted by SDS. A component of SDS will involve the construction of a new outlet works from Pueblo Dam to draw water from the reservoir and about one mile of pipeline buried underneath a portion of Lake Pueblo State Park, generally northeast of the Reservoir. A water pump station will be built into a hill along Juniper Road at a location that minimizes the facility's visibility from the road. The pump station's exterior, designed with input from Reclamation and Colorado State Parks, will blend into the natural surroundings, further reducing its visibility. Pipeline construction involves digging a trench, placing a pipe into it, covering the trench, restoring the original contour of the land and revegetating with native plants. Techniques used will limit the width of the path directly impacted by construction activity. Trail access will be maintained during construction and any disruption to trails will last only two to three days. Once construction is complete, there will be no impact on recreational activities at the park. There will be no lasting impacts on vegetation or wildlife. Noise during construction will be consistent with noise for any construction project of this size. People on the lake will hear little or no construction noise. Construction will generally be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.