COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES: WATER PLANNING

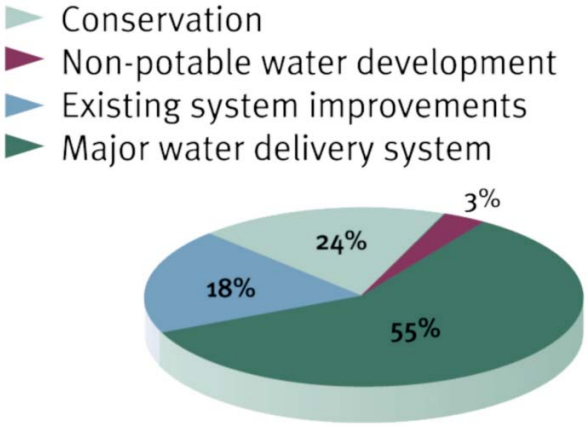
Water for generations

Southern Delivery System Fact Sheet

FUTURE WATER DEVELOPMENT — WATER RESOURCE PLAN

In 1996, Colorado Springs adopted an integrated water plan know as the Water Resource Plan (WRP). The WRP was the result of several years of study, investigation, analysis, and public input that set the direction of water development for years to come. The WRP specifically set out to provide a plan to meet the water needs of Colorado Springs until the year 2040.

Colorado Spring Utilities has been implementing this plan since its adoption in 1996. The four major components of the WRP are conservation, non-potable water development, existing system improvements, and a major delivery system. Most of the projects and initiatives set forth in the plan have been completed or are currently underway. The plan outlined how water needs would be met through the following major components.



Source: 1996 Water Resource Plan

WATER CONSERVATION

To maximize our water supply and encourage wise water use, Colorado Springs Utilities has had an active and successful water conservation program in place for decades. The 2002 drought and now the 2012-13 drought have heightened customer awareness of water scarcity. Today, thanks to their efforts, Colorado Springs per capita residential water use is among the lowest along the Colorado Front Range.

WATER REUSE

Colorado Springs pioneered the recycling of treated wastewater for irrigation in the early 1960s and has one of the largest non-potable water systems in Colorado. We use non-potable water at our Drake Power Plant and built a new reclamation facility in 2007 that increased our potential non-potable water capacity by 10 million gallons per day.

EXISTING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Colorado Springs undertook several projects to better utilize and maximize the yield of our existing projects. Examples of the projects initiated by this component of the WRP include the Otero Expansion Project, the Pikeview to Mesa Pipeline, and other smaller projects. These projects have added over 15 million gallons of water to our water system firm yield.

MAJOR DELIVERY SYSTEM

The water supplied by the other three components, while significant, was not enough to meet the expected demands into the future. Given that, the WRP investigated and compared several different configurations of a major delivery system as a way to bring the water supplies Colorado Springs already owns to the City. The Southern Delivery System (SDS) was approved by City Council in July 2009 as the preferred alternative. Now under construction, SDS will begin water delivery in 2016.

When it comes to water for our future, Colorado Springs has a plan, we are working the plan, and the plan is working. Even so, we are constantly looking for ways to learn more and improve our water supply. The drought condition of the early 2000's showed that many of the assumptions about hydrology, the climate and even our own water supply system were in need of re-evaluation and revision. In 2005, Colorado Spring Utilities completed its Raw Water Yield study. This study greatly expanded and improved the analysis of our system's water yields by incorporating a much larger data set of historical hydrology, including two additional critical drought periods, and updated the models with the most recent information on infrastructure, water projects, water rights and institutional limitations. These improvements to the analysis gave us a new understanding of our yields, system and risks.

With the drought experience, the uncertainty of hydrologic variability, changes in water rights administration practices, increased competitive pressure on water supplies, growing populations, and the climate change, Colorado Springs has no shortage of challenges to face as we look to develop water supplies in the future.

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