

Gearing Up for SDS Construction: This year, Colorado Springs Utilities has made substantial progress in advancing the Southern Delivery System (SDS) in preparation for major construction to begin in early 2011.

SDS spans two counties, involves the use of a federal facility and requires the acquisition of some 300 properties. Many fundamental activities are now underway to prepare for construction, including hiring contractors, advancing project designs and engineering and completing land acquisition.

“Our project schedule and permits require us to begin construction early next year,” said John Fredell, SDS Program Director. “Fortunately, the economic downturn has made this an opportune time to build SDS. Interest rates are at historic lows; goods and services are competitively priced; and highly qualified contractors are available and eager to compete for work on the project. SDS will give the regional economy a much needed boost in the short term and more importantly, ensure our community’s economic stability in the long term.”

SDS is an essential, long-term solution to serve current and future customers for the next several decades, regardless of where those customers live in our service territory. Equally important, SDS will provide current customers uninterrupted water delivery when older parts of our existing system require repairs and extended maintenance. The project will also better prepare our community for future unknowns and changes in our environment, such as drought, climate variability, and water supply uncertainty on the Colorado River.

As one of the largest and most important water projects underway in the western U.S., SDS is attracting state and national media attention for successfully securing the necessary permits and funding. The project was highlighted recently in [ColoradoBiz Magazine](#) and two national publications, [American City and County](#) and [Civil Engineering Magazine](#). Two guest editorials by Mayor Lionel Rivera discussed the importance of investing in water infrastructure today. “The economic slump won't last forever,” Rivera said. “The communities that prepare now for the recovery will be better positioned for future economic growth.”

Highlights of 2010 SDS Accomplishments

Permits and approvals: Secured remaining key local, state and federal permits required for construction.

Mitigation Funding: Completed first mitigation requirement under the Pueblo County 1041 land-use permit with payment of \$2.2 million to Pueblo County for dredging and flood control improvements on Fountain Creek.

Federal Contracts: Negotiated long-term contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation for storage, conveyance and exchange of water using Pueblo Reservoir, the starting point for SDS.

Land Acquisition: Obtained agreements and approval to acquire nearly half of the 300 property interests needed to build the project – most of which are easements. Partnered with Pueblo Habitat for Humanity by donating reuseable items from the six houses acquired in Pueblo West.

Business Opportunities: Held workshops in El Paso, Pueblo and Fremont Counties to inform contractors about SDS business opportunities. Hired a regional team of local contractors to build the Pueblo Dam connection and the contractor to construct a portion of the finished water pipeline in El Paso County. Pre-qualified raw water pipeline construction and engineering contractors.

Engineering and Construction: Mobilized an integrated program management team to facilitate an efficient, timely and cost-effective construction process. Began construction on the first section of finished water pipeline along Marksheffel Road in El Paso County. Advanced engineering to 100% for the Pueblo Dam connection and the Pueblo West and Williams Creek raw water pipeline segments. Conducted pre-construction site assessments at Pueblo Dam and ordered the valves and liner for the connection.

With the significant progress made in 2010, the wheels are in motion for major construction activities to begin early next year, putting us on track for SDS to begin delivering water to our customers in 2016.

For more details about the Southern Delivery System, visit www.sdswater.org.

Southern Delivery System | eNews is an electronic newsletter designed to keep interested public officials and members of the public up to date on developments associated with the Southern Delivery System. Please forward it to anyone you think would be interested. Contact us at sdsinfo@csu.org to subscribe or unsubscribe.

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