

Springs Utilities pledges to meet all SDS-related requirements related to storm runoff:

“We know there are legitimate concerns that the Stormwater Enterprise will be phased out over the next two years, however we’re fully committed to meeting all of the SDS-requirements related to the controlling of peak flows in Fountain Creek,” Southern Delivery System (SDS) Project Director John Fredell said today.

Fredell noted that the Fountain Creek flow requirements in the 1041 land-use permit from Pueblo County are intended to ensure that new housing and business construction doesn’t increase peak flows in the creek. But he also noted that:

- Colorado Springs has existing development regulations that will not be affected by the phase-out of the Stormwater Enterprise. These regulations include a requirement for property developers to build stormwater detention structures to reduce runoff to pre-development conditions.
- An effort is underway to enhance these regulations to move Colorado Springs to the forefront in stormwater-runoff control.

“Beyond the requirements under our 1041 permit,” Fredell noted, “we are required by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to monitor average annual flow in Fountain Creek and consult with Reclamation on our findings. If the average annual flow exceeds the range of flows analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for SDS, then we will implement appropriate mitigation to address impacts caused by SDS.”

There are significant benefits to Fountain Creek that will result from the construction of SDS, including:

- \$50 million in payments over five years to the new Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District once water deliveries through the SDS pipeline begin;
- A \$75-million commitment by Colorado Springs Utilities to invest in wastewater-collection and water-reuse improvements.
- New wetlands construction, sediment control and water-quality improvements to the creek. The sediment control will include dredging at the site of the flood-control levees in Pueblo to restore the 100-year flood capacity, as well as the installation of sediment removal equipment to reduce future accumulation of sediment.

Fredell added, “There are far greater benefits to Fountain Creek with SDS than without it.”

For more information on the Southern Delivery System, visit www.sdswater.org.

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