

SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM | eNews
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Pueblo County Approves SDS 1041 Permit: The Pueblo County Board of County Commissioners voted 3-0 Wednesday to approve a 1041 land-use permit with its staff recommended terms and conditions for the Southern Delivery System (SDS) project in Pueblo County.

“This has been an extensive and thorough public process,” said John Fredell, SDS Project Director. “The unanimous vote from the County Commissioners is a historic milestone for the project and a testament to the significant work by many individuals to reach an agreement that has the potential to benefit both communities.”

The permit for the SDS Preferred Alternative – a pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir – was approved with staff recommended terms and conditions. Major conditions include Colorado Springs’ mitigation of impacts to Fountain Creek from SDS by funding \$50 million to the new Fountain Creek Watershed District or similar entity for erosion, sedimentation, flood control or water quality improvement projects. In addition, Colorado Springs would invest \$75 million in planned improvements to its wastewater collection system or reuse systems by 2024.

The proposed terms and conditions are now subject to review and acceptance by the Colorado Springs City Council through a public process. Pending Colorado Springs’ approval, Pueblo County officials indicated they are prepared to take final action as early as April 2.

Fredell added that “I want to caution that this doesn’t mean construction is imminent. This means we are closer to having two viable options for our management and Council to analyze and decide which is in the best interest of our customers.”

Positive reactions greet agreement on 1041 Permit: Colorado Springs Councilwoman Margaret Radford was quoted by The Gazette as saying she is “just ecstatic, like everything I’ve done in the last eight years was worth it.” Radford was quoted as saying Pueblo drove a hard bargain with the conditions it set for the permit, but said they needed to do so to protect their citizens.

"We've gained a new approach to our neighbor to the south and they to us and we've tried to make something that's a win-win for both communities," said Utilities CEO Jerry Forte.

"They took the right step to give us something concrete we can take back to our citizens," said Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera.

Rivera said the city will hold a public hearing in Colorado Springs to let residents comment on the conditions. No date has been set.

For more information on 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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