

## Southern Delivery System | eNews May 22, 2008

**SDS Permitting Under Way:** Colorado Springs Utilities has been advancing the engineering and design for the pipeline and pump stations along the proposed alignment for the [Highway 115 Alternative](#) for the [Southern Delivery System](#) through Fremont County, including recent drilling to test soil and geological conditions along the route. These efforts will help us develop information to be included in permit applications for Fremont County which we have discussed with Fremont County officials in recent pre-application meetings.

Meanwhile, we've had pre-application meetings with the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development staff as part of the Pueblo County's 1041 land-use permit application process.

All of these activities are occurring simultaneously to ensure that when the Bureau of Reclamation issues its final Record of Decision, anticipated in 2009, we will have the necessary permits in place to begin construction on the selected route.

**Special thanks to Pueblo City Council:** We would like to thank Pueblo City Council for organizing the public forum May 5 at the Pueblo Convention Center. The three-hour event gave the public an opportunity to ask questions and get facts about a variety of water topics, including the Southern Delivery System.

As one of the forum panelists, Springs Utilities' Water Services Officer Bruce McCormick emphasized our continued commitment to building the water delivery system in an environmentally responsible manner and doing our part to improve Fountain Creek. During the forum, McCormick communicated the following key points:

- Colorado Springs has taken responsibility and action to resolve its past problems with Fountain Creek. We are a part of many exciting regional efforts under way to improve the Creek and make it an amenity for many communities to enjoy. And while SDS does not create significant impacts to the creek, we are committed to addressing those that do.
- A lot of the current discussion about Fountain Creek focuses on what the creek used to be – not what it is today and what it's becoming. Over the past decade, Colorado Springs and others have made major improvements to the creek. Other improvements are being considered. For example, the regionwide [Fountain Creek Vision Task Force](#) is studying strategies for addressing 11 issues related to improving Fountain Creek. The Task Force will release its final recommendations in the near future.
- Colorado Springs is partnering with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District in a \$600,000 effort to develop a [Fountain Creek Corridor Master Plan](#) to improve the health of the creek by lessening sediment and erosion. Two demonstration projects are planned – one in Pueblo County and one in El Paso County – to provide educational and recreational opportunities focused on this important regional waterway.
- Colorado Springs Utilities has already made many [long-term commitments](#) to do its part to improve Fountain Creek. We've invested \$100 million in our wastewater collection system, \$40 million to upgrade our wastewater treatment plant and \$10 million on a recovery system that can capture accidental spills should they occur. While the recovery project has been operational since 2006, we haven't needed to use it. Last year, fewer than 1,000 gallons were spilled in our system, which treats an average of 40 million

gallons per day. This level of spills is well below the national average for a system its size.

- SDS alternatives that discharge water into Fountain Creek will increase the base water flow in the creek. However, according to detailed studies done as part of the [draft Environmental Impact Statement](#), this additional water won't increase the risk of flooding. To put this into perspective, near Pueblo the water we discharge into Fountain Creek keeps the water slightly above ankle level. At that same location, the water would rise only an inch and a half after SDS is fully operational.
- The [Downstream Intake Alternative](#) for SDS, taking water for SDS from east of the confluence of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River, wouldn't result in higher quality water flowing through Pueblo. It's not going to make the water coming down Fountain Creek any cleaner. The water we discharge today in Fountain Creek is already cleaner than the natural water in the creek. The discoloration in the lower reaches of Fountain Creek is from naturally occurring sediment.

We point to our track record over the past five years to demonstrate that our efforts are working. And we also recognize we have a ways to go. That is why we're teaming up with others in the region who also care about the future of Fountain Creek and why we're working with them to help fund and create a vision to maximize its full potential. As the region's largest city, Colorado Springs remains committed to stepping up to do our part.

**Upcoming Reclamation Meeting:** The Bureau of Reclamation will host a meeting May 29 at the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center to hear public comments on SDS. The meeting will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**Submit SDS comments by June 13:** Public comments on the [draft Environmental Impact Statement](#) for the Southern Delivery System are due to the Bureau of Reclamation by June 13.

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*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](mailto:sdsinfo@csu.org) to subscribe or unsubscribe.

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