

SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM | eNews
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SDS Response to The Consumer Advocate Inc: On August 3, the Gazette published an "[Open Letter to the Citizens of Colorado Springs](#)" by an entity calling itself The Consumer Advocate Inc. The same letter was presented to Colorado Springs City Council, Pueblo City Council and local media. This entity claims to "represent interests of and investigate consumer complaints" and "have conducted research on the [Southern Delivery System](#) (SDS) and other viable options."

It is irresponsible that The Consumer Advocate Inc. made no effort to contact the SDS staff before widely distributing this letter – filled with inaccurate, unsubstantiated and alarming information – especially since it says its "mission is to get the facts on both sides of a consumer issue and present them in an unbiased fashion."

On Friday, August 6, SDS Program Director, John Fredell responded to The Consumer Advocate Inc. (see attached letter/PDF) addressing its unsubstantiated claims with facts that reinforce the following key points:

- [Pueblo Dam is safe.](#)
 - The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) owns and manages Pueblo Reservoir as part of the [Fryingpan-Arkansas Project](#).
 - More than 150 monitoring instruments on and around the Pueblo Dam measure water pressure, seepage, and movement of any portion of the dam.
 - In the 30 years since the referenced Wahler report, several technological updates have been made on that facility.
 - Pueblo Dam inspections were completed in 2006 and 2009 and another comprehensive review is scheduled for 2012.
- SDS will not increase water levels in Pueblo Reservoir. More importantly, Reclamation has no restrictions on filling the reservoir.
- Fremont County alternatives for SDS were studied and would cost significantly more than the Preferred Alternative from Pueblo Reservoir.
- Years of exhaustive public process and rigorous analysis have led to SDS approvals by numerous federal, state and local regulatory agencies.
- To repeat that effort would waste millions of dollars in duplicating extensive environmental studies and put valuable permits at risk.

Fredell emphasized that due diligence has been done on the SDS project, and the issues raised have been thoroughly addressed through the extensive public processes already completed.

- SDS has undergone more than 10 years of study, including a 5 ½ year-long [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies were involved in that review.
- Reclamation identified the pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir as the Preferred Alternative in its [Record of Decision](#) (ROD) issued in March 2009.

In July 2009, the Colorado Springs City Council agreed with the conclusions in the ROD by voting 8-1 to approve implementation of the SDS Preferred Alternative and to authorize a 2016 in-service date.

In the SDS response, Fredell questioned the motivation of The Consumer Advocate Inc. – a Manitou Springs-based, for-profit corporation established in 2001 – stating, “in the interest of full disclosure, you should identify the consumers you represent, their financial interest in this matter (if any), and whether or not you are being compensated for this work.”

To ensure Colorado Springs and its partner communities – Fountain, Security and Pueblo West – have the water when it’s needed, construction on SDS is scheduled to begin this year.

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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