

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## WATER PROJECTS

### Local company thrived on SDS

#### Colorado Springs and friends celebrate completion of pipeline

BY CHRIS WOODKA THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

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The Southern Delivery System pipeline's completion was marked by a contingent of El Paso County officials and a smattering of Pueblo County folks as well.

For John Bowen, president of ASI Constructors of Pueblo West, the SDS project has meant bread on the table as well as water in the pipes.

"It's generated \$50 million in contract values for our company," Bowen said during a ceremony to mark completion of the SDS pipeline from Pueblo Dam to Colorado Springs. "We were able to grow as a business during a time when a lot of contractors were laying people off."



ASI was the primary contractor for the connection at Pueblo Dam, as well as 12 miles of the 50-mile SDS pipeline route, and relied on 70 local businesses for support services. The SDS project generated \$800,000 in wages for ASI workers. The pipeline has a total cost of \$204 million and actually used more than 7,000 50-foot sections of pipe — more than 66 miles worth. All of it has now been installed.

The last, albeit ceremonial, section of pipe rolled up as Gary Bostrom, chief of water services for Colorado Springs Utilities, closed out his opening remarks Wednesday at the work site near Pikes Peak International Raceway, north of Pueblo. Matt Foster of Garney Construction described it as the "most interesting" leg of the route, because it tunnels 85 feet under Fountain Creek from that point.

Pueblo West Metropolitan District board member Jerry Martin was the only elected official from Pueblo County on hand for the celebration, but the event attracted past and present, and potentially future, members from Colorado Springs, Security and Fountain.

“There has been a lot of cooperation to get to this point,” said Lionel Rivera, who was Colorado Springs mayor when the SDS project obtained its permits from the federal government and Pueblo County in 2009.

Also on hand was Larry Small, who was vice-mayor at the time, and now is the general manager of the Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District. The district will begin receiving \$50 million for flood control projects under the Pueblo County 1041 agreement when SDS is turned on.

Operations could start by the end of the year. Still to be completed are three pumping stations and a treatment plant that are part of the \$841 million project and all underway. That would mean the first of five checks for \$10 million to the Fountain Creek district would arrive Jan. 15.

If SDS does not go online until next year, the money would start arriving in 2017.

**John Bowen (left), president of ASI Constructors of Pueblo West, chats with Amy Dudley, human resources director at ASI, at Wednesday’s celebration of the completion of the Southern Delivery System pipeline. The company secured \$50 million in SDS contracts**