

A good deal

Pueblo Chieftain: Posted: Friday, July 23, 2010 12:00 am

AN AGREEMENT has been reached to settle a lawsuit by Pueblo West against Pueblo County over the Arkansas River flow program through the city of Pueblo.

Lawyers representing both sides, along with the Pueblo Board of Water Works and Colorado Springs, reached the settlement last week. It still has to be approved by the Pueblo West metro board and the county commissioners.

Under the settlement, Pueblo West would drop its lawsuit against Pueblo County, filed last year after Pueblo County required participation in the 2004 Pueblo flow management program as a condition for the Southern Delivery System, which Pueblo West hopes to tap into.

The Pueblo water board was involved because it rightfully objected to Pueblo West's plan to pump treated effluent into a wash behind the golf course that empties into Lake Pueblo. The state parks division also objected to the plan because Lake Pueblo is one of Colorado's top tourist attractions.

Under the agreement last week, Pueblo West would likely discharge its treated effluent into a pipeline down Wildhorse Dry Creek. That would help its ability to reuse more of its transmountain water. The agreement also would reduce future challenges to Pueblo West's ability to get credit for its exchanges as it tries to maximize its use of transmountain water.

The Pueblo water board has agreed to help maintain the flow management program to the benefit of both Pueblo West and the city.

This accord is a win-win agreement, one which we urge the Pueblo West metro board and the commissioners to approve.