

## Next Steps

Each alternative chosen for detailed analysis in the Draft EIS will be studied for its impact on a variety of environmental resources including water, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, aquatic, and for its cultural resources, socioeconomics and land use impacts. These studies were described in the June 2004 SDS EIS newsletter. Environmental impacts will be disclosed in the Draft EIS. Please check [www.sdseis.com](http://www.sdseis.com) for reports, past newsletters and project schedule updates. Environmental impacts will be disclosed in the Draft EIS, which is anticipated to be available for public review by mid-2007.

## Reclamation Contact Information

More information on the proposed SDS can be found on the website: [www.sdseis.com](http://www.sdseis.com).

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Kara Lamb with the Bureau of Reclamation at either (970) 962-4326 or [klamb@gp.usbr.gov](mailto:klamb@gp.usbr.gov).

To submit written technical comments to the SDS EIS process, please mail to the attention of Mr. Pat Mangan at:

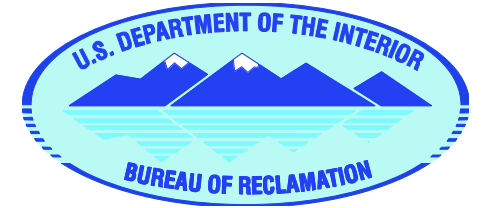
Bureau of Reclamation  
11056 W. County Road 18E  
Loveland, CO 80537-9711

Written comments can also be submitted via fax. Please send to the attention of Mr. Pat Mangan at (970) 663-3212.

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# SDS EIS

# NEWSLETTER



March  
2006

*The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Southern Delivery System (SDS), a regional water delivery project designed to serve current and future water needs of Colorado Springs, Fountain, Security and Pueblo West. This newsletter is the fifth of planned periodic updates on the Southern Delivery System Project.*

## The Proposed Project

The Bureau of Reclamation, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement evaluation the proposed Southern Delivery System (SDS). The SDS would be a regional water delivery project, serving most or all of the future water needs for the City of Colorado Springs, City of Fountain, Security Water District, and Pueblo West Metropolitan District through the year 2046.

Pueblo West is a conditional participant and would only participate if the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) selects an alternative that would divert water from Pueblo Reservoir. Colorado Springs, Fountain, Security and Pueblo West have each requested separate contracts with Reclamation to store water in Pueblo Reservoir, and a single contract for all Participants to convey water through facilities associated with Pueblo Reservoir. Because the proposed SDS project would involve long-term storage and conveyance contracts from Reclamation, it has been determined that Reclamation should be the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The use of Pueblo Reservoir to store water is an important component of the proposed SDS project. Pueblo Reservoir is part of Reclamation's Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and is a State Water Court-approved exchange reservoir for many of the Participants' Arkansas River water rights.

## Alternatives Public Review and Summary Results

Reclamation is required by NEPA regulations to develop a reasonable range of alternatives for detailed analysis in the EIS. These alternatives should meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. The purpose of the proposed SDS project is to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply to the Participants through the foreseeable future.

There are three needs that SDS would fulfill:

- To use developed and undeveloped water supplies to meet most or all projected future demands through 2046
- To develop additional water storage, delivery, and treatment capacity to provide system redundancy
- To perfect and deliver the Participants' existing Arkansas River Basin water rights

After developing seven preliminary alternatives, Reclamation sought input from the public, interested organizations and agencies to identify additional alternatives that might address environmental issues. This newsletter briefly summarizes the comments received during the alternatives analysis phase of the EIS and describes the final alternatives selected for detailed analysis in the EIS.

Reclamation held a series of public and agency workshops between October 11 and 20, 2005. These workshops were announced on the SDS EIS website and through paid advertisements, press releases and agency invitations. Information about the alternatives process was also available in Reclamation's October 2005 SDS EIS Newsletter and on the SDS EIS website. Reclamation

requested public comments by November 15, 2005, which was extended through November 18, 2005.

Information on the workshops and comments is provided in an Alternatives Public Review Summary Report available on the SDS EIS website. A total of 217 written submissions were received. From these submissions, 858 comments were identified. An additional 326 comments were recorded on the easel note pads during the public and agency workshops. Forty-two additional options for various project components were identified. These options were evaluated by Reclamation using a tiered screening process and either eliminated or retained for detailed analysis in the EIS. The process used to arrive at the preliminary alternatives and evaluate the additional options is described in an Alternatives Analysis report available on the SDS EIS website. The comments also confirmed that the significant issues identified during 2004 public scoping process remain valid.

## Final Alternatives

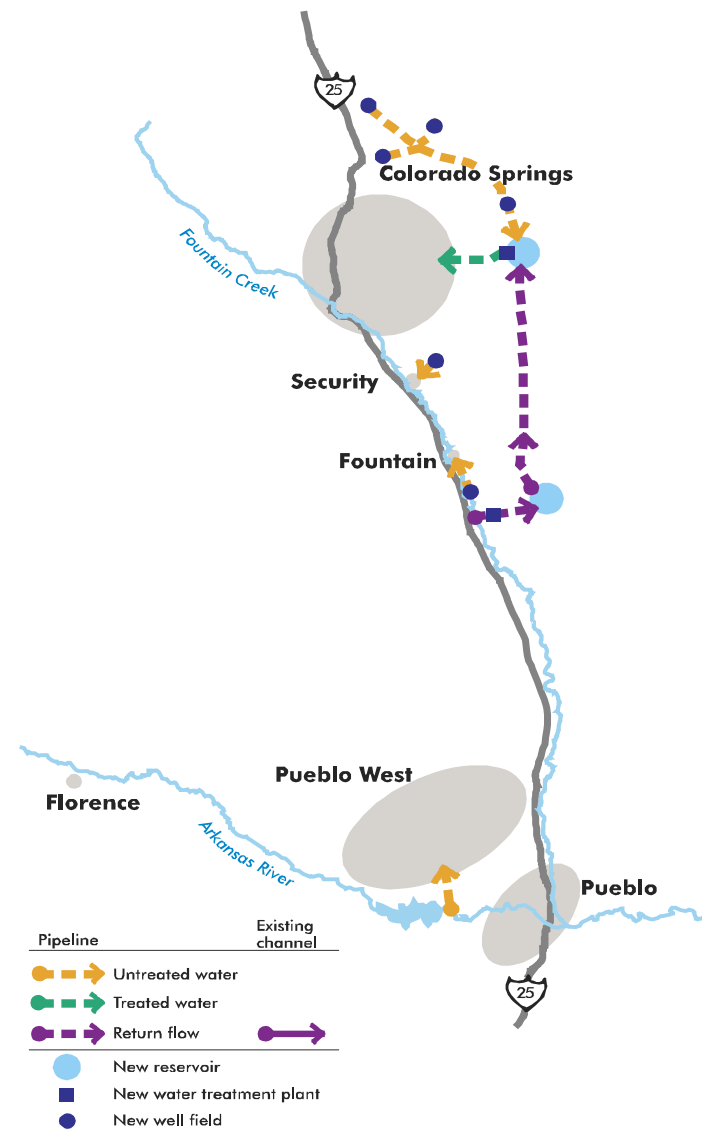
Reclamation has retained seven final alternatives for detailed evaluation in the EIS. These alternatives are represented pictorially below. The untreated water represents the water that would be pumped directly from a fresh water source, such as Pueblo Reservoir, that would not have been treated, into a pipeline that would deliver the untreated water to the designated potable water treatment plant. The untreated water pipelines are illustrated in the diagrams with yellow dotted lines.

The treated water represents the water that would be treated by a treatment plant and would be distributed as potable water for use. The treated water pipelines are illustrated in the diagrams with green dotted lines. The return flow represents the water that consumers would be using. It would have been treated, but would be non-potable. This water would be discharged back into surface water systems. Colorado Springs' return flow pipelines and channels are illustrated in the diagrams as purple dotted and continuous lines, respectively. Return flows from Fountain, Security and Pueblo West would not be used by SDS, and are not shown.

The new reservoirs represent the new storage facilities that would be created to store the water for future and current use. The new reservoirs are illustrated in the diagrams with light blue dots.

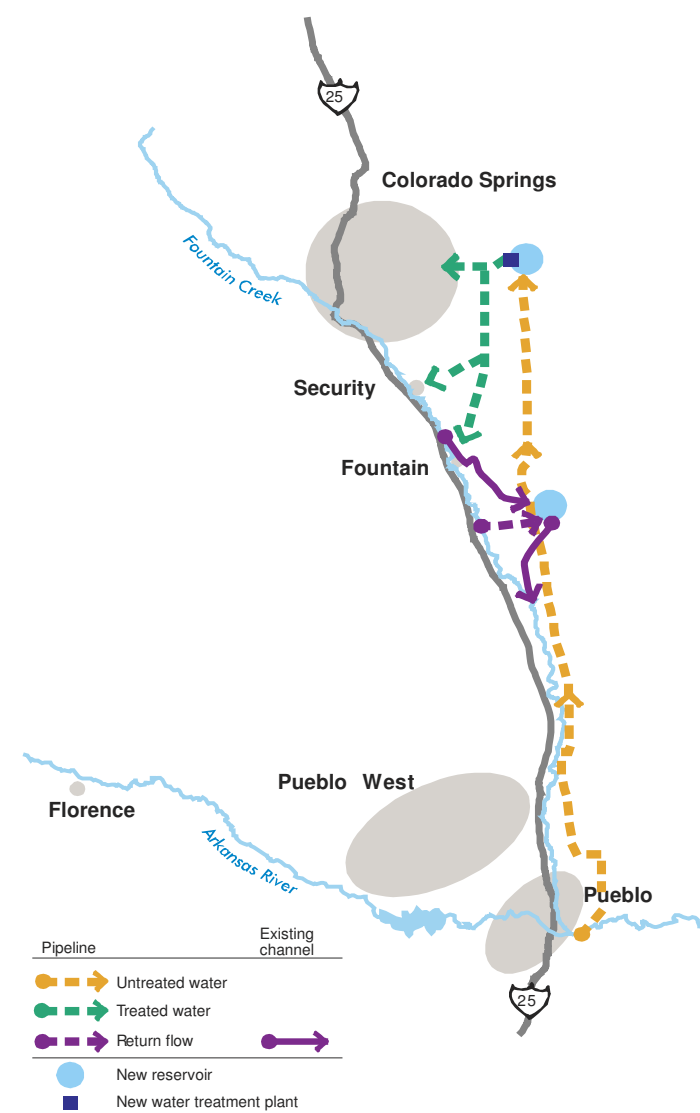
The new water treatment plants are the facilities that would be constructed for treating fresh water for potable uses and used water for non-potable uses. They are illustrated in the diagrams with dark blue squares.

### Alternative 1: No Action Alternative



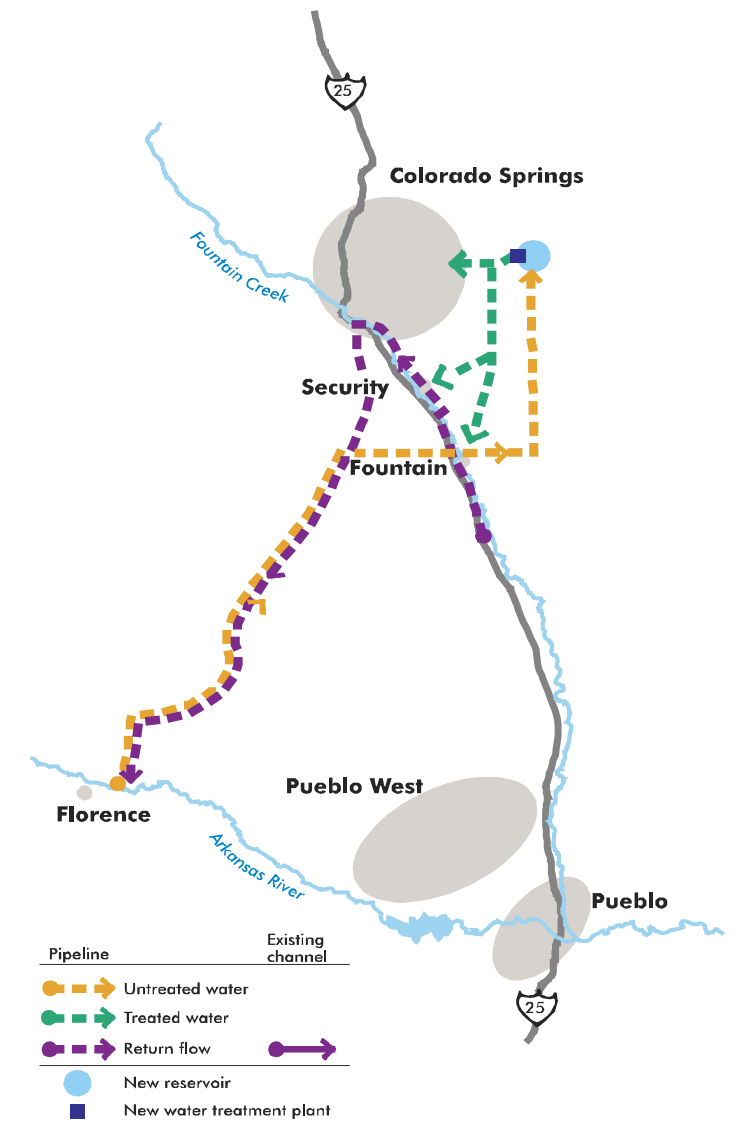
The No Action Alternative represents the most likely future in the absence of a Reclamation action, such as a storage contract. Each of the Project Participants would independently develop other water supplies in response to future growth. Colorado Springs, Fountain and Security would expand ground water use. Colorado Springs would use Denver Basin ground water, Fountain would expand the Fountain Creek alluvial wellfield, and Security would acquire additional water rights in the Widefield aquifer. In addition, Colorado Springs would treat their return flows for potable use and build two new reservoirs. Pueblo West would obtain their water from the Arkansas River near Pueblo Reservoir.

### Alternative 6: Downstream Intake Alternative



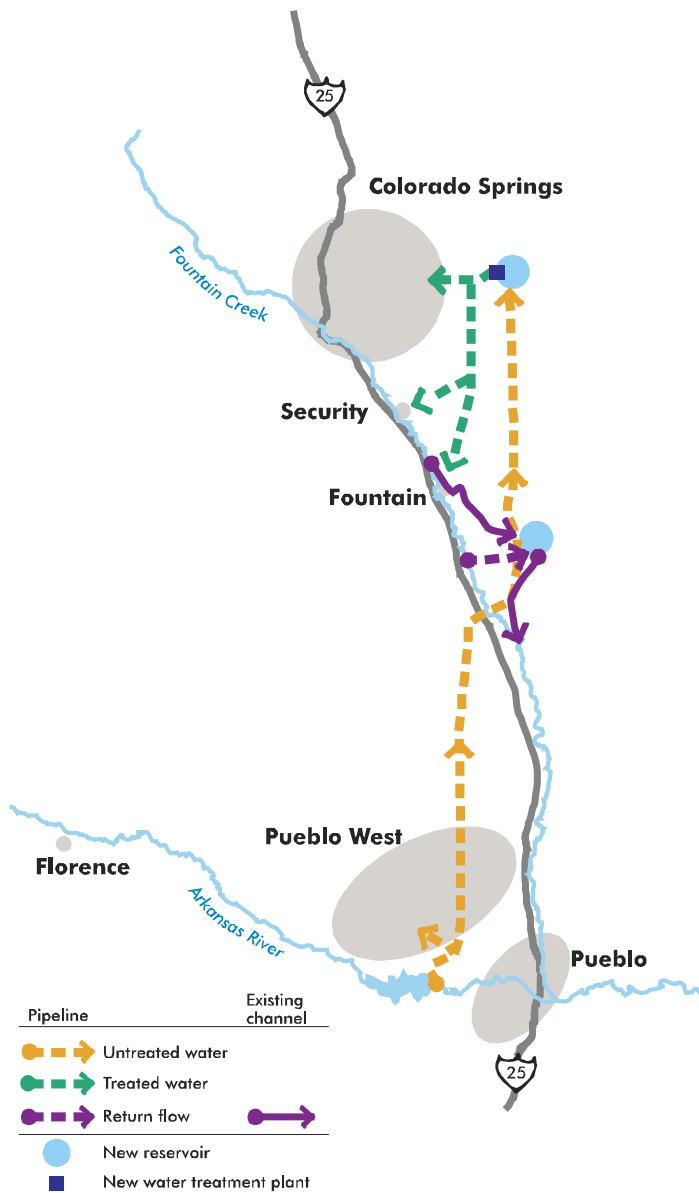
Although this alternative did not pass alternative cost screening criteria, Reclamation will study this alternative due to public interest. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, released from the dam and then diverted from the Arkansas River downstream of Fountain Creek, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be stored in a new reservoir on Williams Creek prior to exchange down Fountain Creek. Pueblo West would not participate in SDS if this alternative were chosen.

### Alternative 7: Highway 115 Alternative



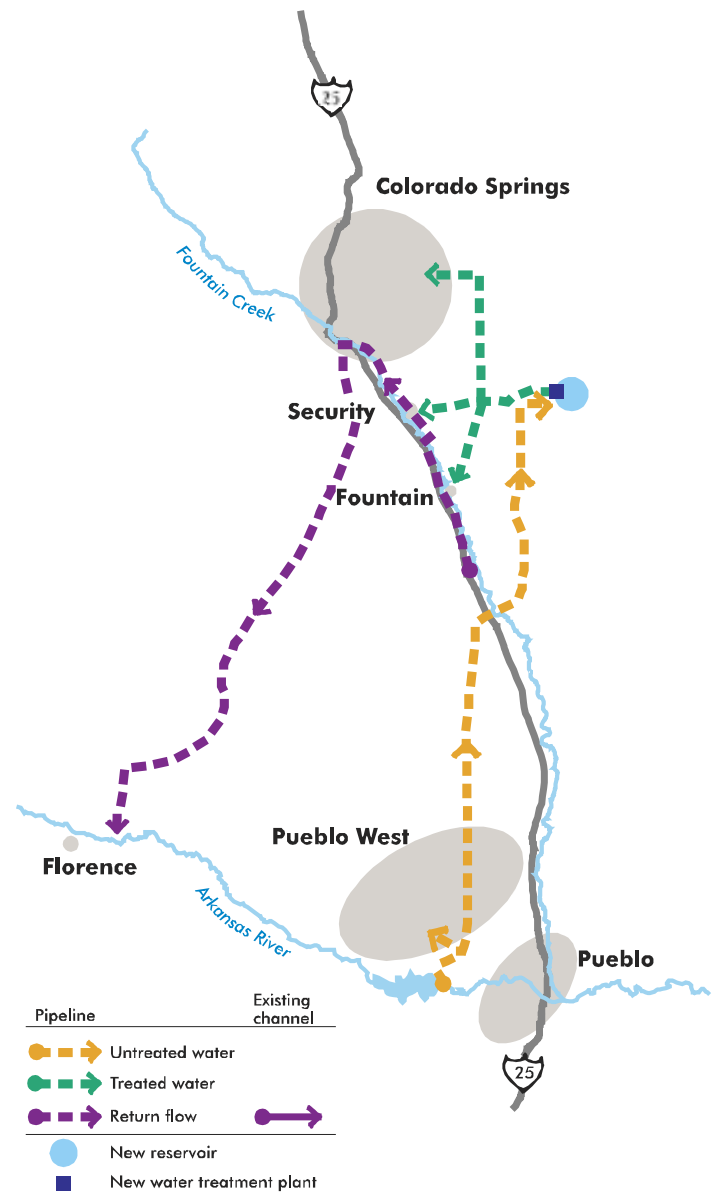
Although this alternative did not pass alternative cost screening criteria, Reclamation will study this alternative due to public and Participant interest. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, exchanged upstream and then diverted from the Arkansas River at the Lester & Attebery ditch near Florence, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not be exchanged down Fountain Creek. Pueblo West would not participate in SDS if this alternative were chosen.

## Alternative 2: Participants' Proposed Action



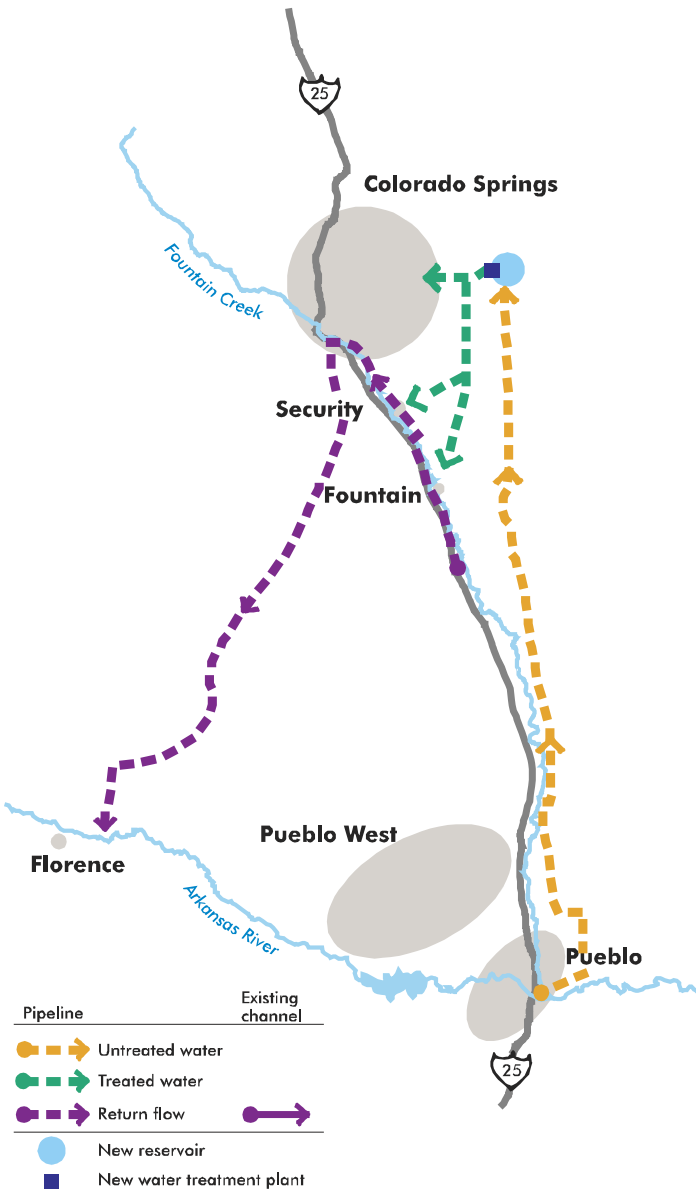
The Participants' Proposed Action Alternative represents the SDS project as the Participants propose to construct and operate it. Untreated water would be stored in and diverted from Pueblo Reservoir, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be stored in a new reservoir on Williams Creek prior to exchange down Fountain Creek.

## Alternative 3: Wetland Alternative



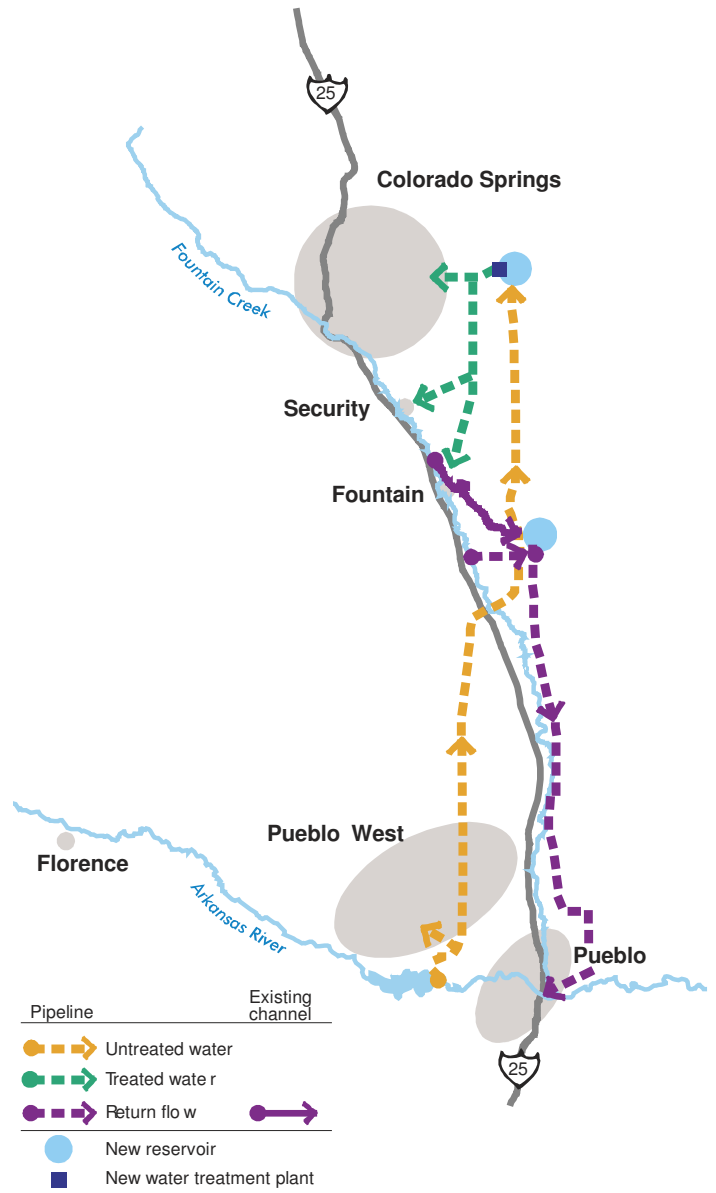
The Wetland Alternative is designed to minimize permanent effects on wetlands and to have the least surface disturbance. Untreated water would be diverted from Pueblo Reservoir, stored in a new reservoir on upper Williams Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not be exchanged down Fountain Creek.

### Alternative 4: Arkansas River Alternative



The Arkansas River Alternative is designed to minimize water quality effects on the Lower Arkansas River and to make available the highest minimum flows on the Arkansas River through Pueblo. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, released from the dam, diverted from the Arkansas River upstream of Fountain Creek, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants’ customers. Colorado Springs’ return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not be exchanged down Fountain Creek. Pueblo West would not participate in SDS if this alternative were chosen.

### Alternative 5: Fountain Creek Alternative



The Fountain Creek Alternative is designed to minimize erosion, sedimentation and water quality effects on Fountain Creek. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, diverted from Pueblo Reservoir, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants’ customers. Colorado Springs’ return flows would be stored in a new reservoir on Williams Creek, piped to the Arkansas River at the mouth of Fountain Creek, and would not be exchanged down Fountain Creek. In response to comments received during the public review process, this alternative was modified by moving the return flow discharge from the Arkansas River near Florence to the mouth of Fountain Creek.