Next Steps

An addendum to the March 2006 Alternatives Analysis report was released in December 2007. The addendum provides more detail on the changes to Alternatives 1 and 7, including Colorado Springs' request for changes and Reclamation's approval of changes to the alternatives for detailed study in the Draft EIS. The reuse alternatives considered, screening methods and results are discussed in the addendum. The addendum also describes minor changes to Fountain's proposed water deliveries through SDS and errata for the Alternatives Analysis report.

Please check www.sdseis.com for the Alternatives Analysis Addendum, other 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-2008.

Reclamation Contact Information

More information on the proposed SDS can be found on the website: 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.

To submit written technical comments to the SDS EIS process, please mail to the attention of Ms. Jaci Gould 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 Ms. Jaci Gould at (970) 663-3212.

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RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

December 2007
Eastern Colorado
Area Office

SDS EIS NEWSLETTER

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 sixth of planned periodic updates on the Southern Delivery System Project.

Changes to SDS Alternatives

Last year, Reclamation finalized seven alternatives to move forward for full evaluation in the EIS. These alternatives were presented to the public for comment and review in the fall of 2005, and then finalized and described in an Alternatives Analysis report, an Alternatives Public Review Summary Report, and an SDS EIS newsletter in spring of 2006. Changes to two of the alternatives, Alternatives 1 and 7, have been made to address deficiencies identified during preliminary, detailed analyses of the alternatives. These changes are outlined in a new publication, the Alternatives Analysis Addendum, now available on www.sdseis.com.

Colorado Springs' portion of Alternative 1 (the No Action Alternative) was changed because of an expected shortfall in ground water supply. Colorado Springs' original No Action Alternative included development of ground water resources and indirect potable reuse of return flows (explained below). However, ground water modeling indicated that an unreasonable number of wells (about 300 to 500 wells) would be needed to achieve the desired yield from the Denver Basin Aquifers.

The No Action Alternative represents the most likely course of action if contracts with Reclamation are denied. Colorado Springs asked Reclamation to change its portion of the No Action Alternative because Colorado Springs would not likely develop this large number of wells. Colorado Springs reduced the Denver Basin ground water component by about 70 percent. Additionally, indirect potable reuse was removed and an untreated water pipeline that would convey Arkansas River water from a diversion near Florence (proposed Highway 115 Intake) to the proposed Jimmy Camp Creek Reservoir was added.

A connection between the existing Fountain Valley Authority (FVA) pipeline and proposed untreated water pipeline was added to maximize flow in the FVA pipeline, which would increase Colorado Springs' delivery capabilities.

The existing Otero Intake on the upper Arkansas River near Buena Vista would be upgraded. Upgrading the Otero Intake would allow Colorado Springs' to use exchange decrees on the Arkansas River and allow the

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diversion of streamflow at the proposed Highway 115 Intake.

No changes were made to Fountain, Security, or Pueblo West's portions of the No Action Alternative, which were described in previous newsletters.

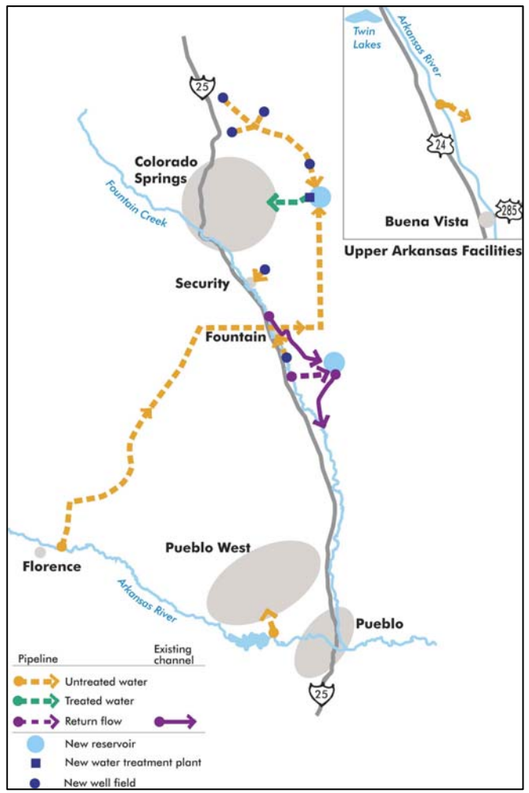
Changes were also made to Alternative 7 (Highway 115 Alternative) primarily as a result of information on water rights limitations that was brought to light as a result of modifications to the No Action Alternative.

Changes to the Highway 115 Alternative include upgrading the existing Otero Intake on the Arkansas River and addition of a connection between the existing FVA pipeline and proposed untreated water pipeline as described for the No Action Alternative.

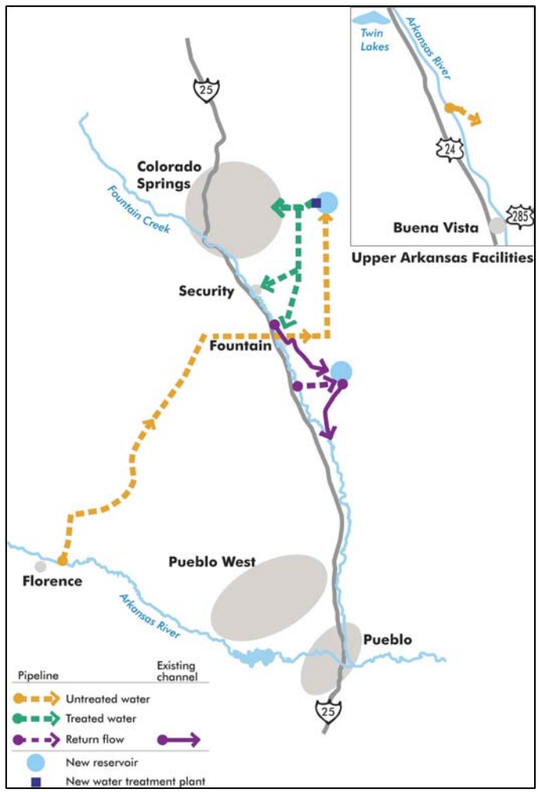
Additionally, at the request of Colorado Springs, the previously proposed Highway 115 return flow pipeline was removed because of cost. Instead, the proposed Williams Creek Reservoir was added as a means to facilitate storage and release of return flows to the Arkansas River. Williams Creek Reservoir would be used to store Colorado Springs' reusable return flows from Fountain Creek and subsequently release these return flows to Williams Creek for conveyance to Fountain Creek. Using Williams Creek Reservoir, Williams Creek, and Fountain Creek to convey exchange flows to the Arkansas River would be considerably less expensive than using the original Highway 115 return flow pipeline. Two other SDS alternatives (Alternative 3 – Wetland Alternative and Alternative 4 – Arkansas River Alternative) retain this return flow pipeline.

Reclamation has considered and accepted these changes proposed by Colorado Springs. These changes are discussed further in Reclamation's Alternative Analysis Addendum, available on www.sdseis.com.

New No Action Alternative



New Highway 115 Alternative



Reuse Alternatives

Because potable water reuse was removed from the No Action Alternative, none of the SDS alternatives had a potable water reuse component. During scoping and other meetings, the public expressed an interest in an alternative with potable water reuse. As a result, Reclamation developed and analyzed several potential alternatives that included substantial potable water reuse and met the purpose and need for the proposed SDS project. The reuse alternatives are discussed in detail in the Alternatives Analysis Addendum.

Six indirect potable reuse alternatives were evaluated. Each of these alternatives would involve reuse by Colorado Springs only, and not the other Project Participants. Reuse is the intentional diversion of water that is at least partially composed of treated wastewater and subsequently treated for use. Indirect reuse indicates that there is no direct connection between a wastewater effluent discharge point and the reuse water treatment point. Potable reuse refers to water that is reused for human consumption.

In addition to the six reuse alternatives, Alternative 6 (Downstream Intake Alternative) was considered as a possible reuse alternative. This alternative includes a water intake on the Arkansas River downstream of Fountain Creek, resulting in capture of a portion of Colorado Springs' reusable return flows in the intake. The alternative is described in detail in the March 2006 Alternatives Analysis report.

Reclamation determined, however, that the portion of Colorado Springs' water supply that would originate from reuse for Alternative 6 would be relatively small. About 16 percent of the overall supply would be from Colorado Springs' reusable return flows, and therefore a limited amount of potable reuse would occur.

The six reuse alternatives considered in this analysis were various combinations of Colorado Springs' Fountain Creek reusable return flow diversions, storage of reuse water, and treatment of reuse water. In order to provide a water supply that would be protective of human health, each of the reuse alternatives would incorporate advanced water treatment including reverse osmosis. Reverse osmosis would pass reuse water through a membrane that would effectively remove contaminants including salinity. Each of the reuse alternatives would also use blending of reuse water with an Arkansas River water supply from Pueblo Reservoir. This results in a water supply of about half reuse water and half Arkansas River water. The six reuse alternatives are described in detail in the Alternatives Analysis Addendum.

The reuse alternatives were screened using the same process used for the original seven SDS alternatives described in the March 2006 Alternatives Analysis report. The process included screening for substantial logistical, technical, or environmental deficiencies; general environmental characteristics; reuse treatment effectiveness (added for reuse screening); SDS purpose and need and cost screening; and scoping themes screening.

Each reuse alternative passed the screening criteria for substantial deficiencies, environmental characteristics, reuse treatment effectiveness, and purpose and need screening. However, none of the reuse alternatives passed the cost screening criteria. In order to pass the cost screening, the cost of delivering water to meet projected demands needed to be less than $25,000 per acre-foot per year (ac-ft/yr) of firm yield and $21,000 per ac-ft/yr of average yield. The cost for the reuse alternatives ranged from $50,000 to $61,000 per ac-ft/yr for firm yield and $43,000 to $53,000 per ac-ft/yr for average yield. The high cost of the reuse alternatives resulted in failure of the cost screening criteria. Additionally, none of the reuse alternatives better responded to significant issues from public scoping than the existing alternatives. As a result, none of the reuse alternatives will be carried forward for detailed analysis in the SDS EIS.