

Reclamation Contact Information

To obtain a copy of the Scoping Report or for general questions, please contact Kara Lamb at 970-962-4326 or by e-mail at klamb@gp.usbr.gov. For questions specific to the project or the EIS, please contact Pat Mangan at:

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Project Participant Information

Additional information about the project participants can be found at their websites:

Colorado Springs Utilities: www.csu.org
City of Fountain: www.ci.fountain.co.us
Security Water District: www.securitywsd.com

SDS EIS NEWSLETTER

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

January
2004

The Proposed Project

The proposed Southern Delivery System (SDS) Project would be located in the Arkansas River basin extending northward from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs (see regional map on next page). The Project Participants are Colorado Springs Utilities, the City of Fountain, and Security Water District. As proposed, the project would include construction and operation of the following components:

- A 43-mile long, 66-inch diameter raw water pipeline and pump stations
- A water treatment plant to provide potable water for municipal and industrial use
- Distribution pipelines to convey potable water
- A terminal raw water storage reservoir
- A water exchange reservoir
- Relocation of electric transmission lines at the terminal raw water storage reservoir site

In February 2003, the Project Participants requested a long-term water conveyance contract from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in association with the SDS project. In July 2003, Colorado Springs Utilities also requested a long-term storage contract for 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. 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 Colorado Springs' Arkansas River water rights.

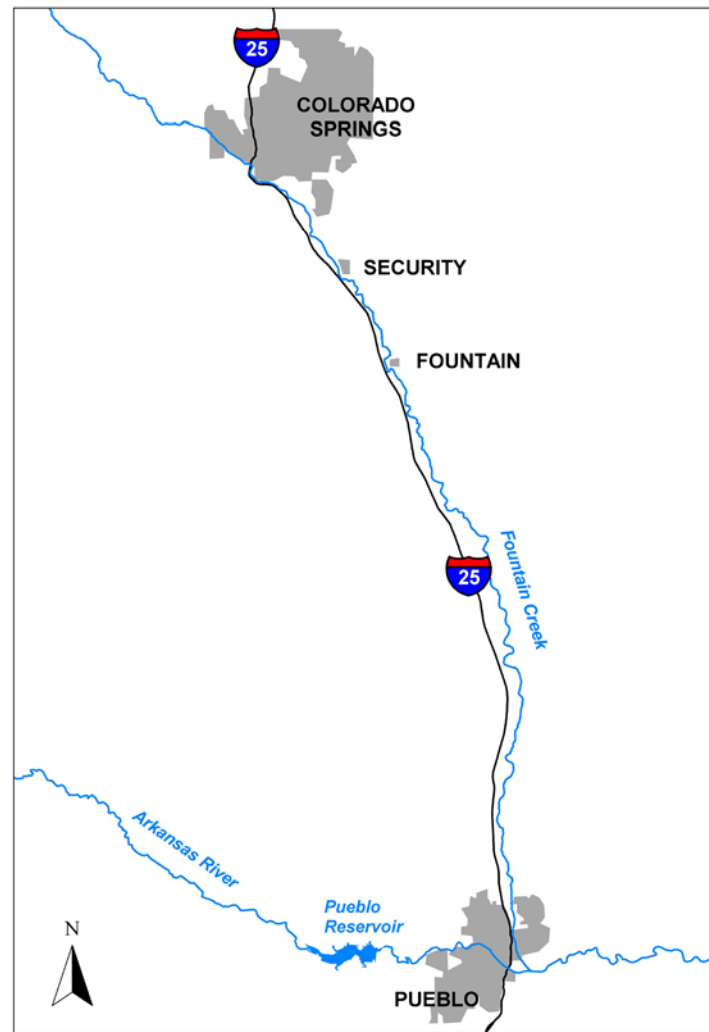
Purpose and Need

As currently proposed, the purpose of the proposed SDS Project is to deliver up to 78 million gallons per day of water from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to the service areas of the Project Participants to meet their projected municipal and industrial water needs through 2040. The Project Participants have existing Arkansas River water rights that can be used to meet their projected water needs. However, their existing infrastructure lacks sufficient capacity to deliver the water and to fully use the Project Participants' decreed water



The Arkansas River near Fountain Creek

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With the SDS Project, water would be conveyed from near Pueblo to a new reservoir east of Colorado Springs.

rights. The purpose of the proposed SDS Project is to meet that need for additional delivery capacity. Delivering this water is necessary to meet projected growth demands within the Project Participants' service areas and to fully use their existing Arkansas River water rights. The proposed SDS Project is also needed to provide redundancy for the Project Participants' existing Arkansas River basin water delivery systems to improve operational reliability and drought resiliency, and to maximize the use of existing water rights.

The Project Participants are currently using water conservation and related programs to reduce consumption. However, the Project Participants have determined that even with these programs, water needs in their service areas will increase in the future beyond their existing infrastructure's ability to supply water.

Project Participants' Alternatives

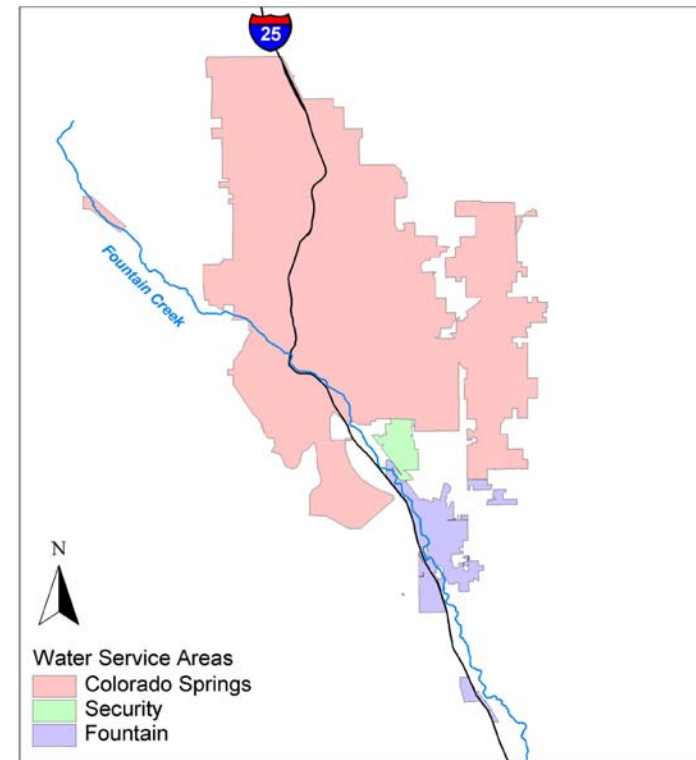
The Project Participants used technical, environmental, and economic screening criteria to identify potential alternatives capable of meeting the proposed project's purpose and need. In the Project Participants' alternatives, the raw water pipeline would draw from one of four possible sources:

- Directly from Pueblo Reservoir, using a new tap northwest of Pueblo Dam
- The Joint Use Manifold east of the South Outlet Works of Pueblo Reservoir, west of the City of Pueblo (a connection to an existing outlet on Pueblo Reservoir)
- The Joint Use Pipeline, east of the Joint Use Manifold (a connection to an existing pipeline originating at Pueblo Reservoir)
- The Arkansas River, just upstream of its confluence with Fountain Creek

A pipeline would convey water north to a site east of Colorado Springs where it is anticipated to terminate at a water treatment plant located near Jimmy Camp Creek. Several pipeline alignments are associated with each possible source water location. Two reservoirs, one on Williams Creek and one on Jimmy Camp Creek, would be part of the project.



Discussing the Participants' alternatives was an important aspect of the public scoping meetings



SDS would provide water to the service areas of Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Fountain, and Security Water District

Scoping

Scoping is a process that is used under the National Environmental Policy Act to obtain information that will focus an EIS on significant issues. The formal scoping period for the SDS Project began on September 8, 2003, with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*. The notice stated that, to be most effective, public scoping comments should be postmarked, sent via facsimile, or e-mailed no later than November 14, 2003, which is 30 days following the final public scoping meeting.

Reclamation also sent press releases to 75 local and national media organizations, public agencies, and other potentially interested parties. Advertisements announcing public scoping meetings and soliciting participation in the scoping process were published in seven local newspapers. Reclamation held five public scoping meetings to solicit issues and concerns about the project from the public. A scoping meeting with federal, state, and local agencies and a briefing session with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also were held. Reclamation sent a letter to representatives of 16 Native American Tribes to solicit their input for the scoping process. Reclamation also sent a consultation request to the Southwest Region, the Great

Plains Region, the Rocky Mountain Region, and the Southern Plains Region of Bureau of Indian Affairs.

During scoping, 53 written submissions were received: 23 letters and 30 comment cards. From these submissions, 414 substantive comments were gathered. An additional 41 comments were recorded on easel note pads during the public and agency scoping meetings.

Based on the issues and recommendations identified in the scoping comments, as well as guidance from the National Environmental Policy Act, ten significant issues were identified that will be the focus of the EIS:

1. Surface Water Flow
2. Surface Water Quality
3. Channel Stability and Morphology
4. Sedimentation
5. Water Rights
6. Fish and Other Aquatic Life
7. Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.
8. Wildlife
9. Socioeconomic Conditions
10. Recreation Resources

Reclamation prepared a *Public Scoping Report* that describes in more detail scoping activities, the issues and concerns identified during scoping, and suggested alternatives. The report is available online in Adobe Acrobat at www.usbr.gov/gp/pubinv1.cfm or www.sdseis.com and may be requested from the Reclamation contacts listed on the next page.

Next Steps

The information gathered during the scoping process will assist Reclamation in the development of SDS alternatives for evaluation in the EIS. Although the formal scoping period has passed, public meetings are planned after the EIS alternatives have been developed. Public hearings also will be held after issuing the Draft EIS. The time, date, and location of these meetings will be published on the SDS EIS web site and mailed to those on the mailing list. Reclamation welcomes all comments from the public at anytime during the EIS process.

Please visit the project web site at www.sdseis.com for information and updates about the EIS process. Newsletters similar to this one providing updates on the SDS EIS will be sent to agencies, organizations, and individuals on the mailing list compiled from the scoping meetings. Anyone interested may request a copy of the newsletter.