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ALL cities in the world, but especially in high altitude desert areas like Colorado should recycle their sewer water into potable water, again & again & again. ☺
Further, if the cities burn their sewer "sludge" & all their non-recyclable trash, they can generate electricity in an efficient, environmentally responsible manner. ☺

Colorado has exceeded its "carrying capacity" of humans old enough to vote by at least three congressional districts worth (that's not counting the kids, of course)
All the shopping malls and 4 bathroom houses along the ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES of I-25 & I-70 are an ecological disaster for the STATE of Colorado - !!!
Let's close the borders of OUR STATE!
NO MORE development!

Reclamation picks route for pipeline from dam

By Chris Woodka
The Pueblo Chieftain

A plan to construct a pipeline from Pueblo Dam to serve Colorado Springs water needs for the next 40 years received preliminary endorsement from the Bureau of Reclamation on Friday.

Reclamation chose the proposed route of the Southern Delivery System over six other alternatives — saying all would harm the environment in a draft environmental impact statement released Friday. It also lists several mitigation measures which must be met to reduce the ill effects.

Colorado Springs proposes a \$1.1 billion project in which a 66-inch-diameter pipeline would connect to Pueblo Dam and move up to 78 million gallons of water per day 43 miles north. The project would also serve Fountain and Security. Pueblo West would tap into the pipeline near the dam.

The project also includes a 109 million-gallon-per-day treatment plant, a 30,500-acre-foot terminal storage reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek and a 28,500-acre-foot exchange reservoir on Williams Creek.

"Reclamation has initially identified the participants' proposed action as the agency preferred alternative," the FIS states. "This alternative would have the lowest total project costs and lowest energy use requirements."

PLEASE SEE PIPELINE, 2A

SEE OTHER SIDE
FORMY PLAN ...

Southern Delivery System:
<http://www.sdsels.com>

■ To provide a comment, mail, fax or e-mail to the attention of Kara Lamb at Bureau of Reclamation
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Loveland, CO 80537
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■ Comments must be provided in writing no later than April 29.
■ For more information, contact Kara Lamb at 970-962-4326.

The draft FIS is still subject to public review over the next 60 days, and public meetings are being planned for April. A final record of decision is expected in early 2009, according to Kara Lamb, public information officer for Reclamation.

After that time, Reclamation could issue contracts and

"It's making more efficient use of the water rights we already have," Fredell said.

Redundancy is needed because the city's three other supply pipelines are aging, he added.

"If one of our big systems, like Homestake, goes down on a peak demand day, we would have trouble," Fredell said.

The additional storage also provides protection against drought.

The FIS claims Colorado Springs would grow regardless of which alternative is chosen. Natural growth — births minus deaths — accounts for more than half of Colorado Springs growth in recent years and Fort Carson expansion is expected to bring even more families to the city, Fredell said.

Currently, Colorado Springs Utilities serves more than 400,000 people, and that number could double by 2050.

according to the city's own projections.

"Without SDS, our quality of life and our healthy economy could be jeopardized," Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera said.

The FIS does not say the project will not harm the environment.

"All alternatives would have adverse environmental effects," the FIS states. However, the alternative from the dam preferred by Colorado Springs is no more or less detrimental than the other alternatives, including a "no-action" alternative of building a pipeline from Fremont County.

Minigation procedures — or steps that must be taken to reduce the negative environmental impacts of the project — are sprinkled throughout the report but are not yet collected in one place for easy reference. They include improvements on Fountain Creek to stabilize streams and

improve wetlands, an agreement on historic sites, recreational impacts, wildlife habitat and numerous other concerns.

Flood control — important to reduce the impact of more runoff from new homes — is mentioned in the FIS, although technical documents indicate flood risk would be slightly reduced by the construction of reservoirs on the FIS banks on the continuing of a stormwater utility formed in recent years, even though State Rep. Doug Bruce, who as a former county commissioner was often at odds with the city, has launched a petition drive to repeal it.

"I think the city council is committed, and the community is committed to the finance of the stormwater utility," Fredell said.

Reclamation would tie any eventual contract to Colorado Springs following the mitigation measures outlined in the

Cost criteria also eliminated several components that were included in Colorado Springs' 1996 water resources plan, such as a pipeline from Crowley County, where Colorado Springs purchased Colorado Canal water rights in the 1980s, based on what Reclamation determined the public was willing to pay for water, Lamb said.

The project could be complete by 2012. Colorado Springs also needs other permits to begin work on the project, including a disputed land-use permit from Pueblo County.

The recommendation could change before a final environmental impact statement is issued, Lamb said.

"If new scientific evidence is presented that wasn't available before or a new data set, it could change," Lamb said. "That's why we have the public comment period."

The FIS and its supporting documents total about 3,000 pages, and have so far cost Colorado Springs more than \$139 million since 2002 to prepare.

The document evaluates a "statement of purpose and need" prepared by Colorado Springs, which said it needs SDS for future growth, to develop its water rights and provide redundancy in its system.

The water rights involved are in the 1987 Fountain Creek exchange, a negotiated settlement with Pueblo and Aurora. Colorado Springs plans to gain additional water

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