

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Adams, Refuge Manager, Illinois River NWFR at 309/535-2290.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comprehensive conservation plans guide management decisions over the course of 15 years.

The Illinois River NWFR Complex includes three national wildlife refuges: Chautauqua NWR in Mason County; Meredosia NWR in Cass and Morgan Counties; and Emiquon NWR in Fulton County. The planning process began in 1998.

Three management alternatives were considered. Alternative 3, Refuge Resource Area Focus, is the preferred alternative. This alternative would increase conservation efforts in the Illinois River Focus Areas and enhance, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat within the boundaries of the Illinois River Refuges. There will be no expansion of existing authorized boundaries.

The CCP will identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Dated: July 30, 2003.

Marvin Moriarity,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-22712 Filed 9-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Deemed Approved Technical Amendment between the State of Wisconsin and the Forest County Potawatomi Community.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Pub. L. 100-497, 25 U.S.C 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, is publishing notice that the Technical Amendment to the Class III gaming compact between the State of Wisconsin and the Forest County Potawatomi Community is considered approved. By the terms of IGRA, the Technical Amendment is considered approved, but only to the

extent the compact is consistent with the provisions of IGRA. The Technical Amendment provides the following: application of the arbitration section to the payment section of the Compact; deletion of payment to the University of Wisconsin; provision that state law will apply for any reimbursement payments to the tribe; and waiver of all sovereign immunity with respect to the enforcement of any provision of this Compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 8, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: August 26, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-22788 Filed 9-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan and Cachuma Project Biological Opinion, for Southern Steelhead Trout, Santa Barbara County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice to correct the date of availability of the draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR).

SUMMARY: This notice corrects the date of availability of the Draft EIS/EIR for the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan and Cachuma Project Biological Opinion, for Southern Steelhead Trout, Santa Barbara County, California. An incorrect date, April 2003, was erroneously reported in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 43748, July 24, 2003). The correct, actual date for the availability of the Draft EIS/EIR is July 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Young, Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area, 1243 N Street, Fresno, CA 93721, 559-487-5127.

Dated: September 2, 2003.

Frank Michny,

Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 03-22714 Filed 9-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Southern Delivery System Project, Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Regional Water Infrastructure Authority (RWIA) is proposing to construct a pipeline and related facilities known as the Southern Delivery System (SDS) that will deliver Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark) water and non-Fry-Ark water from the Arkansas River near the City of Pueblo to an area east of Colorado Springs. On February 19, 2003, RWIA and its individual participants, the cities of Colorado Springs and Fountain, along with the Security Water District, requested a long-term water conveyance contract from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). On July 14, 2003, Colorado Springs Utilities (Springs Utilities) made a request for a long-term storage contract for Pueblo Reservoir in association with this project. Because the RWIA proposal involves long-term storage and conveyance contracts from Reclamation, it has been determined that Reclamation should be the lead Federal agency for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the dates and times of the scoping meetings.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the locations of the scoping meetings.

Please send comments on potentially significant issues or the proposed alternatives to the attention of Pat Mangan, Southern Delivery System EIS, Bureau of Reclamation, Eastern Colorado Area Office, 11056 W. County Road 18E, Loveland, CO 80537; or FAX to (303) 445-6328 or (303) 445-2236; or e-mail to pmangan@do.usbr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anyone interested in more information about the EIS or the project may contact Pat Mangan by telephone at (303) 445-2236 or by e-mail at pmangan@do.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of NEPA, Reclamation will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to identify and disclose the environmental effects of the proposed project. Cooperating agencies may be identified at a later date.

Reclamation will use the NEPA compliance process to ensure that the public has opportunities to review and comment on the direct and indirect effects of Reclamation's long-term storage and conveyance contract(s), the pipeline and related facilities, and changes to Fry-Ark operations for the SDS project. Reclamation and RWIA will hold five public scoping meetings in which Federal, State, and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public are invited to participate in an open exchange of information to identify potentially significant issues and to submit comments on the proposed scope of the EIS. Written comments concerning issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be accepted and considered during preparation of the EIS. To be most effective, comments should be postmarked or e-mailed no later than 30 days following the final public scoping meeting.

In 2000, Reclamation evaluated a request from the Pueblo Board of Water Works (PBWW) to connect a pipeline to the Pueblo Reservoir Municipal Outlet Works (South Outlet Works), construct a pipeline across Reclamation land, and execute related storage and conveyance contracts. As this request was being considered, Springs Utilities and PBWW agreed to enlarge the upper portion of the pipeline (referred to below as the "Joint Use Manifold and Pipeline") to accommodate potential future use by Springs Utilities. As a part of the environmental compliance process for PBWW's request, Reclamation prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of construction and operation of the Joint Use Manifold and Pipeline. The EA acknowledged additional environmental compliance would be needed when Springs Utilities requested approval to convey their non-Fry-Ark water through the South Outlet Works to the Joint Use Manifold and Pipeline. Springs Utilities has now made that request through the RWIA request for Reclamation's approval of water-related contracts associated with the SDS project.

The proposed SDS Project would be located in the Arkansas River basin extending northward from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to the City of Colorado Springs. As proposed, the project includes construction and operation of the following components:

- An approximately 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; and
- A water exchange reservoir.

The proposed system would be sized to meet water demands from Pueblo Reservoir in the year 2040 that are projected to be 78 million gallons per day (mgd).

The use of Pueblo Reservoir to store water is an important component of the proposed SDS project. Pueblo Reservoir is part of Reclamation's Fry-Ark Project and is a State Water Court-approved exchange reservoir for Colorado Springs' Arkansas River water rights. Reclamation will prepare an EIS prior to making decisions on the proposed Federal actions involved in the SDS project including storing non-Fry-Ark water in Pueblo Reservoir and conveying Fry-Ark and non-Fry-Ark water through Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs. The EIS may also be used by other Federal agencies involved in permitting or approving specific aspects of the proposed project.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed SDS is to deliver up to 78 mgd of water from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to the service areas of the City of Colorado Springs, the City of Fountain, and the Security Water District (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 utilize the Project Participants' decreed water 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 Participant's service areas and to fully utilize their existing Arkansas River water rights. The proposed SDS is also needed to provide redundancy for the Project Participant's existing Arkansas River basin water delivery systems to improve operational reliability, 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.

Proposed Alternatives

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

1. Directly from Pueblo Reservoir, using a new tap northwest of Pueblo Dam;
2. The Joint Use Manifold east of the South Outlet Works of Pueblo Reservoir, west of the City of Pueblo;
3. The Joint Use Pipeline, east of the Joint Use Manifold; or
4. The Arkansas River, just upstream of its confluence with Fountain Creek.

The pipeline would run north to a site east of Colorado Springs where it is anticipated to terminate at a water treatment plant located near Jimmy Camp Creek. There are several pipeline alignments associated with each possible source water location.

As required by Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations (40 CFR 1502.2(e)), a full range of reasonable alternatives that meet the purpose and need and a no action alternative will be evaluated in the EIS. The EIS will evaluate potential environmental impacts of each alternative along with engineering and socioeconomic considerations. A preferred alternative has not been identified at this time.

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues

The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. This list is preliminary and is intended to facilitate public comment on the scope of this EIS.

- What are the impacts of constructing the pipeline, including:
 - Maintenance access roads,
 - Substations,
 - Construction lay down, staging, and borrow areas?
- Are there growth-inducing impacts?
- Are there environmental justice issues?
- What are the impacts to aquatic resources?
- What would be the impact to streams and wetlands?
- How would wildlife habitat be affected?
- Would new reservoirs provide recreational opportunities?
- Would significant cultural resources be affected?
- How would water quality in the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek be affected?
- How would the proposed project affect operation of the Fry-Ark project

and the existing storage and conveyance contracts?

- How would streamflow in the Arkansas River be affected?
- Would this project affect water levels in Pueblo Reservoir?
- Will this project and other reasonably-foreseeable projects result in significant cumulative effects?

Timing

Reclamation plans to issue the draft EIS in the fall of 2004. Availability of the draft EIS will be publicized. Federal, State, and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the general public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS.

Scoping Meetings

Scoping meeting will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 24, 2003, Buena Vista, Colorado
- Thursday, September 25, 2003, Fountain, Colorado
- Tuesday, October 7, 2003, La Junta, Colorado
- Thursday, October 9, 2003, Pueblo, Colorado
- Wednesday, October 15, 2003, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Buena Vista Community Center, Pinon Room, 715 E. Main, Buena Vista, Colorado
- Fountain-Fort Carson High School Cafeteria, 900 Jimmy Camp Creek Road, Fountain, Colorado
- Koshare Indian Museum, Kiva Room, 115 West 18th, La Junta, Colorado
- Colorado State University—Pueblo, Occhiato Center—West Colorado Ball Room, 2200 Bonforte Blvd., Pueblo, Colorado
- Colorado Springs City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Issues raised at the scoping meetings will be documented and summarized in a report that will be distributed to public libraries near the meeting locations, posted on Reclamation's Web site, and mailed upon request. This report will identify those issues that will be evaluated in the EIS.

Public Disclosure Statement

Comments received in response to this notice will become part of the administrative record for this project and are subject to public inspection. Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request that

Reclamation withhold their home address from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which Reclamation would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Reclamation will make all submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: August 29, 2003.

Gerald W. Kelso,

Acting Regional Director, Great Plains Region.
[FR Doc. 03-22710 Filed 9-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Windy Gap Firing Project, Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On April 14, 2003, the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, acting by and through the Windy Gap Firing Project (Firing Project) Water Activity Enterprise (Subdistrict), requested approval from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to connect the proposed Firing Project to Reclamation's Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT). If connection to the C-BT is approved, the Subdistrict would construct facilities that would be required to meet the purpose and need of the project. This could include construction of one or more new reservoirs. Because the Subdistrict's proposal involves a physical connection to C-BT facilities, it was determined that Reclamation should be the lead Federal agency for NEPA compliance.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be accepted and should be postmarked or e-mailed by November 7, 2003, to be most effective.

Public scoping meetings, each beginning at 6:30 p.m., will be held on the following dates:

- September 30, 2003—Granby, Colorado

- October 1, 2003—Loveland, Colorado
- Date to be determined—Lyons, Colorado

ADDRESSES: The meeting locations are:

- Granby—Inn at Silver Creek (2 miles south of Granby, east side of highway), 62927 U.S. Highway 40, Granby, CO 80446.
- Loveland—McKee Conference Center, 2000 North Boise Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538.
- Lyons—Location will be announced through mailings, paid advertisements, and news releases to news media in the area.

Please send comments on the alternatives or other issues pertaining to the proposed project to the attention of Will Tully, Windy Gap Firing Project EIS, Bureau of Reclamation, Eastern Colorado Area Office, 11056 W. County Road 18E, Loveland, CO 80537; or FAX to (970) 663-3212 or (970) 962-4216; or e-mail to wtully@gp.usbr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anyone interested in more information about the EIS or the project may contact Will Tully by telephone at (970) 962-4368 or by e-mail at wtully@gp.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Reclamation will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to identify the environmental effects of the proposed project. Cooperating agencies will be identified at a later date.

Reclamation will use the NEPA compliance process to ensure that the public has opportunities to review and comment on the direct and indirect effects of the proposed action. Public comments are invited regarding both the scope of environmental and socioeconomic issues and alternatives that should be evaluated in the EIS.

Reclamation and the Subdistrict will hold at least three public scoping meetings in which Federal, State, local and tribal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the open exchange of information and to submit comments on the proposed scope of the EIS. Comments received will be considered in preparation of the EIS.

During the 1960's, six entities (the cities of Boulder, Greeley, Longmont, Loveland, and Fort Collins and the Town of Estes Park) in northeastern Colorado determined that additional water supplies were needed to meet their projected municipal demands. The Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District,

REGIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 1103
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-1821

October 27, 2003

Mr. Brian Person
United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 West County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537-9711

Dear Mr. Person,

In a letter dated February 19, 2003, the Regional Water Infrastructure Authority (RWIA), consisting of Colorado Springs, the City of Fountain, and the Security Water District, submitted a request to the Bureau of Reclamation for a long-term conveyance contract for the delivery of non-project water through the Pueblo Reservoir Municipal Outlet Works for the proposed Southern Delivery System (SDS) water project.


By way of this letter, the RWIA is officially notifying you that the RWIA participants have decided it is preferable to jointly design, acquire, construct and install the proposed SDS water project as "project partners" rather than as an authorized project of the RWIA. This agreement between the project partners is memorialized in an Intergovernmental Agreement effective August 1, 2003.

Therefore, Colorado Springs, the City of Fountain, and the Security Water District, will continue the proposed SDS as "project partners" rather than as the RWIA. Colorado Springs Utilities, on behalf of the project partners, is requesting a long-term conveyance contract for the delivery of non-project water through the Pueblo Reservoir Municipal Outlet Works for the proposed SDS water project. This replaces the original conveyance contract request submitted on February 19, 2003, by the RWIA.

Additionally, the Memorandum of Understanding, No. 03AG601768, will be amended jointly with the Bureau of Reclamation to address this change.

Should you or your staff need any additional information regarding this notification, please contact me at 719/668-8712.

Sincerely,


Gary Bostrom, P.E.
Chairperson - RWIA

c: Larry Patterson
Richard Comeford
David Nickerson
Gary King
James Broderick, SECWCD

Bob Robler
Kathy Kuberka
Louis Harding
Greg Johnson



IN REPLY
REFER TO:
EC-2000
WTR-4.03

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 West County RD 18E
Loveland, Colorado 80537-9711



OCT 15 2003

Subject: NEPA Interagency Scoping Meeting – Southern Delivery System Project,
Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, Colorado

Dear Interested Agency:

You are cordially invited to participate in a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping meeting for Federal, state and local agencies that may have an interest in the proposed Southern Delivery Water System (SDS) project. The Bureau of Reclamation requests your attendance at the agency scoping meeting to be held on Monday, October 27, 2003, from 10 am to Noon at the Double Tree-World Arena, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are meeting in the "Creek Room," and food and refreshments are being provided.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and solicit comments regarding environmental issues or concerns associated with proposed project facilities and their operation. Verbal and/or written comments may be provided at the meeting or any time through November 14, 2003. We sincerely encourage your participation in the NEPA process for this regionally important water development project. An overview of the proposed project follows and a list of the invitees is enclosed.

Colorado Springs Utilities, the City of Fountain, and the Security Water District (Project Participants), are proposing to construct a pipeline and related facilities known as the Southern Delivery System (SDS) that will deliver Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark) water and non-Fry-Ark water from the Arkansas River near the City of Pueblo to an area east of Colorado Springs. The Project Participants have requested a long-term water conveyance contract from Reclamation. Colorado Springs has also requested a long-term contract to store non-project water in Pueblo Reservoir in association with the project. Because the SDS project would involve long-term storage and conveyance contracts from Reclamation, Reclamation determined it should be the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The proposed SDS Project would be located in the Arkansas River basin extending northward from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to the City of Colorado Springs. As proposed, the project would include construction and operation of the following components:

- An approximately 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, and
- A water exchange reservoir.

The proposed project would 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 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 Participant's service areas and to fully use their existing Arkansas River water rights. The proposed SDS is also needed to provide redundancy for the Project Participant's existing Arkansas River basin water delivery systems to improve operational reliability, 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.

The Project Participants have identified potential alternatives capable of meeting the proposed projects purpose and need. A raw water pipeline would draw from one of four possible sources along the Arkansas River. A pipeline would run 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.

Reclamation has retained a consultant team lead by MWH Americas, Inc., to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. If you or a representative from your agency can attend the meeting, please RSVP to Lesley Will at MWH by phone (719-594-9368) or e-mail lesley.a.will@mwhglobal.com.

Sincerely,

Brian Person

Brian Person
Area Manager

Identical Letter Sent To: (see next page)

cc: Regional Water Infrastructure Authority
Mr. Gary Bostrum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1103
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-1821

Bill VanDerveer, Project Manager
MWH Americas, Inc.
1110 Elkton Drive, Suite B
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

INVITEES FOR INTERAGENCY SCOPING MEETING

Federal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Albuquerque
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Pueblo
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Fort Carson

State

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Division of Water Resources
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Department of Transportation
Colorado State Parks
State Land Board
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Regional

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (incl. Floodplain Administrator)
Pueblo Board of Water Works
Pueblo Area Council of Governments
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Lower Arkansas Water Conservancy District

El Paso County

El Paso County Commissioners
El Paso County Planning
El Paso County Health Department
El Paso County Parks Department

Pueblo County

Pueblo County Commissioners
Pueblo County Health Department
Pueblo County Planning Department
Pueblo County Public Works Department

Fremont County

Fremont County Commissioners

Chaffee County

Chaffee County Commissioners

Otero County

Otero County Commissioners

Crowley County

Crowley County Commissioners

Bent County

Bent County Commissioners

Colorado Springs

Mayor/City Manager
City of Colorado Springs Planning
City of Colorado Springs Parks

Pueblo

Mayor/City Manager
City of Pueblo Planning Department
City of Pueblo Public Works Department

Fountain

Mayor/City Manager
City of Fountain/Utilities Director

Other Cities

Aurora – Mayor/City Manager
Buena Vista – Mayor/City Manager
La Junta - Mayor/City Manager
Canon City - Mayor/City Manager
Salida - Mayor/City Manager
Pueblo West - Mayor/City Manager

Other

Railroad (Verify BNSF or UPRR)
Office of Senator Nighthorse-Campbell
Office of Senator Allard
Offices of Colorado's Federal Representatives
Offices of Pueblo's and Colorado Springs' State Representatives
Security Water and Sanitation District
Attorney General, State of Kansas
State of Kansas, Department of Agriculture



IN REPLY REFER TO:

GP-4200
ENV-6.00

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region
P.O. Box 36900
Billings, Montana 59107-6900

SEP 12 2003

RECEIVED		
SEP 12 2003		
DATE	INITIALS	CODE
		8210

Lieutenant Colonel Dana R. Hurst
District Commander
Army Corps of Engineers
4101 Jefferson Plaza N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435

Subject: Cooperating Agency Status for the Southern Delivery System Project (SDS)
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Hurst:

The Bureau of Reclamation requests the Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an EIS for the SDS pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6. The SDS is proposed for construction by the Regional Water Infrastructure Authority (RWIA). It would deliver water from the Arkansas River in the vicinity of Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs. RWIA has requested contracts from Reclamation to store water in Pueblo Reservoir and to convey the water through Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs and nearby communities. Reclamation, as the lead Federal agency, expects to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS in the *Federal Register* on September 8, 2003. Further details on the project can be found in the fact sheet enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the proposed SDS is to deliver up to 78 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to the service areas of the City of Colorado Springs, the City of Fountain, and the Security Water District to meet their projected municipal and industrial water needs through 2040. The 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 utilize their decreed water rights. The proposed SDS is intended to meet that need for additional delivery capacity. Delivering this water is necessary to meet projected growth demands within the participant's service areas and to fully utilize their existing Arkansas River water rights. The proposed SDS is also needed to provide redundancy for the participant's existing Arkansas River Basin water delivery systems to improve operational reliability, drought resiliency, and to maximize the use of existing water rights. The following project components are anticipated to meet the purpose and need of the SDS as proposed:

- Construction of an approximately 43-mile long, 66-inch diameter raw water pipeline and pump stations.

- Construction and operation of a water treatment plant to provide potable water for M&I use.
- Construction of distribution pipelines to convey potable water.
- Construction of a terminal raw water storage reservoir.
- Construction of a water exchange reservoir.
- Total project build-out capacity of 78 mgd from Pueblo Reservoir.

Reclamation believes that the Corps' involvement in the SDS EIS would make the analysis and permitting processes more efficient and timely for all parties. The following are some of the significant Corps interfaces associated with the project:

- One of the diversion alternatives being considered is a river intake on the Arkansas River below Pueblo Reservoir.
- The project proposes to construct two reservoirs in El Paso County, one at Jimmy Camp Creek and one at Williams Creek.
- The pipeline will need to cross Fountain Creek in at least one location.
- The Corps is currently engaged in funding the Legacy Project on the Arkansas River below Pueblo Reservoir.
- The Corps is currently engaged in the Fountain Creek Watershed Study in El Paso County.

Reclamation anticipates the Corps' involvement as a cooperating agency would include, at a minimum: (1) Providing information about projects the Corps is conducting that may affect or be affected by the proposed SDS, (2) providing analysis of actions associated with SDS that are under the Corps' jurisdiction, (3) participating in key interdisciplinary team meetings, and (4) reviewing the EIS in draft and final form.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Beth Boaz at 970-962-4337 or Patrick Mangan at 303-445-2236.

Sincerely,

Maryanne C. Bach
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Van Truan
Chief
Southern Colorado Field Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
720 N. Main Street, Suite 3000
Pueblo, CO 81003
(w/encl)

Mr. Jerry Forte
Chief Operating Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities
P.O. Box 1103
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0940
(w/o encl)

Mr. Dave Padgett
Manager
Environmental Services Department
Colorado Springs Utilities
P.O. Box 1103
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0940
(w/o encl)

bc: D-8210 (Mangan)
GP-1000 (Bach), GP-4200 (Epperly)
EC-1000, EC-1340 (Johns), EC-2000 (Boaz)
(w/o encl to each)

WBR:DEpperly:mmccrocklin:9/10/03:406-247-7720
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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 West County RD 18E
Loveland, Colorado 80537-9711



IN REPLY
REFER TO:
GP-4200
ENV-6.00

SEP - 5 2003

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
		8210

Ms. Loretta Kennedy
Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners
Pueblo County Colorado, Pueblo County Courthouse
215 West 10th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003-2992

Subject: Cooperating Agency Status for the Southern Delivery System Project (SDS)
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Chairperson Kennedy and Fellow Commissioners:

The Bureau of Reclamation requests that County of Pueblo (County) participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an EIS for the SDS pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6. The SDS is proposed for construction by the Regional Water Infrastructure Authority (RWIA). It would deliver water from the Arkansas River in the vicinity of Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs. RWIA has requested contracts from Reclamation to store non-Fryingpan- Arkansas Project water in Pueblo Reservoir and to convey municipal and industrial water through Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs and nearby communities. Reclamation, as the lead Federal agency, expects to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS in the *Federal Register* on September 8, 2003. Further details on the project can be found in the Fact Sheet enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the proposed SDS is to deliver up to 78 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from the Arkansas River at or downstream of Pueblo Reservoir to the service areas of the City of Colorado Springs, the City of Fountain, and the Security Water District (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 utilize the Project Participants' decreed water 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 Participant's service areas and to fully utilize their existing Arkansas River water rights. The proposed SDS is also needed to provide redundancy for the Project Participants' existing Arkansas River basin water delivery systems to improve operational reliability, drought resiliency, and to maximize the use of existing water rights. The following project components are anticipated to meet the purpose and need of the SDS as proposed:

- Construction of an approximately 43-mile long, 66-inch diameter raw water pipeline and pump stations;
- Construction and operation of a water treatment plant to provide potable water for M&I use;
- Construction of distribution pipelines to convey potable water;
- Construction of a terminal raw water storage reservoir;
- Construction of a water exchange reservoir;
- Total project build-out capacity of 78 mgd from Pueblo Reservoir.

As presently proposed, the pipeline for the Project will cross lands under the jurisdiction of the County. Reclamation's understanding is that the Pueblo County Municipal Code Title 17, Chapter 17.164 established under the State of Colorado's 1041 Powers Act requires that project proponents must receive the County's approval and issuance of a permit for activities such as construction of the SDS pipeline. Reclamation believes that Pueblo County's involvement in the SDS EIS would make the EIS analysis and County's permitting process more efficient and timely for all parties. Specifically, Reclamation would like to involve the County in the development and analysis of the alternatives for the EIS. Reclamation's goal is to develop alternatives that satisfy each of our agencies' needs to avoid the types of potential conflicts that may result if each agency independently developed alternatives and mitigation.

As a cooperating agency, Reclamation anticipates the County's involvement would include providing information about the "1041 Powers" permitting process, joint development of the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action, determining effects of the alternatives from Pueblo County's perspective, participating in key interdisciplinary team meetings, and reviewing the EIS in draft and final form.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Beth Boaz at 970-962-4337 or Patrick Mangan at 303-445-2236 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Brian Person

Brian Person
Area Manager

cc: Jerry Forte
Chief Operating Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities
P.O. Box 1103
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0940

Dave Padgett
Environmental Services Dept. Manager
Colorado Springs Utilities
P.O. Box 1103
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0940

bc: EC-1000, EC-2000 (Boaz), EC-1340 (Johns)
D-8210 (Mangan)

Southern Delivery System Fact Sheet

I. What is the Southern Delivery System?

The Southern Delivery System (SDS) is a regional water delivery project that would use the storage capacity of Pueblo Reservoir – a facility Colorado Springs citizens significantly contribute to – to deliver water owned by the communities of Colorado Springs, Fountain and Security to the Pikes Peak region.

Phase I of the SDS is scheduled for a 2009 completion date and includes the following components:

- A 43-mile-long, 66-inch diameter raw water pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs
- Three pump stations
- One water treatment plant with an initial treatment capacity of 50 million gallons per day
- Distribution pipelines to convey treated water
- (Phase II) One water storage reservoir and one water exchange reservoir

The project pipeline would begin near Pueblo Reservoir and would then run north to Colorado Springs to a water treatment plant to be located near Jimmy Camp Creek, northeast of the Colorado Springs Airport. Several possible southern and northern pipeline alignments are being studied.

II. Clarifying key issues

As SDS enters a critical phase in its development, it is important to clarify what the project **will not** do:

- It will not take another community's water. The SDS will only deliver water to the Pikes Peak region that is already owned by Colorado Springs, Fountain and Security.
- It will not impact Pueblo's Arkansas Riverwalk. The riverwalk obtains its water from a nearby power plant.
- It will not "dry up" the Arkansas River through Pueblo. Full operation of SDS by about 2040 will reduce the average annual flow on this stretch of the river by approximately 10%.

III. Why is SDS needed?

The SDS is needed to help meet the current and future demand for water in the Pikes Peak region. Additionally, the project would:

- Allow Springs Utilities to fully utilize and protect water rights investments made by its customer owners
- Provide increased system reliability and flexibility.
- Reduce the need for mandatory water restrictions in the future

The project would enable partnering communities to deliver up to an additional 78 million gallons of water per day to the region.

IV. SDS and the Pueblo Reservoir

Since the late 1970s, Colorado Springs has been purchasing and receiving water from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, as have many other communities across nine counties including Pueblo, Fountain, and Security. Pueblo Reservoir was constructed as part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and is owned by the USBR.

Today, the citizens of Colorado Springs and parts of El Paso County are contributing nearly 74 percent of the property tax revenues used to repay the federal loan for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and its facilities. The SDS seeks to use the facilities Colorado Springs citizens help pay for to bring the water we own to the region.

V. SDS and the environment

SDS is entering the National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process. This process is led by the USBR, with participation from Springs Utilities, and must occur before any plans are finalized and construction begins.

NEPA is a federal law that sets guidelines and processes for federal government actions affecting the environment. Because SDS involves the use of a federal facility – Pueblo Reservoir – NEPA applies to the project.

NEPA looks at the various environmental impacts that could result from building SDS, including the project's effects on water quality, cultural and historic resources, wildlife, recreation, and public health and safety.

VI. How to get involved

Public involvement is an important part of NEPA, especially in determining the appropriate scope of the environmental analysis for a project. The *scoping process* includes a review of project alternatives and potential environmental impacts that should be evaluated in the EIS.

NEPA public open houses are scheduled for the communities of Buena Vista, Fountain, La Junta, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs. People can stop by at anytime during the open houses to learn more about the NEPA process, discuss project alternatives with USBR and Springs Utilities staff, and provide input on all facets of the project. Public comments will be collected and used to draft the EIS. All open houses will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m.:

Wednesday, September 24

Buena Vista: Buena Vista Community Center, 715 E. Main -- Buena Vista, CO

Thursday, September 25

Fountain: Fountain Fort Carson High School, 900 Jimmy Camp Creek Road

Tuesday, October 7

La Junta: Koshare Indian Museum, 115 West 18th St.

Thursday, October 9

Pueblo: Occhiato Center, 2200 Bonforte Blvd.

Wednesday, October 15

Colorado Springs: City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa

VII. How much will the project cost?

The first phase of the project (including pipeline, pump stations, water treatment plant, etc.) will cost approximately \$490 million. Future phases, including the construction of one or two proposed storage reservoirs, would add approximately \$400 million to the total cost of the project.

VIII. Project timeline

The target completion dates for the various components of the Southern Delivery System are:

- Complete EIS by 2005
- Construct pipes, pump stations & water treatment plant by 2009
- Construct water storage reservoir at the Jimmy Camp Creek site by 2012

IX. Contact information

For more information on the Southern Delivery System, visit the Colorado Springs Utilities Web site at www.csu.org or call 448-4800.



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 West County RD 18E
Loveland, Colorado 80537-9711



EC-2000
WTR-4.00

NOV 21

President Claudia J. Vigil Muniz
Jicarilla Apache Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council
P.O. Box 507
Dulce, NM 87528

Subject: Consultation Under the National Historic Preservation Act for Cultural Resource
Management Activities for the Southern Delivery Supply Project

Dear President Vigil Muniz:

The purpose of this letter is to invite the Jicarilla Apache Tribe's involvement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on a government-to-government basis to identify any concerns your tribe may have regarding the potential effects of the proposed Southern Delivery System Project on trust assets, cultural and biological resources, or tribal health and safety. Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Fountain, and Security Water District (Project Participants) are proposing to construct a pipeline and related facilities known as the Southern Delivery System Project. The proposed project will deliver Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water and other water from the Arkansas River near the City of Pueblo to an area east of Colorado Springs. Project Participants have requested a long-term water conveyance contract from Reclamation to convey the water through Reclamation facilities. Colorado Springs also has requested a long-term storage contract to store non-Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water in Pueblo Reservoir, a Reclamation facility.

Because execution of these contracts would be a major Federal action, Reclamation has the responsibility for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the impacts of the project. A map showing the project area and possible alternatives identified by the Project Participants is enclosed for your review. Reclamation has selected MWH Americas, Inc. to assist it in preparing the EIS. Western Cultural Resource Management, Inc. (WCRM), a subcontractor to MWH for cultural resource issues, will facilitate consultation between your tribe and Reclamation.

As part of the EIS process, potential effects on Indian trust assets, tribal health and safety, and cultural resources will be determined. The information will be used in evaluation of alternatives, and can be kept confidential, if you so desire. We would appreciate the names and addresses of other persons who should be contacted for information. Enclosed is a list of individuals and tribes solicited for information. As part of the facilitation process, WCRM will contact your tribal representative by telephone within 2 weeks of receipt of this letter to discuss your concerns.

To facilitate your identification of questions and concerns about the project, WCRM will coordinate with Reclamation to provide you with any additional information needed by you or your staff. Reclamation would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your staff to describe the EIS in further detail.

To discuss the EIS or to arrange a meeting, please contact Pat Mangan at 303-445-2236, e-mail pmangan@do.usbr.gov. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

Dawn Wiedmeier

Brian Person
Area Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. David Padgett
Colorado Springs Utilities
121 South Tejon St., MC 940
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

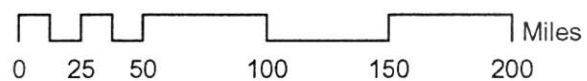
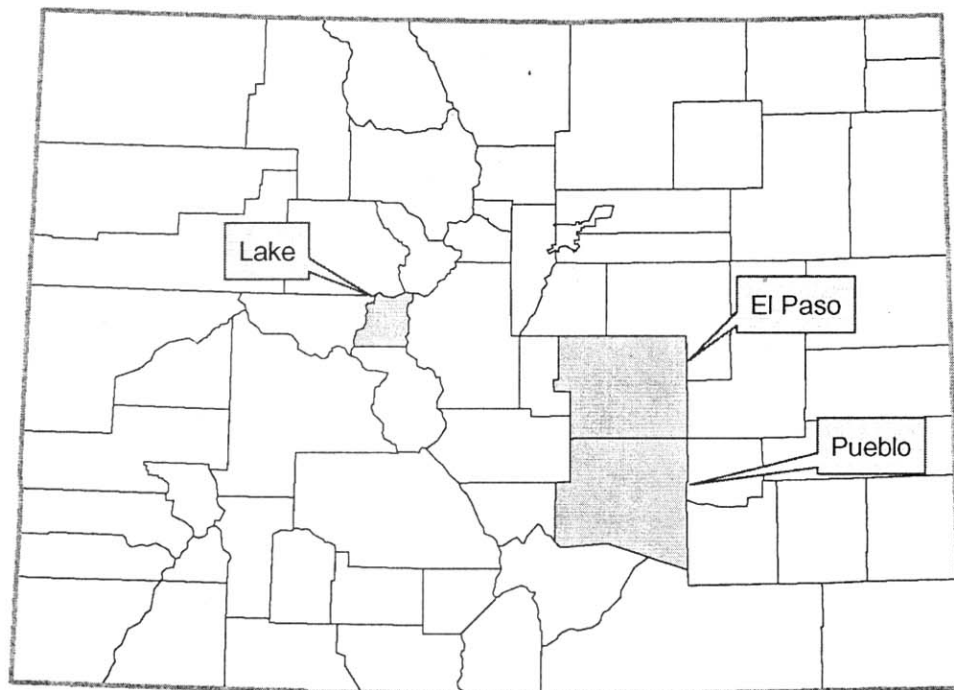
■ Mr. Bill Van Derveer
MWH Americas, Inc.
1110 Elkton Drive, Suite B
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

Ms. Collette Chambellan
Western Cultural Resource Management, Inc.
P.O. Box 2326
Boulder, Colorado 80306

Mr. Brad Coutant
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 36900
Billings, Montana 59107-6900

(w/encl to each)

Southern Delivery System Project Counties



Mr. Leland Michael Darrow
Tribal Historian
Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Route 2
Apache OK 73006

Mr. Gordon L. Yellowman
Southern Cheyenne NAGPRA Representative
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 137
Concho OK 73022

President Robert L. Chapman
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 470
Pawnee OK 74058

President Claudia J. Vigil Muniz
Jicarilla Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 507
Dulce NM 87528

Chairman Blaine J. Edmo
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall ID 83203

Chairman Alonzo Chalepah
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1220
Anadarko OK 73005

Chairman Robert Tabor
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 38
Concho OK 73022

Mr. William Pedro
Southern Arapaho NAGPRA Representative
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 41
Concho OK 73022

Mr. Alonzo Sankey
Southern Arapaho NAGPRA Representative
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 38
Concho OK 73022

Mr. Joe Big Medicine
Southern Cheyenne NAGPRA Representative
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
500 S. Leach
Watonga OK 73772

Mr. Jimmy Arterberry
THPO/NAGPRA/EOP Director
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 908
Lawton OK 73502

Chairman Jeff Houser
Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Route 2
Apache OK 73006

Ms. Adelaide Paiz
NAGPRA Coordinator
Jicarilla Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 507
Dulce NM 87528

Honorable Kiowa Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie OK 73015

Mr. George Daingkau
NAGPRA Representative
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie OK 73015

President Sara Misquez

Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero NM 88340

Ms. Ellyn Bigrope Museum Curator/NAGPRA
Representative
Mescalero Apache Tribal Cultural Center
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero NM 88340

Chairman Burton Hutchinson
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie WY 82514

Mr. Robert Goggles NAGPRA Representative
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie WY 82514

Chairwoman Geri Small
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer MT 59043

Mr. Gilbert Brady THPO Officer
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer MT 59043

Ms. Betsy Chapoose
NAGPRA Representative
Northern Ute Tribe
P.O. Box 190
Ft. Duchesne UT 84026

Ms. Donna Hare
Executive Director
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 470
Pawnee OK 74058

Mr. Francis Morris
NAGPRA Coordinator/THPO
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 470
Pawnee OK 74058

Chairman Vernon Hill

Shoshone Tribe
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie WY 82514

Mr. Delphine Clair NAGPRA Representative
Shoshone Tribe (Eastern Band)
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie WY 82514

Mr. Willie Preacher
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall ID 83203

Chairman Howard Richards
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio CO 81137

Mr. Neil Cloud
NAGPRA Representative
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio CO 81137

Mr. Harold Cuthair
Acting Chair
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P.O. Box 348
Towoac CO 81334

Mr. Terry Knight Sr. NAGPRA Representative
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P.O. Box 348
Towoac CO 81334

Chairman Johnny Wauqua
Comanche Tribal Business Committee
P.O. Box 908
Lawton OK 73502

Chairman D. Floyd Wopsock
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee
P.O. Box 190
Ft. Duchesne UT 84026