

LIANE "BUFFIE" MCFADYEN
CHAIR
DISTRICT 2

SAL PACE
CHAIR PRO-TEM
DISTRICT 3

TERRY A. HART
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1



ALF RANDALL, PE-PLS
DIRECTOR
arandall@co.pueblo.co.us

PUEBLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering Division ♦ Road and Bridge Division

MEMORANDUM



TO: BOCC

THRU: Alf Randall, Director of Engineering and Public Works *AR*

FROM: David Benbow, Project Manager *DB*

DATE: November 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Southern Delivery System – Pipeline Easement/1041 Permit 2008-002

Per the Board of County Commissioners request to visually inspect the Southern Delivery System Pipeline Easement in Pueblo County; in order to evaluate Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) request of completion of Reclamation and Revegetation of said easement per 1041 Permit 2008-002. Alf Randall, Joan Armstrong and I toured the easement with Kevin Binkley from CSU on October 26, 2015. Attached are pictures taken during that tour.

The S-1 and S-2 easement appeared to be adequately reclaimed and re-vegetated when viewed from the easement access road. Exceptions to the quality of the reclamation and vegetation efforts were areas where landowners had requested not to be a part of the process, had mowed or grazed the easement or where Black Hills Energy had driven heavy equipment on the easement (picture Pg 7) and caused significant ruts. This damage is an ongoing discussion relative to remediation between CSU and Black Hills and is an issue on control of the easement by the entity who holds the easement. CSU has indicated that Black Hills has agreed to mitigate damaged areas upon conclusion of their project. There is an erosion area on the north end of S-2 in Pueblo West that CSU and Pueblo West and Walker are in the process of addressing in order to best accommodate drainage and direct it into the platted drainage parcels in Pueblo West. The immediate area, including to the north on Walker Ranch, has seen the natural drainage significantly modified by stock ponds, berms, etc. prior to further disturbance by SDS.

The S-3 alignment is the segment located on Walker Ranches and a few properties in the Midway Ranch development. An Agreement between Walker Ranches and CSU includes improvements to the property consisting of placing water bars on the access road, cross easement berms and a fence with gates along the easement perimeter. The improvements to the property specified by the Agreement will change the contour of the property from its original state and will modify the

restoration and revegetation efforts CSU has previously made. Construction of the water bars, berms, etc. was only partially complete and ongoing the day we toured the alignment.

There is also a major drainageway within Walker Ranches known as Steele Hollow. The pipeline crossing and disturbance of that drainageway was restored and mitigated per an approved design under an Army Corp permit requirement. Other than the aforementioned improvements on Walker Ranches both the Walker Ranches and Midway Ranch property appeared to conform to the pre-existing ground contours to the degree of accuracy of a visual inspection.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you require further information or have any questions in this matter.

Att: 1

c: Gregory Styduhar, County Attorney
Gary Raso, Special Assistant County Attorney
Joan Armstrong, Director of Planning
Ray Petros, Special Assistant County Attorney
File

PICTURES OF SDS EASEMENT 10-26-2015



Looking south from North end of Walker Ranches property.



Looking North at a Blow-off structure at the end of Walker Ranches and start of Midway Ranch property.



Looking south along access road (previously revegetated) for SDS improvement work per Walker Ranches Agreement.



Looking East at Steele Hollow drainage channel reconstructed per Army Corp permit requirement.



Steele Hollow drainage channel.



Looking West across SDS easement along Steele Hollow drainage channel.



Looking North along SDS easement from Steele Hollow.



Looking South along SDS easement on Walker Ranches at Berm construction per Walker Ranch Agreement.



View South along SDS easement on south end of Walker Ranches showing construction access road and Berm construction.



View across easement on Walker Ranches at the South end of S-3.



Looking North from South end of S-3 along SDS easement on Walker Ranches.



Erosion on the North end of S-2 in Pueblo West. This issue is being addressed by CSU and Pueblo West.



Erosion area along SDS easement on North end of S-2 in Pueblo West.



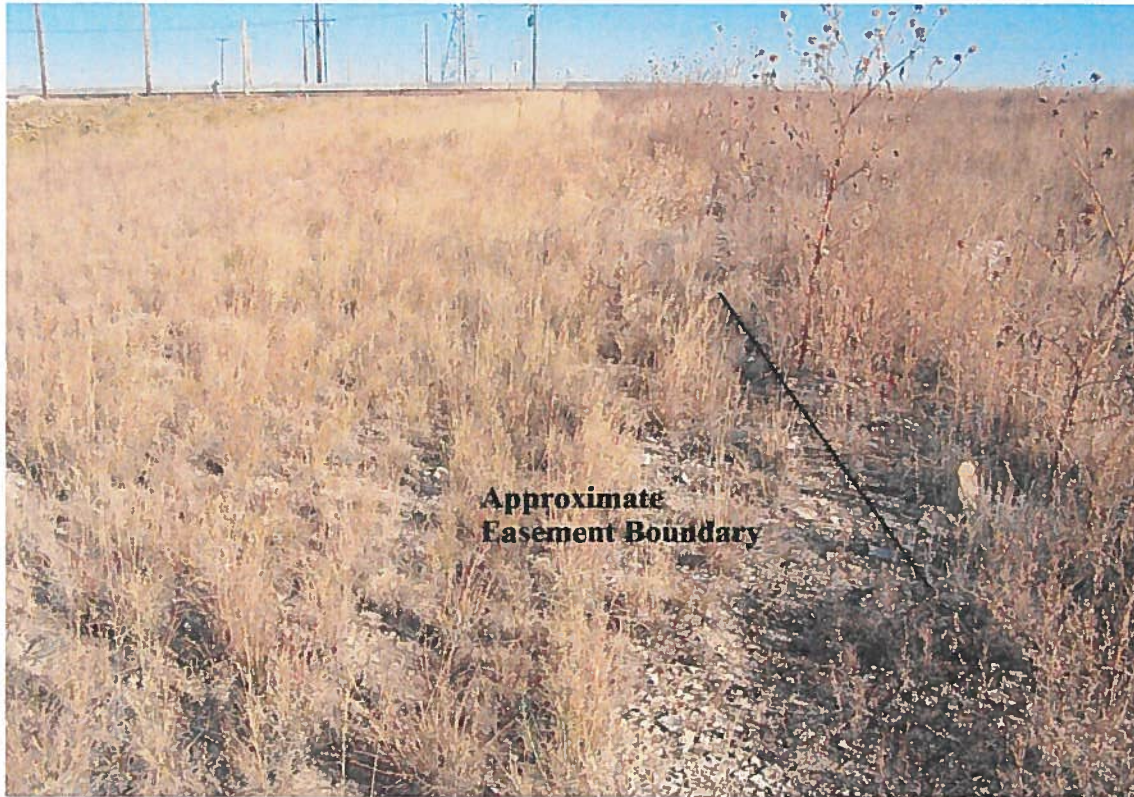
Damage on SDS easement, on South side of Highway 50 done by Black Hills Energy during transmission line construction. Per CSU this is to be addressed by Black Hills.



Blow-off structure at Wildhorse Creek tributary along Highway 50 showing wetlands revegetation.



Looking East across easement at wetlands in Wildhorse Creek tributary.



SDS easement at Highway 50.



Looking South from railroad bore at the SDS route to the Juniper Pump Station at Pueblo Reservoir along BOR/State Parks property.