

Southern Delivery System

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SDS Components

- 62 miles of buried pipeline
- 1 water treatment plant
- 3 water pump stations
- 2 reservoirs

Communities Served:

- Colorado Springs
- Fountain
- Security
- Pueblo West

Construction Cost

- Phase 1
\$880 million (2009 dollars)

Construction Schedule

- **2010**
 - Begin Pueblo Dam connection
 - Dredge Fountain Creek
 - Build wetlands
 - Realign Fountain Creek near Clear Spring Ranch
- **2011**
 - Begin Pueblo West pipeline construction
- **2012**
 - Begin remaining pipeline, pump stations, water treatment plant
- **2016**
 - Water delivery from SDS begins

SDS Water Exchange Conveyance: Lower Williams Creek Reservoir and Chilcotte Ditch

The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform property owners living near the Chilcotte Ditch about related construction plans for the Southern Delivery System (SDS).

Permit applications for SDS have recently been filed with El Paso County, and property owners along or near the Chilcotte Ditch will be receiving notification of related SDS construction activities planned for the 2020 to 2025 timeframe.

Background

The Southern Delivery System (SDS) is a regional project that will provide water to residents in Colorado Springs, Fountain, Security and Pueblo West. SDS will transport raw water from Pueblo Reservoir and pump it north through a 53-mile buried pipeline. Approximately 33 miles of raw water pipeline will be constructed within unincorporated El Paso County.

In addition to the underground pipeline, Phase I of project construction in El Paso County includes a water treatment plant, located just northeast of the Colorado Springs airport, and two pumping stations – Williams Creek and Bradley. Phase I construction is scheduled from 2010 to 2016.

Phase II of project construction in El Paso County will include a terminal storage reservoir at Upper Williams Creek, just off of east Bradley Road, and an exchange reservoir, including return flow diversion and conveyance, at Lower Williams Creek. Phase II construction is currently scheduled for the 2020 to 2025 timeframe.

Improvements Planned for Chilcotte Ditch as part of SDS Phase II

The Chilcotte Ditch is currently used to divert water from Fountain Creek and convey it to mostly agricultural users near Security and Fountain. As part of the planned SDS construction activities, the existing Chilcotte Ditch would be expanded and improved.

Once constructed, the Lower Williams Creek Reservoir would allow Colorado Springs to divert SDS return flows from Fountain Creek through the Chilcotte Ditch into temporary storage in the Reservoir. Colorado Springs will then be able to better control the timing and amount of water it releases back into Fountain Creek while increasing the efficiency of water rights exchanges for other water users in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

To meet the needs of existing users, in addition to the SDS return flows, the capacity of the Chilcotte Ditch will need to be increased by expanding the canal and its road crossings, as well as lining the ditch with reinforced concrete. In areas where current water users rely on seepage from the ditch to maintain vegetation or to recharge groundwater, the canal would be lined with riprap, gravel, permeable pavers or articulated concrete blocks that will prevent erosion while still allowing for historic levels of water seepage. The ditch would also be extended 1.3 miles to the east to connect with the Lower Williams Creek Reservoir.

Extensive communications and public outreach will occur at each stage of SDS construction activities. Property owners living near SDS construction will be contacted individually and will have the opportunity to meet with project representatives to discuss the planned work and potential impacts to their properties.