



S O U T H E A S T E R N C O L O R A D O

# Water Conservancy District

*"Your investment in water"*

## Arkansas Valley Conduit Progress Report

April 10, 2018

The Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) will deliver a safe drinking water supply to small towns and water providers serving 50,000 people in Southeastern Colorado.

Last year, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District asked the Bureau of Reclamation to consider certain modifications to its plan to save time and money in building the AVC. The "New Concept" would use capacity in the Pueblo Board of Water Works' system to reach the eastern edge of Pueblo more quickly than the Preferred Alternative identified in the 2014 Record of Decision.

The New Concept would phase in connections to the AVC route from Pueblo Water over time. This allows clean water to more quickly reach communities in Otero County which are facing enforcement action because of radionuclides in their well water.

A study completed by the District in March (see box at right) was presented to Reclamation, which will now evaluate the study conclusions.

If the New Concept is chosen as the way to build the AVC, construction could begin as soon as late 2021.

To keep the AVC on track, the project needs a minimum of \$6.1 million in FY 2019, and \$5 million in FY 2020 and 2021.

The District was disappointed that the President's 2019 Budget Message did not include funding for the AVC. Full funding of the AVC will result in long-term savings, as well as a solution to immediate water quality problems.

To date, \$28 million has been spent on the development of the AVC as an efficient regional solution to this region-wide water quality problem. Halting the project after that investment, leaving water providers without a federal partner to address the federal water quality standard, would be irresponsible.



### New Concept Report issued

The District completed a report on the hydraulics, treatment and cost changes the New Concept would require compared to the AVC Preferred Alternative in the 2014 Record of Decision by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The report was funded by the District and the 40 participants in the AVC. The engineering firm of Black & Veatch was contracted to do the study.

The study found:

- **\$30 million reduction in overall construction cost.**
- **\$90 million in deferred spending.**
- **First delivery to customers 10 years sooner.**

## **AVC PARTICIPANTS**

### **Pueblo County**

Boone  
St. Charles Mesa Water

### **Crowley County**

96 Pipeline Company  
Crowley County Water Association  
Crowley  
Olney Springs  
Ordway  
Sugar City

### **Bent County**

Hasty Water Company  
Las Animas  
McClave Water Association

### **Prowers County**

Lamar  
May Valley Water Association  
Wiley

### **Kiowa County**

Eads

### **Otero County**

Beehive Water Association  
Bents Fort Water Company  
Town of Cheraw  
East End Water Association  
Eureka Water Company  
Fayette Water Association  
Fowler  
Hancock Inc.  
Hilltop Water Company  
Holbrook Center Soft Water  
Homestead Improvement  
La Junta  
Manzanola  
Newdale-Grand Valley  
North Holbrook Water  
Patterson Valley  
Riverside Water Company  
Rocky Ford  
South Side Water Association  
South Swink Water Company  
Swink  
Valley Water Company  
Vroman  
West Grand Valley Water  
West Holbrook Water

## **How does the New Concept Save \$30 Million?**

The New Concept reduces costs in the following ways:

- Eliminates changes to Pueblo's water treatment plant
- Reduces pumping capacity needed
- Reduces the number of miles of pipeline needed for the AVC

## **How is the New Concept more efficient?**

While water quality is the most immediate issue, the AVC also improves and sustains the economic health of the Lower Arkansas River basin.

The revised AVC will provide more prompt relief to communities which are struggling with the most contamination. It also allows deferral of the pipeline across St. Charles Mesa until it is needed.

## **What is the status of state enforcement orders?**

The District has worked closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a timetable for mitigation.

Right now, 15 communities in the AVC program have active enforcement orders for radionuclides, while five others have orders for different sources of contamination.

The problems are not going to go away. In fact, other communities could face similar problems in future years.

The common thread for all the 40 participants is that they have chosen the regional AVC as their most effective remedy for water quality problems. Other alternatives are more costly, create environmental waste, and reduce the overall water supply to the region.

## **Why should the federal government fund this?**

Public Law 111-11 provides a mechanism to use miscellaneous revenues from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project to pay or repay construction costs for the AVC.