

Appendix 7-2

***Meeting Minutes
El Paso County Water Authority
Southern El Paso County Group
Workshop Held on October 25, 2000***

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MEETING MINUTES EL PASO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY SOUTHERN EL PASO COUNTY GROUP WORKSHOP HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2000

On October 25, 2000 a workshop was held in the offices of Cherokee Metropolitan District on Valley Street. Members of the El Paso County Water Authority (EPCWA) represented at the meeting are shown on the attached Table 1. The purpose of the workshop was for the southern EPCWA members to present their ideas related to coordinated and looped infrastructure projects in support of Subtasks 4C through 4G (Water Reuse, Synergistic Projects with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), Optimum County Water Distribution Infrastructure, Water Plan for Private Well Owners, and Potential Water Import Projects, respectively) of the EPCWA County Water Master Plan currently underway by Halepaska & Associates/Knight Piésold.

The issue of a coordinated, looped, emergency or non-emergency interconnected water supply system is a reality for the southern El Paso County water entities. All the entities are either connected to each other or to Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU). Each entity present was asked to share technical concepts of their interconnections with Halepaska & Associates/Knight Piésold and the rest of the group. Each entity responded as summarized below.

Cherokee Metropolitan District. Cherokee has drilled two new wells this year (2000). Cherokee is connected to the CSU for emergency supply. Because Cherokee obtains its water from the Black Squirrel designated ground-water basin, the return flows may be used to extinction. Cherokee does not have an augmentation plan. They also are investigating recharging return flows from their wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) using rapid infiltration basins. Alternatively they may treat and inject their return flows if a suitable rapid infiltration basin site cannot be located. Cherokee's return flows currently are discharged to Sand Creek. They also lease some water to the Middle Arkansas Valley Irrigation District.

Cherokee serves Shreiver AFB east of Colorado Springs. Cherokee owns 70 percent of a pipeline, which runs from Ellicott to Fort Carson. This 10-in transite water line is abandoned in places, but also is used by Widefield to transport water within its district. If Cherokee could use this existing water line to tie to Widefield at some future date, they also would be interconnected to entities other than the CSU.

Cherokee has some high nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in its well water. These nitrate concentrations are from irrigation return flows. Cherokee's ability to blend water has

precluded the need to worry about high nitrates; although, they do have two wells which discharge directly into the distribution system rather than into a central storage tank. This reduces the flexibility for blending different quality waters.

Cherokee's water rate structure is a tiered one with a base rate of \$6.50/mo. Larger water use during a given month results in higher unit water rates. For planning purposes, Cherokee uses a demand of 0.5 af/yr for each single family equivalent (SFE). Actual measured demand within the district is 0.42 af/yr/SFE.

Widefield Water and Sanitation District. Widefield, along with the City of Fountain, Stratmoor Hills Water Districts, and Security Water District, pump water from the Widefield aquifer under the Widefield Aquifer Management Plan, which has been modeled by Wheeler Associates. The CSU and El Paso County Parks also obtain water from the Widefield aquifer under the Plan. All of the above entities also receive water from the Frying Pan/Arkansas project via a pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir. This Fry/Ark water is delivered directly to individual water treatment facilities, with return flows from the WWTPs discharged to Fountain Creek. All the entities served from the Widefield aquifer have existing augmentation plans.

Widefield has a 1,500 af/yr water right with 9,000 af of storage in Pueblo Reservoir. Widefield has indicated that future demands could, in a drought year, cause the Widefield aquifer to be tested as to its ability to supply water under the Plan.

The Widefield water system is interconnected in 6 or 7 locations with the City of Fountain system, and in at least two locations with the Security Water District system. These interconnections are metered and water is replaced, but no billing is performed. Over a 20-year period of helping one another, the replacement has worked well and the net water replacement has been zero.

Water quality in the Widefield aquifer is sometimes compromised by high concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen and a PCE plume from upgradient. The USGS has been monitoring the PCE/TCE plume and some of the Widefield wells have wellhead treatment for PCE/TCE. Average nitrate concentrations in the aquifer water are approximately 8 mg/L as N. This aquifer water is blended with Fry/Ark water to achieve a lower nitrate water for distribution.

Widefield also has a tiered water-pricing system, where increased water use during a given month results in increased unit prices. The residential base rate in Widefield is \$5.50/mo. Water rates are typically raised about 3 percent per year. For planning purposes, Widefield uses a demand of 0.5 af/yr for each SFE. Actual measured demand within the district is 0.30 af/yr/SFE, which is low by industry standards.

City of Fountain. As indicated above, the City of Fountain is closely linked to the Widefield Water and Sanitation District. This successful relationship has been going on for more than 20 years. The City has a 2,000 af/yr water right related to Fry/Ark water

and 12,000 af of storage in Pueblo Reservoir. The City also has wells in the Widefield aquifer, and has the same water quality issues as Widefield.

The City has a water pricing system based on meter size, with a larger meter having a larger monthly flat rate. As a result, the City has a higher water use than other members of the southern Group who have a tiered water pricing structure. The City is in the process of changing to the tiered water pricing system.

Stratmoor Hills Water and Sanitation Districts. Stratmoor Hills is interconnected with the Security Water District. Stratmoor obtains its water from the Widefield aquifer via wells, and has the same water quantity and quality issues as others entities related to the Widefield aquifer. Stratmoor has water storage rights in Pueblo in the amount of 3½ years of demand.

Stratmoor has a tiered water pricing system with a base rate of \$3.00/mo. The average demand of the Districts is 0.35 af/yr/SFE.

Conclusions. Overall it is judged that the southern El Paso County water entities are not concerned about present or future water supplies for their respective entities. The combination of Fry/Ark water, augmentation plans, pumping from the Widefield aquifer, and interconnections with each other, appears to provide enough comfort. Even increases in demand due to growth do not appear to be a concern, given that other pipelines from Pueblo reservoir are being planned. The southern El Paso County entities have water rights, which can be transported by one or more new pipelines from the Arkansas Basin.

Summary of Potential Regional Infrastructure Alternatives. The following potential regional infrastructure alternatives are proposed for southern El Paso County:

- Future interconnection of all entities using the existing pipeline from Ellicott to Fort Carson;
- Interconnect with the CSU on the proposed pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir and use an exchange with the CSU to blend Fry/Ark water with Widefield aquifer well water for better control of system water quality;
- The City of Aurora may be a potential partner in a pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir;
- Fully utilize return flows to reduce costs; and
- Other combinations of the above infrastructure alternatives.

TABLE 1

**EL PASO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
SOUTHERN EL PASO COUNTY GROUP ATTENDERS
WORKSHOP HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2000**

Name	Representing	Telephone	Facsimile
Jim Kunkel	Knight Piésold and Co.	(303) 629-8788	(303) 629-8789
Bruce Lytle	John C. Halepaska & Assoc.	(303) 794-1335	(303) 794-3245
John McGinn	Widefield Water & San. Dist. (Kiowa Engineering)	(719) 630-7342	(719) 630-0406
Ron Woolsey	City of Fountain	(719) 382-4158	(719) 382-4983
Larry D. Bishop	Widefield Water & San. Dist.	(719) 390-7111	(719) 390-1409
Ron Snoddy	Widefield Water & San. Dist.	(719) 390-7111	(719) 390-1409
Stu Loosley	Cherokee Metro. Dist.	(719) 597-5080	(719) 597-5145
Elmer Cline	Widefield Water & San. Dist.	(719) 390-7111	(719) 390-1409
Roy Heald	Stratmoor Hills Water Dist.	(719) 576-0311	(719) 576-0313