



The Navajo-Gallup pipeline, similar to the Arkansas Valley Conduit, is under construction in northwest New Mexico.

Arkansas Valley Conduit

Key Points:

Purpose & History

The Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) will deliver clean drinking water to 50,000 people in 40 communities east of Pueblo. Approved in 1962 as part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas (Fry-Ark) Project, it was never built because the communities could not afford the cost. Federal legislation (Public Law 111-11) in 2009 permitting federal spending for the AVC. Many of the communities face state enforcement action for water quality, and other solutions are more costly than AVC.

Funding

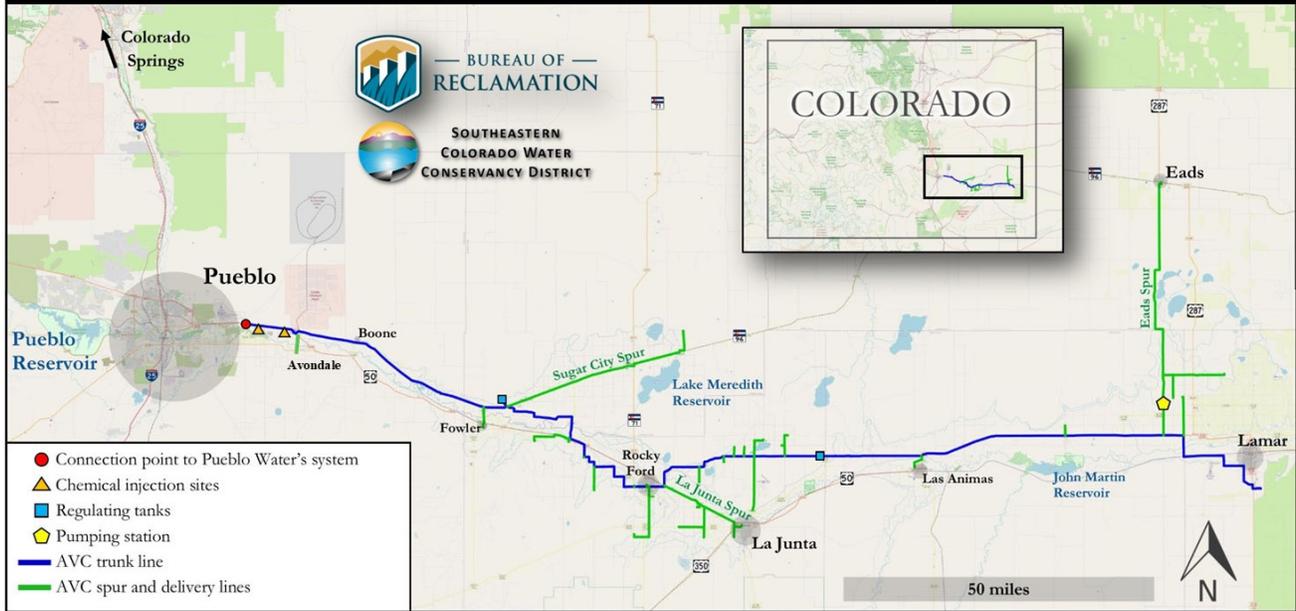
To date, \$30 million has been spend on preliminary activities. In 2020, Congress appropriated \$28 million for AVC design and construction. Another \$8 million is included in the President's 2021 budget request. The Colorado General Assembly has approved a package that includes \$90 million in loans, and \$10 million in grants over a multi-year period.

Planning & Improvements

Over the past three years, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have re-envisioned the AVC in ways to accomplish several purposes:

- ◆ Reach affected communities more quickly. This will be accomplished by using excess capacity in Pueblo Water's system, rather than building \$150 million in new infrastructure.
- ◆ Reduce construction time for AVC. About 8 years will be saved.
- ◆ Reach communities more quickly. Deliveries will be made as AVC reaches communities.
- ◆ Reduce cost of AVC. The plan results in cost savings overall.
- ◆ Reduce need for federal appropriations. Reclamation will concentrate on building the trunk line.
- ◆ Identify funding sources. Connection lines will be built using other sources of funding.

THE ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT (AVC) PROJECT



Total Cost of AVC: \$564-\$610 million

A Value Planning study in 2019 found the AVC total cost, in current dollars, is roughly \$100 million less under its new configuration than under the 2013 Preferred Alternative. Key savings are reduced costs for treatment and pumping plants, fewer miles of pipeline, and shortened time frame for building the AVC.



Reclamation Costs: \$441-476 million

Reclamation's primary responsibility is to build the trunk line; treatment plant and pumping station (if needed) at Boone, and two regulating tanks on the 130-mile route. Also included in this cost is the contract with Pueblo Water to provide conveyance. The contract has not been negotiated. The plan is to pay Pueblo Water with storage credits in Pueblo Reservoir. Sources of funding are direct appropriations and use of miscellaneous Fry-Ark Project revenues (estimated to be \$62-\$86 million during construction).



Participant Costs: \$123-134 million

A \$100 million funding package from the Colorado Water Conservation Board will include \$90 million in loans and \$10 million in grants to build connections to the trunk line. Other funding sources are being investigated. The intent is to provide service as quickly as possible as the AVC is being built.



Clean Water for the Arkansas Valley: The AVC Timeline

1953

The Arkansas Valley Conduit is included in the Planning Document for the Fry-Ark Project. It has widespread support throughout Southeastern Colorado.

1962

1968

Planning begins for a pipeline from the end of Pueblo Water’s system east.

1979

The AVC is put on hold as communities deal with immediate needs under the Clean Water Act.

Congress passes the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Act, authorizing the construction of diversions, tunnels, reservoirs, and drinking water pipelines including the AVC.



2000

Amid drought and agricultural water rights transfers, Otero County residents ask the District to revive AVC plan.



2003

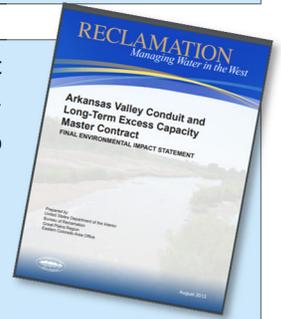
District completes preliminary study of AVC, prompting a re-evaluation by Reclamation.

2009

Public Law 111-11 is signed, allowing use of Fry-Ark miscellaneous revenues to pay AVC costs, including the 35% local cost share

2013

The Environmental Impact Statement for AVC is completed, with connection to Pueblo Water’s Whitlock Treatment Plant and a pipeline around Pueblo as the preferred alternative.



2014

Reclamation signs Record of Decision and begins feasibility level cost calculations.

2017

District introduces “New Concept” plan to save time and money by using Pueblo Water capacity.

2019

Value Planning sessions between Reclamation and District develop a redesigned AVC.

2020

Funding is restored for the AVC with a \$28 million federal appropriation. Colorado approves \$100 million finance package. Preparations begin for construction in 2022.

AVC benefits

Arkansas Valley Conduit: Key elements

- ◆ Storage in Pueblo Reservoir
- ◆ Capacity in Pueblo Water system to reach communities more quickly.
- ◆ Trunk line from Pueblo to Lamar.
- ◆ Delivery lines to 40 communities in a phased approach.
- ◆ Surge tanks at Fowler and La Junta.
- ◆ Pumping station at Wiley to reach Eads.

Economic benefits

- ◆ Reduced costs from pumping and treating groundwater.
- ◆ Reduced plant maintenance costs and increase efficiency among small water systems.
- ◆ Reduced costs to treat brine waste from desalinization processes.
- ◆ Less need to purchase new sources of water to augment wells.
- ◆ Job creation during construction.
- ◆ Improved infrastructure for homes and businesses.

Environmental benefits

- ◆ Cleaner source water for meeting standards for both drinking water and effluent.
- ◆ Reduced dry-up of farm ground.
- ◆ Fewer health issues associated with poor-quality drinking water.

Participants

Pueblo County

Avondale

Boone

Crowley County

96 Pipeline Company

Crowley County Water Association

Town of Crowley

Town of Olney Springs

Town of Ordway

Town of Sugar City

Bent County

Hasty Water Company

City of Las Animas

Mc Clave Water Association

Prowers County

City of Lamar

May Valley Water Company

Town of Wiley

Kiowa County

Town of Eads

Otero County

Beehive Water Association

Bents Fort Water Company

Town of Cheraw

East End Water Association

Eureka Water Company

Fayette Water Association

Town of Fowler

Hilltop Water Company

Holbrook Center Soft Water Association

Homestead Improvement Association

City of La Junta

Town of Manzanola

Newdale-Grand Valley Water Company

North Holbrook Water

Patterson Valley Water Company

Riverside Water Company

City of Rocky Ford

South Side Water Association

South Swink Water Company

Town of Swink

Valley Water Company

Vroman Water Company

West Grand Valley Water

West Holbrook Water