



ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT MONTHLY REPORT

Thursday, September 18, 2025

This monthly newsletter summarizes activities related to the Arkansas Valley Conduit and is made available to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors and Arkansas Valley Conduit stakeholders. To request a subscription to the Report, please contact info@secwcd.com or view it at <https://www.secwcd.org/>



AVC Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Enterprise Arkansas Valley Conduit Committee has not been set.

Want to learn more about the AVC?

If your organization would like a presentation on AVC, contact Chris Woodka, 719-289-0785 or email chris@secwcd.com



Shown are some of those from the Lower Arkansas Valley who attended the September 9 meeting for Arkansas Valley Conduit participants in Rocky Ford.

‘The pipeline is coming your way’

The Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) is moving ahead even though some areas of the Bureau of Reclamation have seen staff attrition.

“The pipeline is coming your way,” Reclamation Project Manager Derek Mickle told about 25 people who attended an AVC participants meeting September 9 at the Colorado State University Extension Office in Rocky Ford.



Derek Mickle

Another 10 people or organizations attended online. In total about 18 of the 39 participating water systems were represented.

Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise Executive Director Leann Noga thanked Reclamation for its efforts in making the AVC become a reality more than 60 years in the making.

“The Bureau of Reclamation has made this project a priority,” Mrs. Noga said. “In the eyes of appropriators, we will have a shovel-ready project.”

Mr. Mickle said the technical team is working on the AVC and continues to make progress, although there has been attrition in several key support areas. Contracts are being prepared for the next two reaches of

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“The Bureau of Reclamation has made this a priority. In the eyes of appropriators, we have a shovel-ready project.”

*Leann Noga
Executive Director*



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the AVC Trunk Line, which will connect at Boone and continue to Regulating Tank 1, located 2 miles northeast of Fowler.

“There has not been an impact on design and construction, but it is affecting pre-planning and geotech efforts to some degree,” Mr. Mickle said.

Crowley Reach 1 will involve construction of 5.3 miles of 30-inch potable water transmission pipe, with a construction award expected in late 2026.

Work is also progressing toward Crowley Reaches 2 and 3, which will complete about 13 miles of 30-

inch pipe to the Reg Tank 1.

Reclamation is also preparing an Architectural and Engineering (A&E) contract to design the last 40-plus miles of the AVC Trunk Line from Regulating Tank 2 (northeast of La Junta) to Lamar, a little more than 40 miles.

Mr. Mickle also reviewed federal funding for AVC (see table below).

Mrs. Noga said accurate contact information for AVC participants is critical for the success of the AVC Project. (An information form on Page 4 of the newsletter is available for those who missed the meeting).

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Finance and Funding

The table at right shows funding for the AVC by year. The current funding is sufficient to reach Manzanola and to design the Trunk Line to Lamar.

- 2010 – 2019: \$30 million through regular appropriations.
- 2020: Congress provided a \$28 million appropriation to move the Project into construction.
- 2021-2023: \$31.5 million through regular appropriations.
- 2022: \$60 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- 2023: \$100 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- 2024: \$90 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act + \$10 million appropriations.
- 2025: \$250 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act + \$13 million appropriations.
- **Total funded through 2025: \$613 million.**
- **Total estimated federal cost (2023): \$1.3 billion**

Total funding to date brings construction through Manzanola Reach 1, where 9 of 39 communities are served. Total population served is approximately 8,000. Total communities under CDPHE enforcement orders served is 2/18.





AVC Enterprise Sub-Project

Package 1

Avondale Water and Sanitation
Town of Boone
Town of Fowler
Town of Olney Springs
Town of Crowley
Town of Ordway
Crowley County Water Association
96 Pipeline Company
Sugar City
Manzanola
Valley Water Company
Vroman Water Company
Patterson Valley Water
Fayette Water Association
Eureka Water Company
City of Rocky Ford
Hilltop Water Company
Newdale-Grand Valley Water Company
West Grand Valley Water Inc.
South Swink Water Company

Package 2

Riverside Water Company
North Holbrook Water Company
West Holbrook Pipeline Company
Holbrook Center Soft Water Association
Beehive Water Association
Town of Cheraw
South Side Water Association
East End Water Association
City of La Junta
Town of Swink
Bent's Fort Water Company
Homestead Improvement Association

Package 3

City of Las Animas
McClave Water Association
Hasty Water Company
May Valley Water Association
Town of Wiley
City of Lamar
Town of Eads

- AVC participants split into three packages for state funding purposes
- Design & construction paced to keep ahead of Trunk Line construction
- Goal: Funding sources arranged to minimize impact on participants

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She also gave an update on federal legislation that has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate. The legislation reduces the interest that is required and expands the period for payback. It also retains the use of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project revenues as the source for repaying the participants' share of the 35% local match. She thanked Representatives Lauren Boebert and Jeff Hurd for pushing the legislation through in the House. The legislation also has the support of Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper.

Engineering Manager Gordon Dillon talked about the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan/grant package the Enterprise is now pursuing.

A four-party agreement among the Enterprise, the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and Otero County acting as fiscal agent for the Enterprise has been executed. It allows up to \$30 million in CWCB grants to be used to pay off principal on the SRF loans approved by CWRPDA.

Three packages for state funding purposes are shown in the graphic above.

In Package 1, all spur and delivery lines to Rocky Ford, including the spur south of Rocky Ford, will be designed. The Enterprise Board is expected to take action on the contract for design at its September meeting.

Funding for the design will come from four sources:

- ◆ American Rescue Plan Act funding from 2022. This came from multiple cities and counties and has been used to design and construct Boone and Avondale lines, and for multiple preliminary designs.
- ◆ PFAS (forever chemicals) funding for Crowley County Water Association and Manzanola.
- ◆ AVC Fund balance created by the Enterprise Board in 2020
- ◆ The CWCB grant.

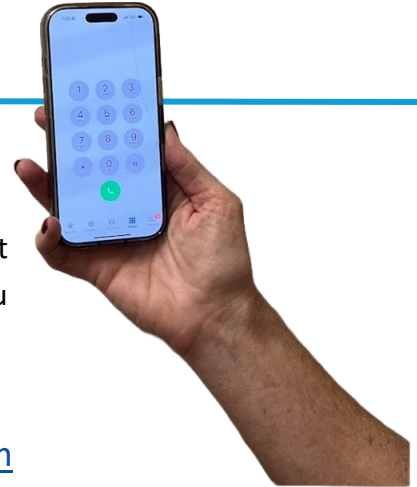
“Our goal is that this first package will have no financial impact on the participants,” Mr. Dillon said.



Let's keep in touch!

The Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise is collecting contact information for our files. We will update this information annually. If you have not already had the opportunity, please fill out the form below and return to:

trevor@secwcd.com



Arkansas Valley Participant Organization name:

General Manager Contract (Main participant contract)

Add Name, Title, Email and Phone Number on the below line.

System Operator Contact

Add Name, Title, Email and Phone Number on the below line.

Accounting Contact

Add Name, Title, Email and Phone Number on the below line.

Other Contracts

Add Name, Title, Email and Phone Number on the below line.