

# Pinery Pipeline

May/June 2009

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

[www.pinerywater.com](http://www.pinerywater.com)

## Projects for Future Water Supplies

For those of us in the water community, there is frequent discussion about the need to bring renewable water supplies to Douglas County since the Denver Basin Aquifers that are widely used for water supplies have dropping water levels and declining productivity. The Denver Basin aquifers provide about 25% of the District's water supply on an annual basis. There are many projects that are going on around us that are related to bringing additional renewable supplies to the South Metro area and there are projects that will help to stretch the locally available supplies.

Following is a brief summary of some of the larger, more notable projects:

- *Reuter-Hess Reservoir* – this reservoir is being built by our neighbors to the north, Parker Water and Sanitation District. Initially, the plan is to fill it with available water from Cherry Creek, their unused return flows from their wastewater plants, and with Denver Basin Groundwater. In the future, as new water supplies are brought into the area, the reservoir will be an important place to store water. Stonegate, Castle Rock, and Castle Pines North have all purchased capacity in the reservoir.
- *Prairie Waters Project* – this is the City of Aurora's ambitious project to bring water from the South Platte River near Brighton back to Aurora. The pipeline is mostly complete and the pump stations and water treatment plant are under construction.
- *South Platte Reservoir* – this is a reservoir built by Centennial Water and Sanitation District (Highlands Ranch) that is on the north side of C-470, located on the west side of the South Platte River. This is a former gravel pit that has now been converted to water storage.



- *Joint Water Purification Plant* – you may have seen the building going up on the west side of Jordan Road near Bronco Parkway. This is a water treatment plant that will provide treated water for Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District and Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority. This is part of a broader water reuse project by these two water providers.

- *ECCV Pipelines* – East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District has construction pipelines from Barr Lake to their water storage tanks at E-470 and Smoky Hill Road, and from Quebec and C-470 to the same storage tanks. They built these pipelines to bring water supplies to their community, but now it appears as though the extra capacity in these lines may form the spine for a regional water project for Douglas and Arapahoe Counties.

- *Cherry Creek Project Water Authority* – The Pinery Water and Wastewater District, Inverness Water and Sanitation District, Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District and the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority jointly acquired real estate and water rights from the bankrupt Western Water Company in November 2005. These water rights will be developed in the future for the benefit of the participating communities.

- *Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation* - This invisible project is making its way through the political process. If successful, Chatfield Reservoir will be able to be used for water storage in addition to its function for flood control. No change will be needed for the dam or spillway, but recreation facilities will need to be moved and rebuilt to allow for water storage. This project will allow for high flows on the South Platte River to be captured and used for water supply and for recreational enhancement.



## Bingham Lake Closure

Bingham Lake continues to be closed to all forms of boating as a precaution to protect the lake from Zebra and Quagga Mussel infestation. These invasive species would significantly increase the District's maintenance costs of Bingham Lake if it were to become contaminated. The primary function of Bingham Lake is for water storage and the Board of Directors has elected to close the lake until the spread of these mussels in the State is better understood. For more information on Zebra and Quagga Mussels see the following websites:

[www.100thmeridian.org](http://www.100thmeridian.org) or [www.protectyourwater.com](http://www.protectyourwater.com)



# Attention Students

- WIN A TRIP to the Kennedy Space Center
- See a Space Shuttle Launch in Florida
- Eat Lunch with an Astronaut & Tour the Center

Enter the "Out of This World" Water Conservation YouTube Video Contest

How *Awesome* is That!!

Sponsored by: LOCKHEED MARTIN

DCWater.org  
Serious Conservation. Serious Results.

Enter Today: [dewater.org](http://dewater.org)  
Lift-off is this fall.

YouTube + H<sub>2</sub>O = Awesome

## DOUGLAS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY LAUNCHES WATER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM WITH LOCKHEED MARTIN SPACE SYSTEMS

In support of a sustainable water future in Colorado, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, which employs about 4,200 employees in Colorado, is partnering as official Water Ambassadors with Douglas County Water Resources Authority ([www.DCWater.org](http://www.DCWater.org)) in a pivotal space-to-earth water discovery outreach program. DCWater.org is comprised all water providers, municipalities, and Douglas County Government serving over 325,000 people throughout Douglas County and S. Arapahoe County. A region-wide informational and motivational water awareness campaign is aimed at recruiting "Water Ambassadors." The goal is to engage all students, homeowners and business owners to actively participate this spring and summer by taking water conservation to new heights.

Enter Lockheed Martin which is sponsoring a youth "Out of This World" Water Contest inviting K-12th graders to create an up to three-minute water conservation related YouTube video. Astronaut Brian Duffy will present one lucky Colorado student with a trip to go to a space shuttle launch in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Additionally, the winner will be a VIP guest of the Kennedy Space Center which features the Astronaut Hall of Fame and includes interactive space-flight simulators. The winner will also participate in the NASA Up-Close Guided Tour of the space shuttle launch pads and landing facility, as well as lunch with an astronaut and receive an autographed souvenir. Official contest rules and entry form are posted on [www.DCWater.org](http://www.DCWater.org). *The contest begins April 13th and ends at midnight, July 4th, 2009.*



## Beyond Your Property Line

Before you plant a tree or bush *outside* of your property boundary, consider that the District may have defined an easement where water and sewer lines are buried.

In the event maintenance on the water/sewer line in such an easement is required, and a tree, bush, swing set or other object obstructs the direct pathway to the pipeline, such an "obstruction" will be removed by the District.

Please note that the District is *not* responsible for replacement or the expense thereof if any plant or object is placed in such an easement.



## Sneaky Leaks

**QUESTION:** If you went on vacation for a month, why would you still use up to 18,000 gallons of drinking water?

**ANSWER:** Your leaking toilet didn't take a vacation and just kept running while you were away!

### SIGNS THAT YOUR TOILET IS LEAKING:

- Do you jiggle the handle to make the toilet stop running?
- Are you hearing unusual sounds coming from your toilet when it isn't being used?
- Are you experiencing "phantom flushes" (the toilet turns itself on for up to fifteen seconds without you touching the handle)?
- Have you seen water trickling down the sides of the toilet long after it's been flushed?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you can conclude that you definitely have a leak (and contrary to one line of thinking, a running water in the toilet does *not* keep the bowl clean!)

However, even if your toilet doesn't have any of these obvious symptoms, it is still possible that it is leaking. To check further, take off the lid of your toilet and remove any "in-tank" bowl cleaners that color the water, beginning the test with a clear water in the tank, as well as the bowl. Dye tablets are available at the District, but food coloring, powdered fruit drink mix or instant coffee grounds work well. Put enough "dye" in the tank water to give the water a deep color. Wait about 30 minutes and don't use the toilet. In 30 minutes, if you find any color in your toilet bowl... you have yourself a leak! A proper operating toilet will store water in its tank indefinitely without any water running into the bowl.

Check with your local home improvement or hardware store for tips on how to repair the leaky toilet immediately!  
Don't wait, it can be costly!