

Pinery Pipeline

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Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

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Prairie Waters Project

In our last Newsletter we discussed the WISE Partnership and how the South Metro Water Authority members may begin to receive some water from Denver and Aurora. One of the key elements of the WISE Partnership is the use of excess capacity in the Aurora Prairie Waters Project. Below is information from the Aurora website describing the project:

What is the Prairie Waters Project?

The Prairie Waters project is an environmentally responsible way for Aurora to collect South Platte River water it already owns from wells near the river's bank. The water collected will be piped 34 miles to a new purification facility near the Aurora Reservoir where it will be purified then used by Aurora citizens.

Why is Aurora Water developing this project?

Like many Coloradans, Aurora learned a great deal during these last few years of lean water times. That's why city leaders asked Aurora Water to ensure that it was capturing all the water the city currently owns for use by Aurora residents. That direction led to the development of the Prairie Waters Project.



In what ways is the project environmentally responsible?

Environmental responsibility means not only abiding by all environmental regulations associated with the Clean Water, Endangered Species and National Historic Preservation Acts, but also using innovative methods to go beyond those requirements. Our system of using riverbank filtration combined with a unique, protected aquifer recharge and recovery create a sustainable natural purification method that is proven to be the most ecologically friendly way for Aurora to access its existing water rights. Additionally, our environmental specialists and project engineers, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, continuously work to help protect wetland areas and the diverse wildlife habitat in the area by using environmentally smart design and construction practices.

Has Aurora Water worked with people and agencies in my community to create this project?

Aurora Water is committed to developing this project in the most responsible way possible. Along with making the project

environmentally friendly, we've also been working hard with a variety of regional watershed stakeholders, elected officials and other interested citizens to share information about the project and hear their input to ensure that the project impacts your area as little as possible. Additionally, Aurora Water has been working with regulating agencies to make sure the project adheres to local and regional development codes and standards.

What impact will the project have on the river and any nearby wells?

During the natural purification process, riverbank filtration and aquifer recharge and recovery combine to slowly filter water from the river using the area's natural sand and gravel. Throughout the processes, groundwater levels will be constantly monitored to protect from adverse impacts. Aurora Water—with oversight by a panel of independent scientists, water treatment experts and local university professors—has done extensive research and modeling that indicates the natural purification process is biologically and physically sustainable and has no adverse impact on the river and groundwater system of the South Platte River.

How much water will Aurora use from the river?

The Prairie Waters Project will use riverbank filtration and protected aquifer recharge and recovery to divert up to 3.3 billion gallons of water per year from the South Platte River. Our natural purification process design protects the South Platte River from adverse impacts to water levels by controlling the water's flow as it moves slowly through the system.

District Develops New Well



You probably noticed earlier this year that there was a drill rig working near the RV lots in the area west of Parker Road and North Pinery Parkway. This was the beginning of the District's newest well. The well is drilled into the Arapahoe formation and it is 1794 feet deep. Once the drilling was complete, the well was tested and it has a projected initial flow capability of 450 gallons per minute (648,000 gallons per day). Engineering on the piping and equipment for connection of this well to the nearby pump station was completed in May and the project was put out to bid. The selected contractor is Clemons Construction and they will begin work later this summer on the well equipment, piping and electrical so that the well can be placed into service by 2011.

This well is needed because our other deep wells are declining in capacity as the aquifer is drawn down. The aquifers will continue to produce water for many more years, but we will need more wells to withdraw the same amount of water. Our deep wells provide approximately 25% of our water needs. Our other water source is renewable alluvial wells along Cherry Creek. In addition to planning for these additional wells, we are working on regional projects that will bring additional renewable water into the area.

*We never know
the worth of
water till the
well is dry.*

~Thomas Fuller, 1732

Safety Milestone

On June 24, 2010, the District's employees accomplished a significant milestone in our safety program:

**TEN years of working safely
with no lost time injuries.**

Congratulations to our staff!

Hot Summer Fun: Add a Bit of Water!

Ice Ball Surprise: Insert a small toy (age appropriate) into a balloon then fill the balloon with water, knot and freeze overnight. Cut away the balloon and have fun playing with the ice ball in a kiddie pool or bath tub. Watch the ice melt as a special surprise appears!

Painting with Water: Cool off your grumpy little ones with a bucket of water and a paint brush...paint the sidewalk, garage door, bicycles and toys.

Dribble, Dribble, Drench: This game is played like the classic "Duck, Duck, Goose", except that "IT" walks around the circle with a cup of water. With each "Dribble", "IT" dribbles a few drops on the sitting player's head, and you know what comes with "Drench". Then it turns into a game of tag as the players race around the circle back to the wet player's spot.