



# ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT MONTHLY REPORT

Thursday, February 19, 2026

*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](mailto:info@secwcd.com) or view it at <https://www.secwcd.org/>*



## AVC Committee

The Arkansas Valley Conduit Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at District offices, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83878108806>

## 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](mailto:chris@secwcd.com)



## Read past newsletters

For Past issues of the AVC Report:

<https://www.secwcd.org/>



**SECWCD Executive Director Leann Noga addresses the Colorado Water and Power Development Authority in Aurora on January 29, 2026.**

## AVC gets \$45M boost from state

The Arkansas Valley Conduit took a giant step forward on January 29, when a state Authority approved a \$45 million financing package that will provide funding for spurs and delivery lines through the Rocky Ford area.

The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) unanimously approved the funding package, which includes 50 percent loan forgiveness. The remaining 50 percent will be covered by a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

No debt will be assumed as a result of this financing package.

The action comes after more than four years of work that included negotiating a four-party agreement among the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Otero County (acting as fiscal agent for the District), the CWRPDA and CWCB.

“This is really a monumental moment for the AVC. The state agencies that helped put together this package have shown real vision in working within their respective roles to make sure this vital project moves ahead,” said Bill Long, Southeastern District Board President.

Funding will be accessed as construction continues, with the goal of staying ahead of the Trunk Line construction, which is being completed by the Bureau of Reclamation, said Leann Noga, Executive Director of the Southeastern District.

Final design of all of the delivery lines through Rocky Ford is underway under a separate contract.

This is just the first of three packages that will be submitted for state funding as the AVC continues and includes 18 of 39 communities in Crowley and Otero Counties.

**Additional information on page 2**



# 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

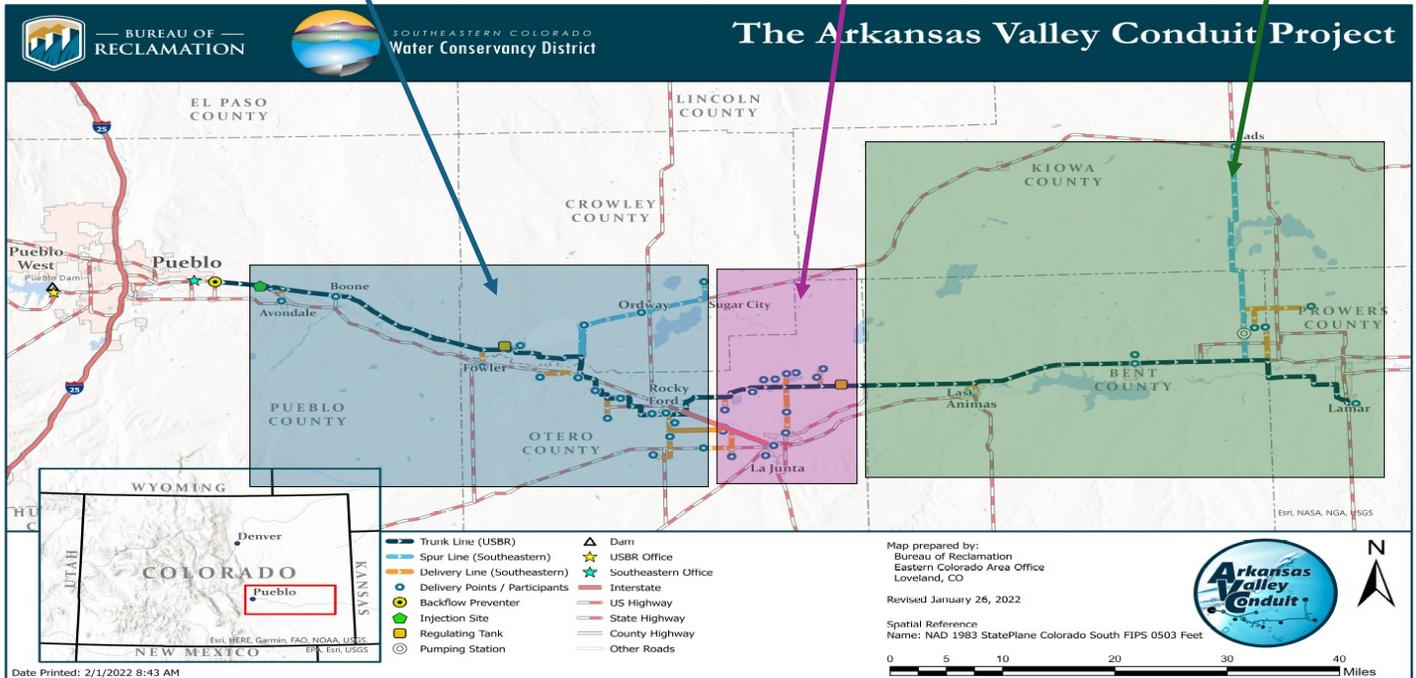
## Package 2

- 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



Design is being completed for spur and delivery lines in Package 1, and will total about \$4.5 million and is being funded by the Enterprise (\$2 million) and the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant (\$2.5 million). The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority voted on January 29, 2026, to approve \$45 million in construction for the Package 1 lines, which includes \$17.85 million from the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund and \$27.15 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law). Funding will be accessed as construction progresses.



## AVC Center Stage at Colorado Water Congress

The Arkansas Valley Conduit was in the spotlight at the 2026 Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention, held in Aurora on January 28-30. Southeastern District Executive Director Leann Noga discusses the AVC on a panel talking about critical water infrastructure. With her on the panel are, from left, Joe Frank, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District; Tina Bergonzini, Grand Valley Water Users Association; Erin Wilson, Wilson Water Group; Mrs. Noga; and Ron Redd, General Manager of Parker Water.

## Meeting clarifies impact of AVC presidential veto

Construction on the Arkansas Valley Conduit will continue after a presidential veto of legislation to make repayment of debt affordable to residents of the Lower Arkansas Valley.

“The AVC Project is still moving forward,” Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Executive Director Leann Noga said at an AVC participants meeting on January 26.

The virtual meeting was attended by 57 people, most of whom were AVC participants or affiliated with the AVC.

Mrs. Noga and Chris Woodka, Senior Policy and Issues Manager for the District, explained the impact of the veto, and subsequent failure of Congress to pass an override.

The legislation, as reported in the last AVC newsletter, was an attempt to half the interest rate and increase the repayment period to 75 years from 50 years.

The legislation was first introduced in 2024, after the cost estimate for the AVC project doubled to \$1.3 billion.

“The veto did not add or remove any of the funding for the Arkansas Valley Conduit,” Mrs. Noga said.

The local cost-share of the repayment is 35 percent, and is supplemented by miscellaneous revenues of the Fry-Ingpan-Arkansas Project, such as storage contracts in Pueblo Reservoir.

Mr. Woodka then explained that federal funding for the AVC project to date totals \$613 million, of which \$249 has been spent or obligated. State funding of at least \$120 million is available as well. He also updated participants on current construction.



Click to listen to the [meeting](#).



**Southeastern President Bill Long and Board member Andy Colosimo talk with Congressman Jeff Hurd at the 2026 Colorado Water**



**Congresswoman Lauren Boebert and SECWCD Director Leann Noga talk at the 2026 Colorado**

## Representatives vow to continue quest for legislation

Colorado Representatives Lauren Boebert and Jeff Hurd voiced strong support for the Arkansas Valley Conduit and vowed to pass legislation to make repayment more affordable to participants at the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention in Aurora on January 30, 2026.

Both members of Congress worked hard to convince their peers to overturn Trump’s veto of HR131, which would have extended the AVC repayment period, reduced interest and allowed debt forgiveness due to economic hardship.

“I am committed to keeping the president’s promise,” Rep. Boebert said, referring to statements made by President Trump in his first term. “This fight is not over. All of us (in the Colorado delegation) are committed to seeing this through.”

She said passing the legislation is her top priority.

Rep. Boebert added that it is important for supporters of the AVC to contact elected officials.

“Washington needs to hear from the people. Your voice is absolutely necessary,” she said.

“For decades, residents of the Arkansas Valley have waited for the AVC,” Rep. Hurd said. He added that the AVC is one of his top priorities and he will work with other members of Congress to pass the legislation. “Decisions in Washington are made based on relationships and risk. Like water, we find a way around obstacles.”

Southeastern District Board President Bill Long publicly thanked the Colorado congressional delegation for their work on the AVC.

“I want to thank all of you,” Long said. “Your work on our behalf is much appreciated.”

### Reclamation AVC Construction Snapshot

- Boone Reach 1 and 2 are completed, totaling 12 miles of Trunk Line. Fiber cable is being laid from Boone to the Injection Site.
- Work is continuing at the Injection site (see photo at right).
- Crowley Reach 1 is expected to go out for bid in March, with a contract anticipated in August 2026.
- Design contracts for La Junta to Lamar are being prepared.

