



ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT MONTHLY REPORT

Thursday, August 28, 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 Participant Meeting September 9

Arkansas Valley Conduit participants are invited to a meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, at the Colorado State University office in Rocky Ford. Remote and in-person options will be offered. See the District Web Site for log-on information.

Committee Meeting September 10

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Arkansas Valley Conduit Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 10 at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo. Online information is available at <https://www.secwcd.org/>

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

AVC Legislation clears House

Federal legislation that will help build the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) at an affordable cost to participants cleared the U.S. House of Representatives last month.

Representative Lauren Boebert, who represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, successfully passed H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, through the House Natural Resources Committee on July 22.

The bill reduces interest payments and extends the length of repayment beyond 50 years based on a determination of economic hardship. This will allow local communities more flexibility to finish their investments in this critical project.

Congressman Jeff Hurd (CO-03) is a cosponsor of the bill, while Colorado Senator Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper are urging passage of the legislation in the U.S. Senate.

Upon completion, the Arkansas Valley Conduit would provide access to clean water to 50,000 residents in Southeast Colorado, including Pueblo, Bent, Prowers, Kiowa and Baca Counties. The project was authorized in 1962 and was delayed because of the cost to the participants.

The "Finish the AVC" Act addresses these issues in an effort to make this long-standing vision a finished product.



Representative Lauren Boebert testifies in favor of the Finish the Arkansas Conduit Act on the House floor on July 22.

"I'm very pleased to see my Finish the AVC Act get through Committee and continue to advance through Congress as a responsible solution for Southeast Coloradans," said Congresswoman Boebert.

"I've emphasized the need for every resident in the 4th District to have reliable access to clean water, whether it's in Morgan County or down in our Southeast region. The Arkansas Valley Conduit has been pushed to the side for too long and

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Executive Director Leann Noga addresses the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority in Steamboat Springs on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

State Water Authority approves 4-party agreement for AVC funding

An agreement that is key to the funding plan for AVC spur and delivery lines was approved on August 20, 2025 in Steamboat Springs.

The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority voted unanimously to approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) among The Authority, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), the Enterprise and Otero County, which is acting as fiscal agent for the Enterprise, allowing large grants to be accepted.

The State Drinking Water Revolving Fund loan could include 50 percent principle forgiveness. The agreement allows the remaining principle of the Authority loan for AVC construction to be paid by the CWCB. This will allow the loan to be paid off without burdening participants with debt.

The first loan request will be a package to build delivery lines to 18 AVC communities in Crowley and Otero counties, including all of those west and south of Rocky Ford. Service is intended to begin as soon as

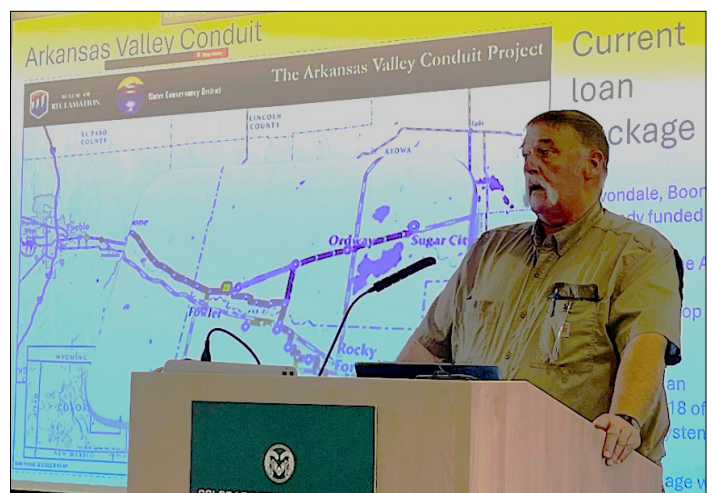
[Related Story, Page 8](#)

State financing package discussed

About 20 people attended a public meeting Monday, August 25, 2025 in Rocky Ford that is required for the Project Needs Assessment (PNA) for AVC spur and delivery lines from Boone to Rocky Ford.

Executive Director Leann Noga explained that the meeting was to provide the public, not just participants, with information about the loan purpose and process.

Engineering Manager Gordon Dillon explained 18 of the 39 AVC water systems will be reached in this construction package, which is expected to total about \$24.5 million.



Enterprise Engineering Manager Gordon Dillon talks about spur and delivery lines financing at a public meeting in Rocky Ford on Monday, August 25, 2025.



— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT

Total Trunkline Funding

Total funded through FY2025: \$613 million

FY2026 President's Budget Request: \$3 million

Total funding to-date:

- A** • Completes construction through Manzanola Reach 1 (nine of 39 communities served)
- Total population served is approximately 8,000.

Progress Toward First Delivery

B Boone Reach 1 (WCA)

- Successful flush and fill of three sections
- As of Aug. 9, entire pipe is filled
- Hydrostatic testing to follow valve work by Pueblo

C Boone Reach 2 (Pate)

- Delivery vault installed
- Waiting on Xcel to relocate gas line before completing pipe
- Valve assembly to be installed in October 2025

D Injection Site (Thalle)

- Building ordered; expected January 2026
- Steel line pipe for foundation ordered

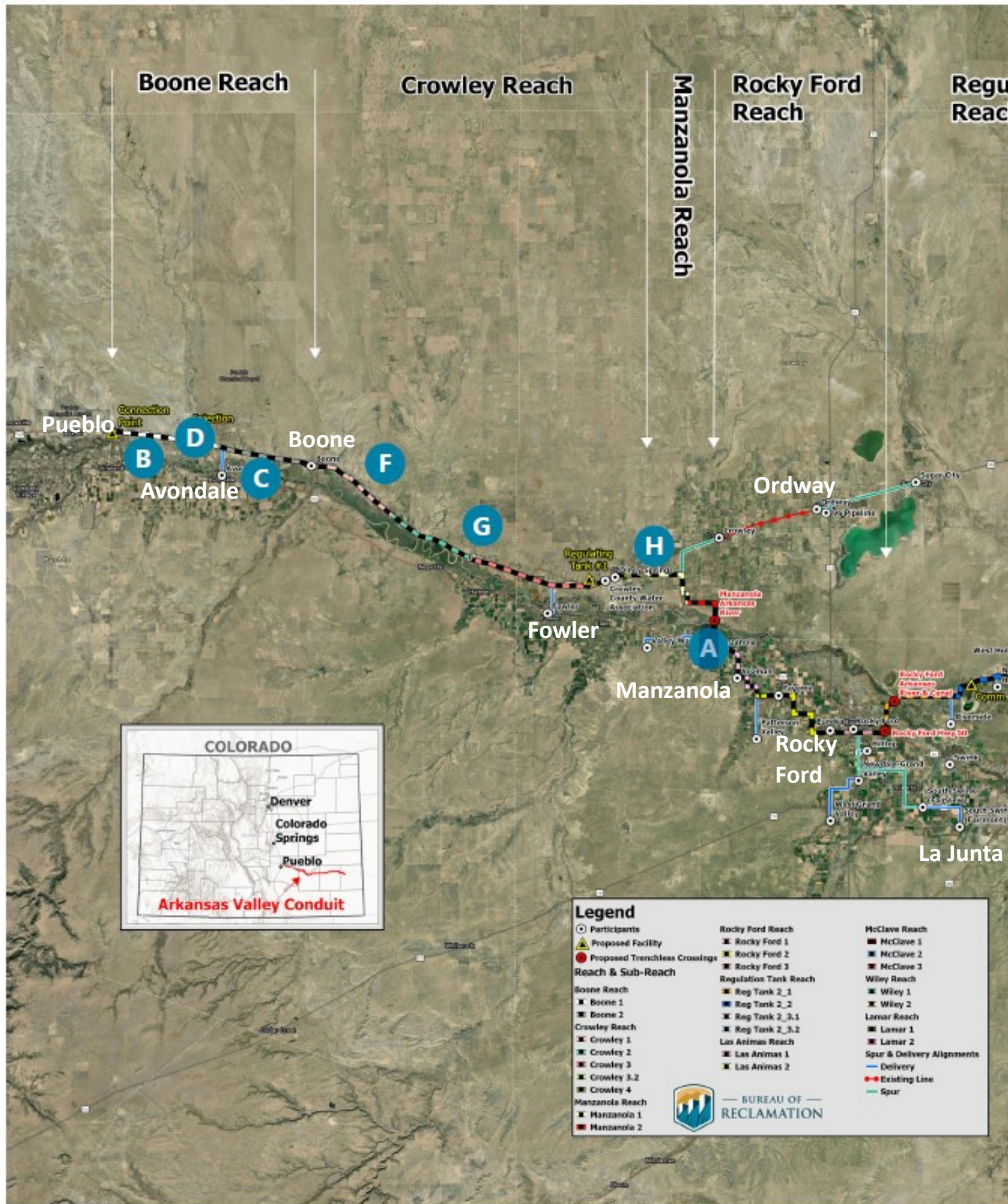
Estimated First Delivery

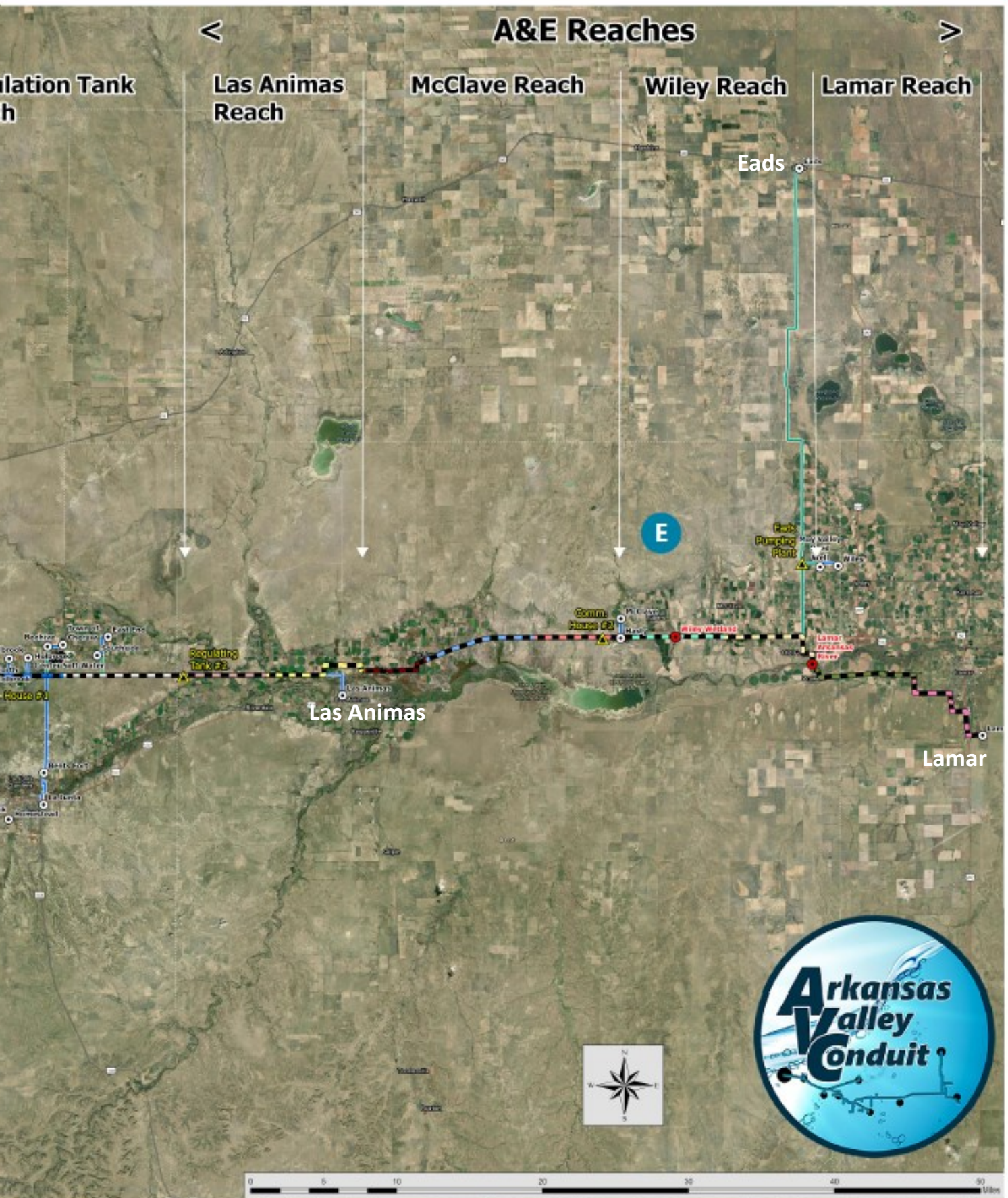
The Injection Site is critical path with first water deliveries in early 2027.

August 13, 2025

Note: The Bureau of Reclamation has provided the Enterprise with this 4-page summary of progress on the AVC to date.

Circled letters on pages 3-6 correspond to the map which is printed on Pages 4-5.





August 13, 2025

Future Contracts

E Contract 8 A&E Design Award

- Last 40+ miles of pipe to Lamar
- Expected late Summer 2025

Crowley 1 Lands Award

- Expected Fall 2025

AVC Lands 7 Award

- Pending receipt of fact-finding questions from Contractor due August 15, 2025
- Expected Fall 2025

F Crowley 1 Construction Award

- Pending railroad crossing permits
- Expected Fall/Winter 2026

AVC Trenchless Crossings Design Award

- Expected FY2027

G Crowley Reach 2-3 Construction, including Reg Tank 1

- 12 miles
- Award possible before end of FY2027

H Crowley Reach 4 to Manzanola Reach 2 Construction

- 10.4 miles
- Winter 2027

Injection Site Phase 2 Construction

- Tied to the Injection Site Phase 1 work completion so that the chemical injection can be monitored and adjustments applied to the design of Phase 2.



August 13, 2025



Regional Director Visits AVC site

Brent Esplin (center), Regional Director of the Missouri Basin for Reclamation, and other Reclamation team members discuss the progress of the Arkansas Valley Conduit at Boone with Enterprise Executive Director Leann Noga on August 13, 2025.



Fill and Flush on Boone Reach 1

Work continued in early August on the fill and flush operation for Boone Reach 1. Concrete blocks are being used to hold a temporary water line in place. The operation is testing the first portion of the Arkansas Valley Conduit Trunk Line from the connection with Pueblo Water's system to a point 6 miles to the east. WCA Construction began work on Boone Reach 1 in 2023, and now it is nearly complete.



House passes AVC legislation

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it's time we got this project done. I look forward to getting the Finish the AVC Act through the House and eventually to President Trump's desk for signing."

"Rural water providers in our area often struggle to secure the funding needed to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Completing the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC), which has been stalled for decades as labor and construction costs continue to rise, would help reduce the financial burden on these providers and enhance their ability to deliver a higher quality and a more reliable water supply," said Prowers County Commissioners Ty Harmon, Roger Cook, and Roger Stagner in a statement.

"In addition to supporting households and businesses, a stable water supply is essential for agriculture — the backbone of our community's economy. Reliable water access ensures that farmers and ranchers can maintain production, adapt to drought conditions, and sustain the long-term viability of their operations. We're grateful for Congresswoman Boebert's work on this project and her efforts to support Southeast Colorado."

"In the west, it is critical that we have sound water infrastructure to meet communities' needs," said HNR Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman of Arkansas. "Rep. Boebert's legislation will help get the Arkansas Valley Conduit project across the finish line more than 50 years after it was authorized. I thank her for her work to move this important project forward and her leadership on western water issues."

Eureka Water Authority gets state funding

The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) unanimously approved a 30-year, 1.75 percent loan in the amount of \$1.142 million for the Eureka Water Authority at its August meeting.

The loan is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and includes \$735,921 in forgivable loans, reducing the amount of debt to \$406,079. This will be matched by more than \$1.5 million in grants for a total project cost of \$2.667 million.

The project will fund a new chlorination building, pH adjustment, a new water storage tank, zone meters, new water line, well-distribution pipe replacement and upgrades to treatment plant components.

"Tightening our water system to reduce leaks and installing zone meters is going to be a huge savings for us," said Kevin Lindahl, general secretary for Eureka Water.

The upgrades are needed in order to convert Eureka's current well water supply and treatment facilities for eventual connection the Arkansas Valley Conduit, according to the CWRPDA report.

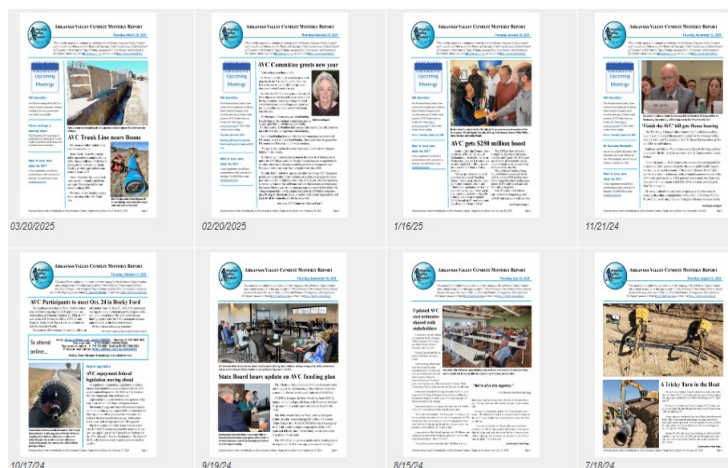
This will address non-compliance levels of radionuclides in the existing water supply, which comes from deep wells.

The Eureka water system is located just southwest of Rocky Ford and serves a population of about 360 people.

Read past newsletters

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