



ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT MONTHLY REPORT

Thursday, July 16, 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 or view it at <https://www.secwcd.org/>



AVC Committee

A joint meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit Committee and the Allocation & Storage Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, at 10 a.m. at Southeastern offices, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, For online information, please check the District Web site.

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

Participants Meeting

We are planning to have a participants' meeting to discuss the AVC at Colorado State University Extension Office, 27901 County Road 21, Rocky Ford, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

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

Read past newsletters

For past issues of the AVC Report:

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



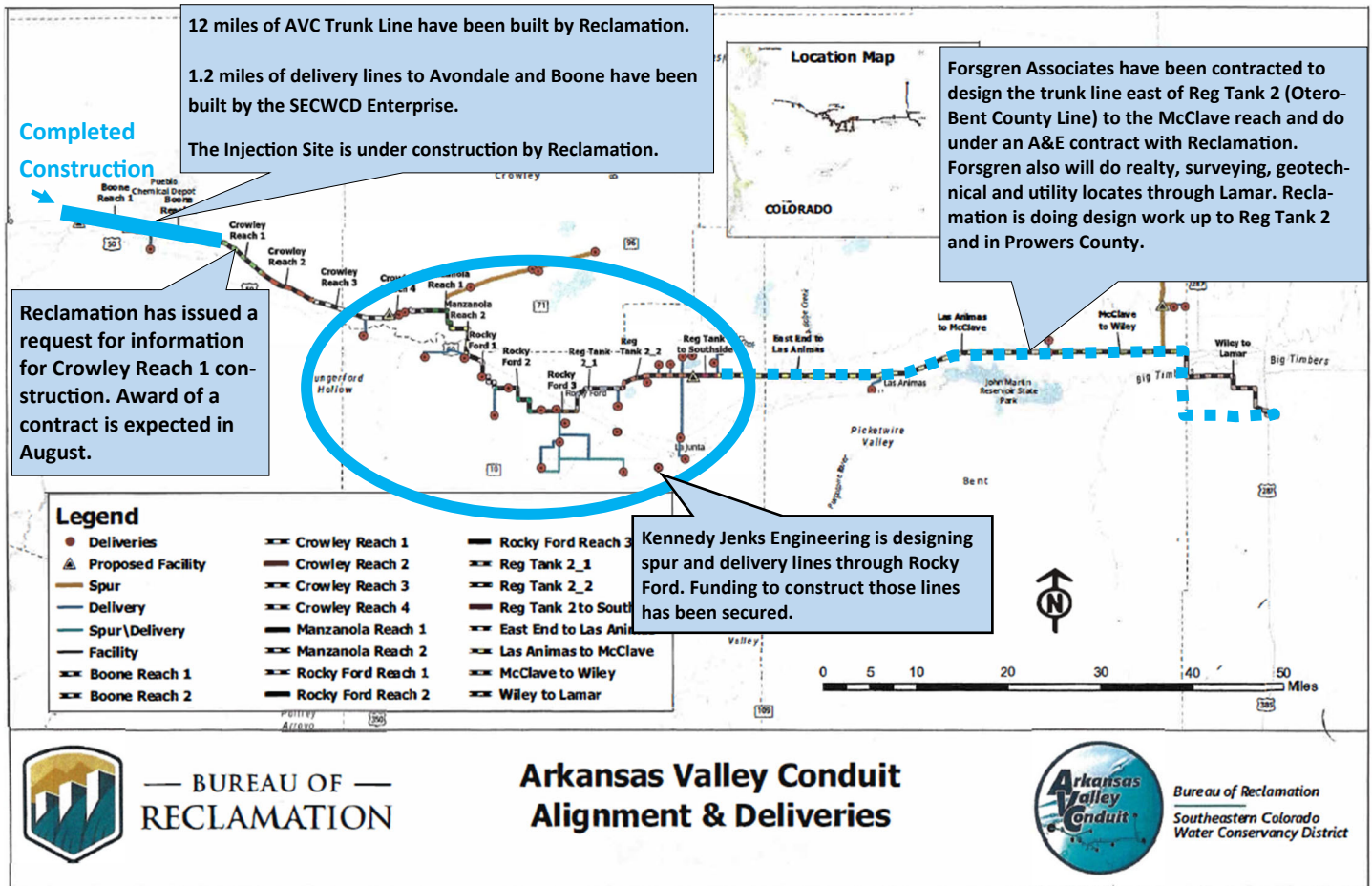
Injection Site Construction

Work continues at the Arkansas Valley Conduit Injection Site, located about 4 miles east of the Connection Point near 36th Lane. Thalle Construction is working on the project, which will provide chemical injections to remove chlorine and ammonia from AVC water after it has passed through Pueblo Water's system. New contracts for the next phases of AVC construction are in the works. More information inside.





AVC PROJECT UPDATE



Work is continuing along the entire route of the AVC with design contracts that will lead to construction in following years.



Construction Work

Piping for the Injection Site arrived in June (photo at left, courtesy Reclamation). Above, equipment is on site to continue construction on the project, which is on track to be completed in 2027. Thalle Construction is working on the Injection Site.



Future Contracts: Crowley Reach 1

- Construction of approximately 5.3 miles of 30-inch potable water transmission pipe and associated improvements. Work includes horizontal directional drilling, bored crossings, and road cuts and restoration.
- Construction Award:
 - Continued work on railroad crossing permits
 - The technical review of proposals concluded last week, awaiting recommendations from the team
 - Contract award expected in August 2026



Future Contracts: Reg Tank 1 / Crowley Reaches 2 & 3 Awards

- Construction of the trunk line and water storage tanks to convey water from the Crowley Reach 1 connection point to Crowley Reach 4 connection point located along State Highway 96 approximately 2 miles northeast of the Town of Fowler.
- Disinfect approximately 5.3 miles of 30-inch transmission piping installed under the Crowley Reach 1 contract.
- Final design due to our acquisition team November 2026.
- Our lands team is still working on easements which may impact contract award.



Finance and Funding

- 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 2026: \$613 million.**
- **Total estimated federal cost (2023): \$1.3 billion**
- **To Date: Total Obligations = \$216,563,383.84 & Total Expenditures = \$196,841,861.10**

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.



Reclamation updates AVC progress for Board

Area Manager Jeff Rieker, with the Eastern Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, updated the Board at its June meeting on the progress of construction and future activities of the Arkansas Valley Conduit.



Jeff Rieker

Boone Reach 1 and Boone Reach 2 are completed other than close-out activities and punch list items.

“Where we’ve got some exciting activity going on is over on the injection site, Rieker said.

The steel pipe that is going into the ground arrived at the injection site and now the concrete that goes around the pipe will be poured. The injection site is expected to be complete in April 2027.

“We’ll continue to accelerate that construction wherever possible,” Rieker said.

Crowley Reach 1 proposals are being reviewed by the technical team and contract award is currently anticipated in August, subject to completion of the selection process and the contracting schedule.

“The first of the very large contracts we’re looking to put out will encompass Crowley Reaches 2 and 3 as well as the first regulating tank,” Rieker said. Final design is expected in November 2026.

Rieker also explained the finances to date. Congressional appropriations total \$613 million, with \$216.5 million obligated and \$196 million spent as of 2026.



Committees study potential AVC policies

A joint meeting of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Arkansas Valley Conduit and Allocation & Storage Committees was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at the Southeastern District offices.

Executive Director Leann Noga laid out some of the issues that will have to be answered in upcoming months.

"We're working on legislation for the repayment of the conduit, and we've made it on the House side, we're waiting on the Senate and won't know until September or October," Mrs. Noga said.

The District is working on a repayment contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

One of those issues is the operation of the AVC once it is constructed.

"The operations will drive decisions that these committees and the Board will eventually have to make: How we allocate Project Water; when we allocate Project Water and how that Project Water is delivered," Mrs. Noga said.

There are now 38 separate water systems in the AVC that will come on line at different times with widely varying amounts of use and blending requirements.

Previous models looked at 2070 demand, but deliveries will start sooner than that so costs for operation and maintenance of the AVC at less than full use need to be studied. The District is now working on a model that will provide information about how these interim deliveries will be made.

In recent years, the District segmented the project in order to determine how the AVC will be built, and it is necessary to use this method to develop an operational plan.

"There are some unanswered questions. We have to have a better idea of what we are doing in this realm before we can tell participants how much it is going to cost," Mrs. Noga said. "We'll be walking through that process to provide the best factual information that we have at the time to put this in place."

Project Water is now used primarily for augmenting wells by water systems east of Pueblo. Once the AVC is completed, direct delivery of water will be available.

Another issue that arises will be the use of Return Flows which will be generated by the direct delivery of water, and which are not now generated by pumping well water.

AVC Committee Chairman Kevin Karney asked if a water system needed to have wastewater treatment to claim Return Flows.

Water Resources Engineer Robert Banham explained that that non-sewered Return Flows or septic system Return Flows can be quantified and claimed in order to extend the water supply delivered through the AVC pipeline.

The Committee also heard an update of District meetings with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The District is confirming requirements for operations and water testing that will be needed once the AVC begins delivering water.

The AVC Committee also discussed several other issues, including:

- ◆ Procedures are in place for obtaining easements and permission to enter agreements from private landowners and canal companies.
- ◆ The District has secured an 811 utility locate service.
- ◆ The District is meeting with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to determine AVC reporting requirements.
- ◆ Informational meetings for participants and handouts explaining the AVC are being prepared.

Mrs. Noga said it is important to include participants in these discussions at meetings in the near future. Another joint meeting of the Allocation & Storage Committee and the AVC Committee is planned for 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 4.



Leann Noga