



NEWS RELEASE

September 6, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cindy Aubrey
Chief Communications Officer
719-385-5254

City Stormwater Update; \$46 million being put to use on several significant drainage control projects

The City of Colorado Springs is spending nearly \$46 million in 2013 on stormwater control projects. This funding comes from 1) the 2013 approved City budget of approximately \$14 million, 2) \$12.8 million from Colorado Springs Utilities, and 3) an additional \$8.8 million special appropriation approved by City Council at the request of the Mayor Steve Bach. In addition to these funds, several other stormwater projects will be funded and completed in 2013 from a variety of sources: the Colorado Springs Airport enterprise will spend nearly \$1.5 million on drainage projects; the Pikes Peak Highway enterprise will spend \$350,880 on drainage projects; and the City will sponsor and assist in \$7.47 million in stormwater projects funded by Congress for emergency watershed projects.

Following is an update on several significant Stormwater projects underway:

Mirage Channel in Briargate

Background:

The Mirage channel is a concrete-lined, approximately 1500-foot-long channel that was constructed in 1982. It flows westward from Union Boulevard between Rampart High School and The Preserve at Briargate housing development. The channel has experienced deterioration over time and suffered a significant failure during a storm in 2010. After being repaired, it was again damaged during a large storm in 2012, after which the city contracted with engineering firm Wilson and Company to design a new channel with additional capacity.

Current Status:

After an expedited design and bidding process, the construction contract was awarded to Tezak Heavy Equipment for \$1,786,600, and Tezak began the work on July 29. The contract stipulates 150 calendar days from start to completion, and completion is expected mid-December 2013.

\$8.8 Million Special Appropriation for Stormwater Improvements.

The Waldo Canyon Fire of 2012 dramatically changed the vegetative cover and soil characteristics of the North and South Douglas Creek drainage basins and the Camp Creek drainage basin. City Council appropriated funding May 14, 2013 to address the increased stormwater flows and to repair deteriorating sections of concrete channel in North and South Douglas and Camp Creek.

North & South Douglas Creeks

Background:

North Douglas Creek flows generally southeasterly from Wolf Ranch through Pinon Valley to Garden of the Gods Road, through the Holland Park neighborhood and under I-25 to join Monument Creek. South Douglas Creek flows generally southeasterly from Flying W Ranch through the Mountain Shadows neighborhood to 30th street, Garden of the Gods Road and then through the Holland Park neighborhood and under I-25 to join Monument Creek.

Since the Waldo Canyon Fire, rainfall events have produced greater amounts of sediment and debris loads and increased stormwater runoff in North and South Douglas Creeks. These factors make the already aging and deteriorating concrete channel more susceptible to damage and erosion. City Engineering contracted with two consultants to review all available documents associated with these two channels and perform an extensive inspection of the more than six miles of concrete-lined channel. City Engineering and the consultants then prioritized the needed repair work, assuring the most critical needs are bid out and repaired, thereby receiving the best value for the money spent.

Current Status:

City Engineering has hired a contractor to repair a section of South Douglas Creek, north of the intersection of Flying W Ranch Road and 30th Street, which failed in an August 9, 2013 storm. The major portion of the repair work is being bid in four contracts to allow work to be done concurrently. Contract documents for Phase 1 and 2 have been advertised for bidding which will open on September 24. Contract documents for Phase 3 and 4 will be advertised for bid in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that Phase 1 and 2 construction work will be under contract by the end of September 2013, with Phase 3 and 4 construction work being under contract in October 2013. All repair work is expected to be completed by late spring 2014.

The project team will hold an informational **Open House** to update citizens and adjacent property owners on the upcoming construction work. Below are details:

- Thursday, September 19
- 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- El Paso County Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road

Camp Creek

Background:

Camp Creek flows southward from the Navigators campus through Garden of the Gods Park and along 31st Street in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood. Since the Waldo Canyon Fire, rainfall events have produced greater amounts of sediment and debris loads and have increased stormwater runoff in Camp Creek. These factors make the already aging and deteriorating channel along 31st Street even more susceptible to flooding and damage. The city has selected a consulting firm to lead community meetings and perform analysis on the drainage basin to develop alternatives and a preferred course of action for construction of flood mitigation structures/facilities.

Current Status

The consultant began work on the Camp Creek project this week. One of the first tasks will be to hold a public meeting in late September to explain and outline the broad goals of the project and solicit ideas and information from public and private stakeholders. Details of the meeting to be announced.

#