



Resolution Supporting Arkansas River Water Preservation Principles and in Support of Regional Efforts to Ensure that Arkansas River basin Water is not Permanently Transferred Out of the Basin

Kim Gortz, Manager
Water Resource Management
June 11, 2024

Fryingpan- Arkansas Project

Multi-purpose federal project approved in 1962 to benefit the Arkansas Basin, municipal, agricultural, industrial and recreational users.

The first delivery of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water occurred in July 1972.

Southeast Colorado Water Conservancy District (SECWCD) is responsible for repayment and administration of the Project

El Paso County/Colorado Springs residents make up approximately seventy percent (70%) of the SECWCD's constituents



Arkansas Basin Preservation Principles

2004 The SECWCD, LAVWCD, UAWCD, Pueblo Water, City of Pueblo, and Colorado Springs sign Arkansas Basin Preservation Principles.

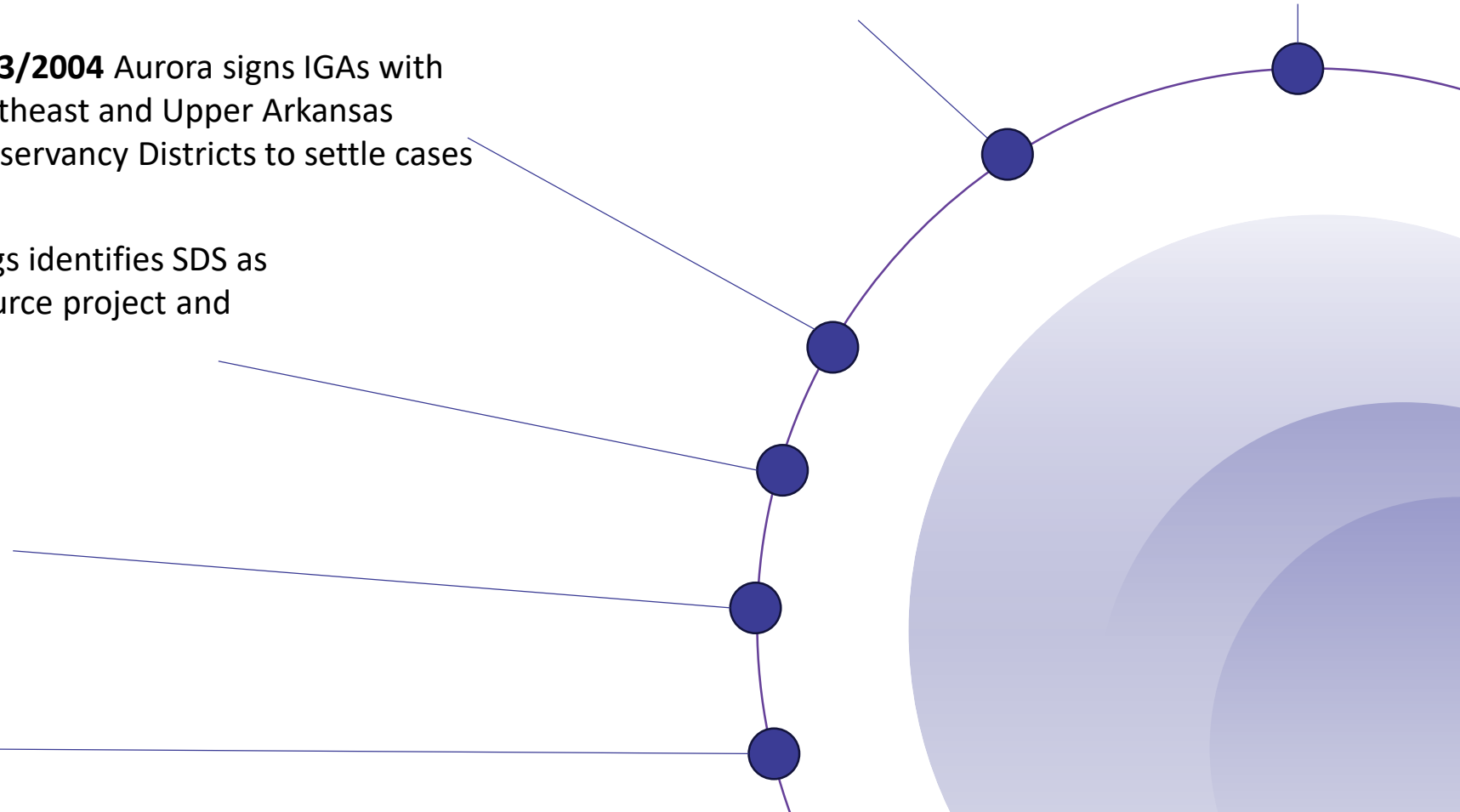
2022 Colorado Springs and Bent County sign IGA and agree to abide by the Preservation Principles.

2003/2004 Aurora signs IGAs with Southeast and Upper Arkansas Conservancy Districts to settle cases

1996 Colorado Springs identifies SDS as a priority water resource project and starts permitting.

Aurora needs water storage in Pueblo Reservoir and SECWCD approvals.

1980's-1990's Aurora purchases Rocky Ford Ditch shares and enters water court processes.



Aurora Caitlin Ditch Project

2003 IGA with SECWCD states: “Aurora shall not initiate or seek to implement any further permanent transfer of water rights not presently owned or under contract by Aurora” and Aurora would develop new water supplies within the Arkansas River Basin exclusively from “interruptible supply agreements or water bank transactions”

Aurora recently purchased 4,000 shares of stock in the Catlin Canal Company and other water rights, together with 5,475 acres of land in Otero County, Colorado, in the Arkansas River Basin

SECWCD Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2024 – 03D on April 9, 2024, urging Aurora to refrain from violations of the 2003 SECWCD IGA

Resolution Considerations

1. Reaffirm commitment to Preservation Principles
2. Acknowledgment of Principles in Bent County IGA was to prevent transfer of water out of the Arkansas River basin.
3. Aurora's transaction is contrary to the Preservation Principles and Utilities is obligated to oppose.
4. Support SECWCD and regional efforts to uphold the Preservation Principles.
5. Urge Aurora to honor its commitments in the 2003 IGA with SECWCD and abstain from permanent transfers.



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected