



The 2002 drought significantly impacted both the supply and demand for water in the Pikes Peak Region and has caused us to consider the way we do things.

Background:

- Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) currently has a capacity of about 95 million gallons per day. The water rights now owned by CSU would ultimately allow for a delivery capacity of 197 million gallons per day.
- Water Development Charges paid to CSU by the Housing Industry in 2003, at the time a building permit is issued for a single family home, starts at \$4,700 and goes to \$6,200. The gross Water Development Charges paid through new home construction alone (excluding commercial fees) exceed \$25 million each year in 2002 and 2003.
- Development in the unincorporated parts of El Paso County is mostly dependent on ground water. The County imposes a much more conservative development standard than the State, requiring a 300-year water supply, as opposed to the Statewide 100-year demonstrated supply for new development.
- Colorado Springs Utilities currently serves about 75% of the population in El Paso County. The City owned utility company has done a good job of planning for future water needs of its customers for the long-term. Colorado Springs Utilities water rates are very competitive compared to the balance of the Front Range.
- The 2002 Colorado drought, combined with a temporary shortage in delivery capacity, caused a shortage of deliverable water to CSU customers in 2002, and water conservation measures to reduce water use were implemented by the City Council in 2002.
- About 54% of all water consumption is used outdoors for landscape irrigation.

Position:

- *The drought induced water shortage problem is a community-wide concern. Closing the door on local jobs and economic health is simply not a prudent solution.*
- *CSU should continue to educate and encourage all citizens of Colorado Springs to conserve water through various means.*
- *Colorado Springs Utilities should continue to secure water rights, develop storage capacity, and build delivery systems to supply competitively priced water to the customer.*
- *Although water conservation must remain a local issue...the State and federal governments should encourage actions that enhance the ability to create storage capacity for existing water within our State.*
- *The Housing Industry is committed to water conservation practices in the development of new communities.*
 - *Low flow toilets, showers and water efficient appliances*
 - *Minimization of the water usage in landscape irrigation plans and construction*
 - *Support for and compliance with the City landscape ordinance that focuses on conservation*
- *Public use, community irrigated areas, such as City parks should be considered as part of the community infrastructure and should be exempt from the most restrictive water restrictions.*
- *The HBA supports the block rate water pricing structure and continued pricing of water development charges based upon the "equity buy-in" method.*