



University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Office of the Chancellor

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April 9, 2009

Colorado Springs City Council
107 N. Nevada
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Members of the Colorado Springs City Council:

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) is a thriving university poised to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century. UCCS is increasingly being sought out by faculty and students throughout Colorado and the U.S. as a premiere institution of higher learning. We credit this with talented staff, strong academics and a beautiful campus located in the majestic setting of Colorado Springs. Another key advantage to UCCS is affordability. In addition to our tuition being reasonable, our student housing is affordable due in part to reasonable utility costs. That is one of the reasons we support the Southern Delivery System project being developed by Colorado Springs Utilities. We understand that among numerous options studied, SDS was considered the most cost effective to deliver water to our community.

UCCS is also poised for expansion. The 2006-2012 plan calls for expansion to 9,100 students with corresponding increases in faculty, staff, programs and campus infrastructure. Our long-term plans are for a campus of 35,000 students. We are boosting our research capabilities and funding and greatly enhancing programs to transfer our research into business applications, products and services. But none of that happens without water.

We consider the planning Colorado Springs Utilities has done over the past two decades to ensure our community, our businesses and our University has the water we all need for the future as not only prudent, but forward thinking. If UCCS is to remain vibrant and fulfill our plans, we must have an adequate water supply. We believe that SDS is critical to achieving this goal.

We support approval of the Pueblo County permit conditions to provide Utilities the opportunity to construct its preferred alternative for the Southern Delivery System and request that City Council determine the best path to move the project forward.

Sincerely,

Pam Shockley-Zalabak
Chancellor