

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rueter-Hess Reservoir Approved to Begin Capturing Water

PARKER, Colorado – After two Environmental Impact Statements and six years of construction, Rueter-Hess Reservoir has finally reached the stage where it has been approved to begin capturing water.

On February 3, 2010, The State Engineers Office of Dam Safety approved a request by Parker Water and Sanitation District to allow the first water to be stored in Rueter-Hess. Prior to now and since the start of construction, water within Newlin Gulch has been pumped around the construction site. With this approval, that same water will now be stored behind the dam.

The approval allows for water to be stored to a depth of 43 feet, which will amount to up to 5,000 Acre-Feet of water (an Acre-Foot of water is approximately 326,000 gallons).

While construction of the Dam is not slated to be complete until February 2012, storing water now will save the District money and allow for future use of that water by District customers. Over the next two years while construction is completed, an additional \$34 million dollars will be spent by PWSD on the project employing approximately 100 workers.

In response to the approval, Jim Nikkel, P.E., Assistant District Manager for Parker Water and Project Manager for the Rueter-Hess project said “this will allow the District to save approximately 10,000 dollars a month in pumping costs.”

When asked about the approval, Mary Spencer, President of the Board of Directors for the District replied, “This is just another milestone in the District’s quest for a renewable and sustainable water supply”. “As the District has been saying for the last 11 years, construction of Rueter-Hess is not the end of our water supply issues, but it is the beginning of a long term solution”.

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