

MEDIA RELEASE

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Expansion of Rueter-Hess Reservoir to Begin *Project expansion will provide water supply storage for four South Metro communities*

PARKER, Colo. – Construction of the expanded Rueter-Hess Reservoir southwest of Parker will begin after a dedication ceremony on Sept. 5, 2008, at the reservoir site. The reservoir will serve the Parker Water and Sanitation District area, as well as the Douglas County communities of Castle Rock, Castle Pines North and Stonegate through partnership agreements. The four Douglas County partners who committed funds in the reservoir construction will join together in the dedication ceremony.

The expanded 72,000 acre-foot reservoir will have a surface size of 1,140 acres — 50 percent larger than the size of Cherry Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is located about three miles southwest of the Town of Parker on Newlin Gulch, and has a diversion structure on Cherry Creek to capture available water flows. Construction is expected to take two and one-half years to complete before filling can begin.

It is owned and managed by the Parker Water and Sanitation District. A federal 404 permit for the expansion of Rueter-Hess Reservoir was received in April 2008. The permit allows Parker Water to expand the reservoir to 72,000 acre-feet from an original 16,000 acre-foot version permitted in 2004 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the original 404 permit, Parker Water is allowed to capture available water flows in Cherry Creek to reduce its dependence on Denver Basin aquifer water. Under the new 404 permit, Parker Water and the Douglas County partners can use Rueter-Hess Reservoir as a water management tool to maximize its available water resources.

The reservoir partners currently rely almost entirely on non-renewable groundwater from Denver Basin aquifers. Recent studies show that underground aquifers are being depleted at a rate of approximately 30 feet per year. The expanded Rueter-Hess Reservoir will help preserve the aquifers by storing available water flows for use in dry years and during peak summer usage, which will reduce use of Denver Basin water.