



Date: Nov. 5, 2020

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Northern Water, Reclamation Complete Soldier Canyon Dam Work

BERTHOUD – Northern Water and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have completed their joint maintenance project at the Soldier Canyon Outlet Works at Horsetooth Reservoir. Because work has been concluded, water users that receive supplies directly from Horsetooth Reservoir were able to take delivery starting Thursday morning.

The project was completed one week ahead of schedule.

Inspections in the past several years indicated the need to rehabilitate valves and other equipment at the Soldier Canyon Outlet. Northern Water and Reclamation cooperated with local water providers to develop a schedule to complete the work this year. During this outage, the Soldier Canyon Treatment Authority installed a secondary connection to the outlet with a new 42-inch pipeline. Because the work required the use of a dive team, water deliveries from Horsetooth Reservoir were monitored this summer to ensure a safe water surface elevation would be achieved for the underwater work. Normal water demand, coupled with lower inflows due to maintenance on other parts of the system, brought the reservoir to a safe level for the divers.

During the work, local water users were asked to curtail their demands. They did so, and coupled with Poudre River water remaining useable for water treatment plants, backup provisions for additional water supplies were not necessary.

“Several years of coordination were required to make this work,” said Northern Water Operations Division Director Jerry Gibbens. “We would like to thank the water users who cooperated to make this project successful and allow for the continued investment in facility so critical to Northern Colorado.”

About Northern Water:

Northern Water, a public agency created in 1937, provides water for agricultural, municipal, domestic and industrial uses for more than 1 million people in Northern Colorado via the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Pleasant Valley Pipeline and Southern Water Supply Project. It also generates hydropower at two sites and provides water quality services throughout the region. Its Municipal Subdistrict delivers water through the Windy Gap Project. Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict

are currently developing the Windy Gap Firming Project and the Northern Integrated Supply Project to enhance Front Range water supplies for the future.