

At the Water Trough

Indian Mountain Metropolitan District Water Service Program

December 2024



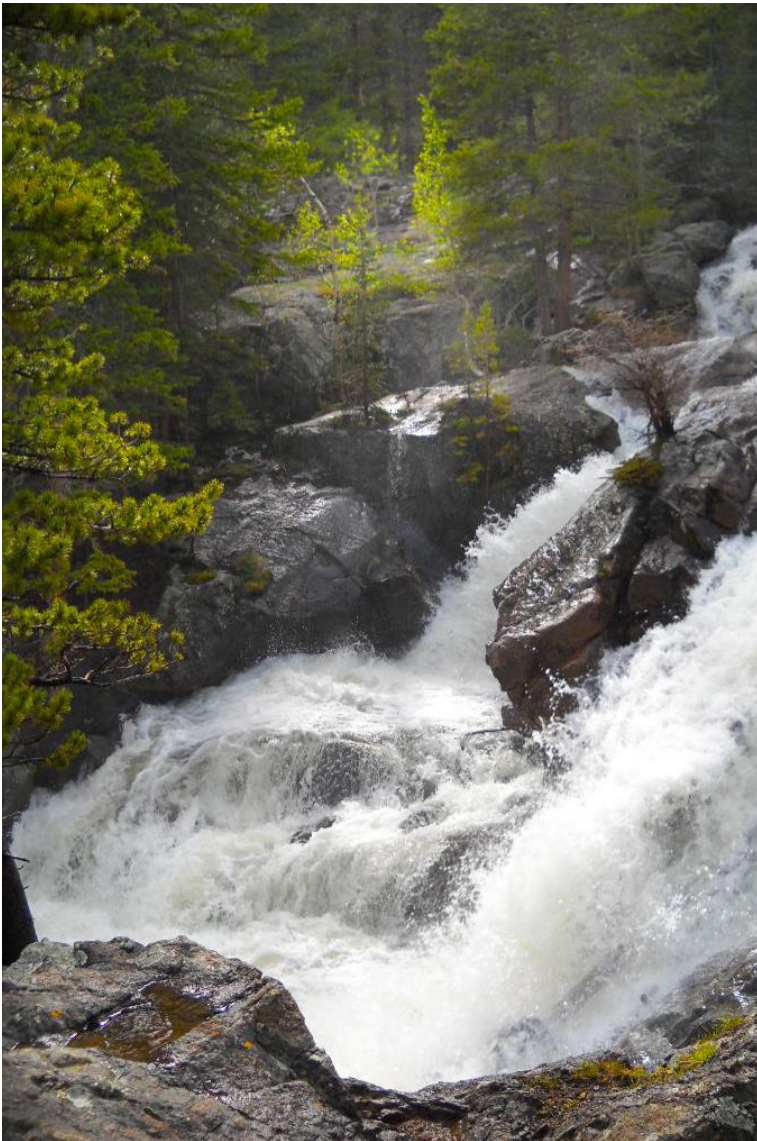
Special Interest Articles:

- Water Augmentation Explained
- Meter Certifiers Needed!
- Welcome Transferees
- WSP Operations Manual
- Wild Horse Reservoir
- 2025 IMWSP Fees
- Science – Cloud Seeding
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Augmentation Plans

Augmentation plans are court approved plans allowing you to take water from your well in exchange for providing a percentage of that water to a river or stream at another point (from a holding pond or reservoir) that satisfies senior water rights.

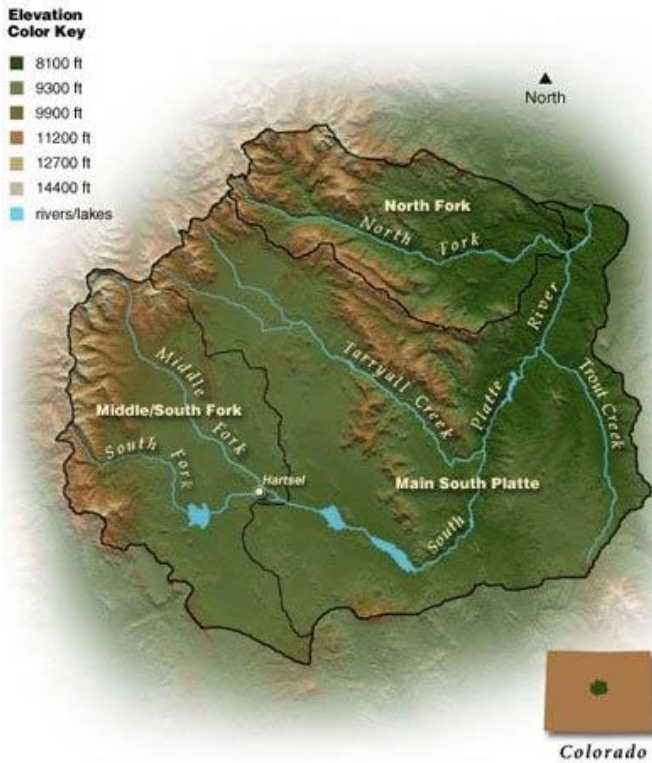
Augmentation plans allow for the use of water without causing injury to other downstream water users.



Waterfall with ray of sunshine – Jackie Middelhoek

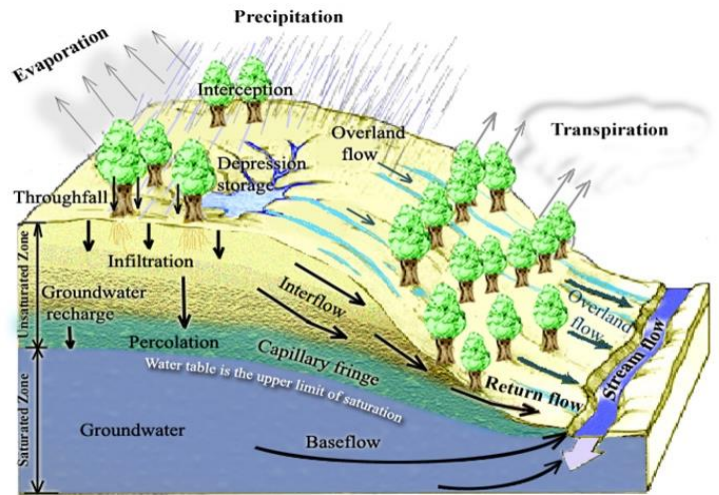
Water Augmentation Explained

When the developer of Indian Mountain wanted to plan a subdivision in Colorado where a shortage of water during part or all of the year is a common occurrence, our well permits could only be obtained with an augmentation plan. The developer was considered a new water user. In other words, his water rights were "junior" to certain other water rights which were "senior" downstream the South Platte River.

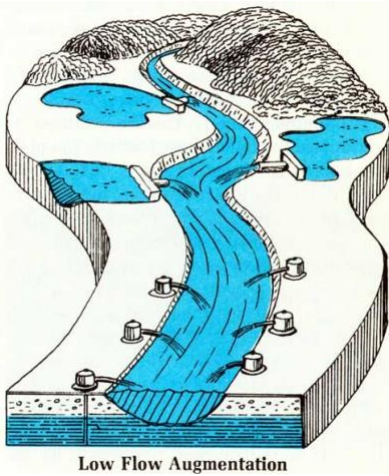


What do our wells have to do with the South Platte River? Well, as you can see from the picture to the left, all our streams flow into the South Platte River.

This means that our ground water is also intimately connected to the South Platte River. How? Look at the picture below:



For us, that means that in order to be able to draw and use water out of the ground by way of our wells, 10% of that water has to be put back into the South Platte River. The rest (90%) flows back by way of our leach fields. HASP (Headwater Authority of the South Platte) puts back the 10% for the IMWSP. They require us to measure the water that we take out of the ground by way of Certified Water Meters because they need to know how much we used in order for them to be able to put the right amount back into the South Platte. HASP has different ways by which they can put back the water.



Most of our wells in Indian Mountain are for household use only, which means that we are only supposed to use the well water for ordinary household purposes and that we are not allowed to use the water outside or for livestock watering. Domestic or Livestock wells can only be obtained on parcels over 35 acres.

Water and water rights are a very big deal in Colorado and the rest of the Western US, because water is becoming scarcer every year, and more and more people want to use it. Whether it is for livestock, agriculture, gardening, cleaning, flushing toilets, or drinking, people all need water and a lot of it. Unfortunately, water is not an unlimited resource.

We foresee that in the future, the Colorado Division of Water Resources will require all augmented wells to be metered and reported.

Certified Meter Testers Needed!

We are still looking for Water Meter Testers. Out of all the meter testers in the state, there is only one who will come to Indian Mountain for less than \$1,200 a meter.

Luckily, our one available water meter tester is only charging \$310 a meter right now. If something happens to him, there are no reasonable alternatives.

There are currently 451 properties in the IMWSP. When meters break, replacements must be certified. Additionally, when a new group joins the WSP in the future, there will be dozens of meters to certify.

On top of that, all meters in the WSP will need to be recertified on their tenth year in service, so starting in 2027.

Your investment of time getting trained, certifying Indian Mountain meters, and eventually expanding to other neighborhood certifications could be a great new local career!

We need Certified Meter Testers that live in the area!

To become a State Certified Meter Tester, please look at this page:

[Flow Measurement - Division of Water Resources](#)

and refer to the links at the bottom left corner and at the bottom. We are in Division 1 – South Platte.

Please let us know if you are interested.

WSP: Welcome Transferees

Please welcome this year's many new transferees into the IMWSP program.

They purchased a property from an IMWSP member and have taken over as members in good standing by transferring the property into their name.

As you may recall, there is no transfer fee, they simply completed our transfer form.

They now follow the directions in the Operations Manual to include timely monthly meter reporting and paying the annual fee. Easy!

If you sell your IMWSP property, remember to have your realtor provide the buyers with the IMWSP Transfer Form found under the "Water" tab on the Indian Mountain website at: <https://indianmountain.info>

This is just another way in which the IMWSP protects the legacy of having your augmentation water taken care of in perpetuity.

IMWSP continues to be 451 members strong.

WSP OPERATIONS MANUAL

Many thanks to everyone who reports their monthly meter reading and pays the annual administrative fee on time.

We have rules in place due to HASP (Headwater Authority of the South Platte) and State of Colorado Division of Water Resources requirements. We did not make these rules, but we must enforce them to prevent jeopardizing our program.

As a group, we have come a long way. In the beginning there were over 50 members who did not report meter readings every month. Now we average around 5 per month. We have only had to expel one property owner from the IMWSP for not reporting on time, not paying fines, and not paying the annual fee on time.

Since the IMWSP is a non-profit program, meaning that all costs get divided evenly between the participants, fines are unfortunately necessary to make the violators reimburse the added administrative costs for the extra work they cause, so that everyone else does not have to pay for their indiscretions.

Some minor changes and updates occur every year.

Please review the WSP Operations Manual on our website under the WATER tab at: <https://indianmountain.info>.

DEVELOPING - Wild Horse Reservoir

– Sourced from:

<https://wildhorsesreservoir.org>

The city of Aurora, Colorado, at the time of this writing, has purchased a total of 221 properties in Park County, with more properties each month.

Although Aurora owns some properties in the flats west of Indian Mountain, their new acquisitions are primarily for the development of Wild Horse Reservoir.

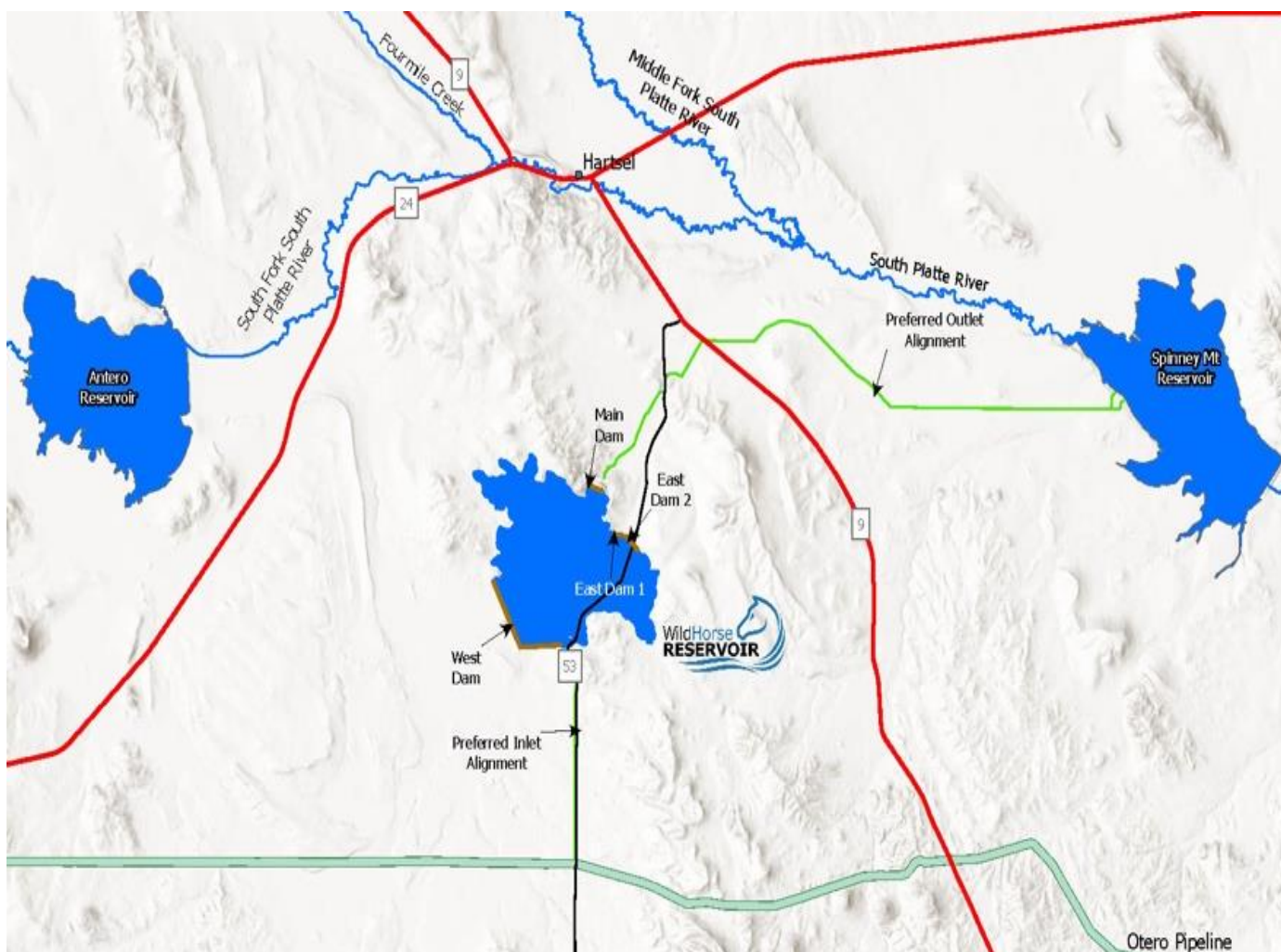
Wild Horse will be located south of Hwy 24 and west of Hwy 9. It will be a few miles west of Spinney Reservoir.

Aurora's plan is to partner with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to run recreational opportunities just like they currently do at Spinney Reservoir.

Watch this informative short video about the project:
<https://youtu.be/HGFHdNvN3Jc>

FAST FACTS

- *Would store up to 93,000 acre-feet of water*
- *150-foot deep reservoir, 12 miles of shoreline*
- *Off-channel reservoir, no direct impacts to the South Platte River or its tributaries*
- *No new water rights or decrees needed for the project*
- *Working with Park County to minimize impacts and maximize county benefits*
- *Federal permitting led by Bureau of Land Management*





Soon to be filled with water

“The Indian Mountain Metropolitan District is responsible for the operation of the IMWSP in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement between IMMD and HASP and HASP regulations.”

- *IMWSP Operations Manual*

2025 - IMWSP Administrative Fee

The IMMD Board of Directors has approved the IMWSP annual administrative fee for 2025 to be \$75.

The \$75 annual IMWSP administrative fee for 2025 is the same as it was for 2024, 2023 and 2022 (reduced from \$80 in 2021 and \$100 in 2020).

We will email you an invoice the first week in January and you will have 30 days to submit payment. Only checks please with remittance to:

IMWSP, PO Box 25, Como, CO 80432.

Or you can drop off your cash or check payment at the Community Center’s office or drop box.

We have been working really hard on being able to take credit cards,

however, we might not be able to get it done by January 2025. We will keep you posted.

Please let us know how we can help you!

If you run into a bind with something to do with the WSP, please let us know how we can help.

We will do our best to accommodate monthly reporting in family emergencies or set up a payment plan with you for the annual fee.

We wish everyone in the program to know that we are part of this wonderful community and are WSP members ourselves.

Communication is the key!

You do not need to have a well to become a member of the IMWSP. Vacant land is welcome! We have several vacant lots in the program. Join now and you’ll have your augmentation ready to go when you drill a well.

For details on how to make this happen, see page 9.

SCIENCE - Cloud Seeding

Sourced from:

<https://coyotegulch.blog>

Much of the country depends on water from Colorado. There are 8 major river headwaters that leave Colorado and provide water to a little over a third of the continental US. The more snow that falls in the Colorado mountains, the more water will be available. The snow melts slowly and feeds those rivers consistently through early summer. Cloud Seeding supplements the Colorado's snowpack.

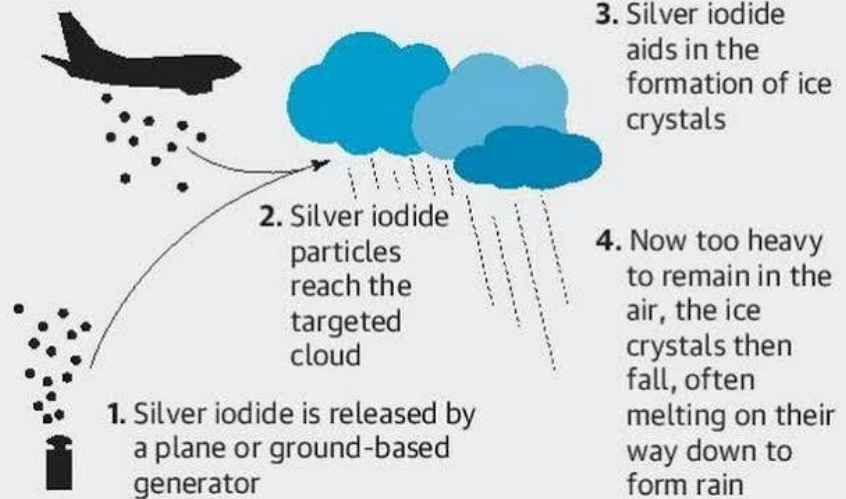
Although cloud seeding the Colorado high country has been around in one form or another since the 1970's, there is a consistent increase in ground stations to optimize snow making in high mountain ranges and ski areas. Seeding increases precipitation by 5-15 percent.

Most cloud seeding uses Silver iodide. Silver iodide is a crystalline, inorganic compound with the chemical formula AgI that has many uses, including cloud seeding, photography, and medicine. Studies find Silver Iodide mostly safe, although it does affect bacteria in the ground and aquatic life negatively.

The seeding is designed to have the snow fall in specific areas. Primarily high mountain ranges and around ski areas. Experts state that the optimal seeding location might be anywhere between 5 to 15 miles away from the target area.



How cloud seeding works



There exists a lot of controversy around cloud seeding, however, the practice is used widely in a lot of countries including the US, China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Russia, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, UK, Australia, and Africa. The practice is used to increase snow and rain, to reduce hail damage, to fight wildfires, to increase water for hydroelectric power plants, and to reduce the amount of fog around airports.



Ground Station

Top Meter Reporting Errors

- Please get your reading in between the 1st and the 6th of every month. If you report after that, your meter reading will not get counted.
- If your reading is reported way too early, your reading will not get counted (before the 25th).
- Please enter the correct month in the field. The correct month is the month prior to the one that we report in. From January 1st through 6th, we report for water use in December.
- Please enter your correct ID#. The ID is **5 characters long**. The first character is the first (capital) letter of your last name. The following four characters are numbers. **Type 0 for Zero. PLEASE do NOT use the letter O for zero.**
- Please do not transpose numbers in your ID number. **You can digitally copy your number from your reminder email and paste it in the field for your ID number.**
- Reminders are sent out every month to everyone on the 28th/29th, and on the 4th and the 6th if you have not reported by then. Please check your junk mail folder if you are not receiving reminders.

Reading your Meter

There are 13 different water meters in Indian Mountain and most members are reporting properly per the instructions.

As a reminder, we need the 7 whole numbers of gallons to be reported. Please do not report any partial gallons or decimal numbers.

The last 2 numbers on **Sensus** meters are decimals. Please do not report them. The correct reading & reporting of the meter to the right is 0207676.

If you are unsure of how to report your meter reading, please contact us, email us a picture, and we will help you.



Thanks to everyone who reports meter readings properly! Great Job!

If you have any questions on how to report your meter reading, please contact us.

Water History - Clean Water Saved the World

Sourced from:

<https://drtenpenny.substack.com>

We are lucky to be able to rely on clean, naturally filtered, well water. Historically, clean water hasn't always been available.

"In 1872, the introduction of water filtration in the US was a significant step towards improving public health. Initially aimed at addressing discoloration and removing bad taste and foul odor, filtration soon proved to be a game-changer. It not only eliminated turbidity, foul color, and nearly 99% of the swarming bacteria, but it also set a new standard for the "quality" of treated water."

Prior to the beginning of the 20th century, there were virtually no sustained clean water sources for cities where large groups of people and animals lived in close proximity.

The 1912 New York City Health Department annual report stated "...the removal of 20,000 dead horses, mules, donkeys and cattle from the streets in addition to nearly half a million smaller animals such as pigs, hogs, calves, and sheep, which amounted to disposal of more than **5 million pounds** of spoiled poultry, fish, pork and beef which eventually ended up in the municipal water supplies."

Jersey City was the first municipality to successfully implement a chlorinated system. "In 1900, waterborne diseases accounted for nearly one-fourth of all reported deaths in major cities. By 1936, with the widespread introduction of clean water technologies to municipal water, overall mortality was reduced from infectious causes by about 43%. In 1941, it was estimated that 85% of U.S. drinking water was chlorinated.

Clean water technologies, sand filtration combined with chlorination, reduced typhoid fever mortality by more than 90% by 1956."

Paper by Cutler and Miller from **Harvard University**, published in 2004:

"Our results also suggest that clean water was responsible for a 74% decline in infant mortality and nearly 62% decline in child mortality. The magnitude of these effects is striking. Clean water also appears to have led to the near eradication of typhoid fever [and other] scourges such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, meningitis, diphtheria, and croup. **Clean water technologies are likely the most important public health intervention of the 20th Century.**"



www.newyorkalmanack.com



<https://www.collectorsweekly.com>



YAY!: New Enrollment Period



The IMWSP has a new enrollment period coming up. Please note that having a well is not necessary for IMWSP membership. Vacant lots without a well can join. To apply for a well permit, an augmentation certificate is required to show membership in an augmentation plan.

- **Enrollment Period:**

- The Indian Mountain Water Augmentation Program (IMWSP) will have an enrollment period for new enrollees from February 1 – March 29, 2025, for IMWSP membership starting on **1/1/2026**.

- **Costs:**

- For this tranche, the water purchase fee will be \$500 per well and the non-refundable application fee will be \$50.
- During the summer/fall of 2025, new enrollees will need to have a water meter installed and certified at a cost of approximately \$800. Anyone can install a totalizing water meter; however, we only have one person currently who will do certifications up here at a reasonable cost.
- In the fall of 2025, new enrollees will have to file a new well permit application at a cost of approximately \$100.
- If enrollees have a decreed well, additional steps with potential costs will have to be taken.

- **Procedures:**

- During the enrollment period, new enrollees will turn in their water purchase fee and application fee together with their application form which can be found under the Water > Forms tabs on <https://indianmountain.info>. This form needs to be signed and notarized. Everything can be dropped off at the Community Center office, the Community Center drop box or mailed to IMWSP, PO Box 25, Como, CO 80432.
- In the summer/fall, IMWSP will organize the install of meters and certifications. New enrollees can install their own meters or wait for IMWSP to organize the installs.
- In the fall, IMWSP will fill out new well permit applications for all new enrollees with wells and forward them to enrollees, so that enrollees can pay and file them with the Colorado Division of Water Resources.
- The IMWSP expects to close on the new water purchase on 1/1/2026 after which the Headwater Authority of the South Platte will send out the Community Augmentation Certificate. In turn the IMWSP will send out individual certificates and water meter reporting instructions including the new enrollees' reporting IDs.
- The IMWSP administrative fee for 2025 has been set at \$75 by the IMMD Board of Directors and will be billed in January of 2025. New enrollees will not pay an administrative fee until 2026.

For more information, please check out the Water tab at <https://indianmountain.info>. Please direct questions to indianmountainmetrodist@gmail.com or call 719-836-9043 Wed – Sat, 9am – 1pm.

Progress: Roberts Tunnel

Sourced from:

https://www.denverwater.org/ta/p/famed-tunnel-under-continental-divide-brings-water-and-juice?size=n_21_n

“The Roberts Tunnel is well known in the Colorado water world for its key purpose: moving water 23 miles under the Continental Divide, from Dillon Reservoir to the North Fork of the South Platte River, so it can flow onward to Denver Water customers.

Few people may know that the Roberts Tunnel is also a major source of electricity for Denver Water. A hydroelectric facility at the tunnel’s exit point on the North Fork near Grant, about an hour southwest of Denver on U.S. Highway 285, has an output of up to 6 megawatts. That’s roughly enough electricity to meet the demands of 4,500 homes at the same time.

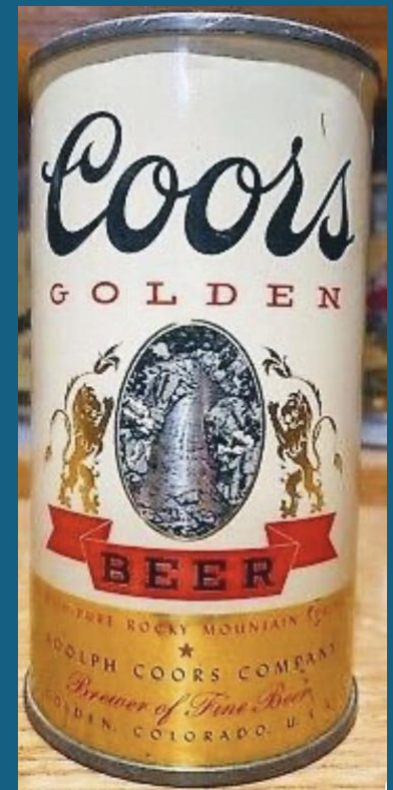
It’s the largest single generating unit in Denver Water’s extensive hydropower network, and it takes advantage of the energy created as the water drops 180 feet in elevation as it moves through the tunnel.”

Construction started in 1946, and completed in 1962, the tunnel took 16 years to build and can deliver more than 480 million gallons of water a day to the Front Range. The tunnel was named after Harold D. Roberts, attorney and special counsel for the Denver Water Board.

Check out this video from the South Park National Heritage Area: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthParkNHA/videos/318824066148462/>

Did you know???

Fish Creek Falls, near Steamboat Springs, CO was the 1937 inspiration for the waterfall on the Coors beer can.



Roberts Tunnel Hwy 285 south of Grant

Don't Forget: WSP Membership is a Valuable Property Asset

If you are Planning on Selling your Property:

*** Notify your Realtor of WSP Membership & the WSP Administrator ***

We have heard of instances when an IM WSP property owner does not inform their realtor or interested home buyers that they belong to the IMWSP and that their water augmentation is assured.

There are also instances when members do not include in their "for sale" property information that they belong to IMWSP, that they have a certified water meter, and that future water augmentation for this property is assured. This is a mistake---you are undervaluing your property.

Remember, by joining the community-managed non-profit IMWSP you have effectively bought water augmentation which "stays with the property" from new owner to new owner (unless you opt-out or do not comply with WSP policies). Given the growing scarcity of water and increasing costs, to be able to say that water augmentation is included as part of your property means a great deal.

Also remember that you have been provided an IMWSP Water Augmentation Certificate. This is a valuable document and copies should

be given to your realtor and interested home buyers. Be sure to also inform them that you have a certified water meter-----your water meter is an investment and a value-added amenity to your home. We recently were told by a HASP water lawyer that "it is likely that the District Engineer (Colorado Division of Water Resources) will require metering for all augmented wells in the future." So, the WSP/HASP requirement for a water meter and monthly reporting is ahead of its time. Be sure to tell an interested property owner that your property already has a certified water meter.

- Article by Glenn Haas

Contact: IMWSP

Jackie Middelhoek and Patrick Smith
IMWSP Administrators

PO Box 25
Como, CO 80432

E-MAIL:
IndianMountainMetroDist@gmail.com

PHONE:
(719) 836-9043

IMWSP: See us under the WATER tab at:

<http://www.indianmountain.info>

HASP: www.haspwater.com

COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES:

- Well Permit Search: [Well Permits](#)
- Water Rights (Decreets) Search: [Water Rights](#)
- Change of Owner/Address: [Guide to Change Owner Name and Change Owner Name eForm](#)
- To File a Well Permit Application: scroll down to Form GWS-44: [GWS-44 Well Permit App](#) and check out [Well Permitting and Beginner's Guide to Well Permits](#)