

tem pipeline to a CSU surface water treatment plant and piping of this now-treated potable surface water to the CSU-Donala interconnect at Northgate Road for direct drinking water distribution by the Donala delivery pipe system. CSU currently provides yearly temporary agreements to Donala for temporary out-of-district service rates that are 50 percent higher than for those entities within the CSU service area.

Operations running smoothly

The fully-rehabilitated R. Hull Water Treatment Plant, which treats groundwater, and the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) are operating normally. The third of three influent

screens for the wastewater facility will be replaced this year. These screens are large and heavy and replacement is challenging, requiring six months of lead time.

A small pilot plant will be constructed for determining if a proposed wastewater facility treatment method for removing arsenic will be optimal. The three districts that own UMCRRWWTF—Donala, Triview Metropolitan District, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District—must upgrade its treatment capability to add specific arsenic removal capacity. The arsenic treatment upgrades, if the pilot plant is successful, are estimated to cost \$2.2 million. Donala's share of this

cost would be \$836,000.

The meeting went into executive session for personnel matters at 2:34 p.m. No votes were taken and no announcements were made after the board came out of executive session and then adjourned immediately.

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donala-water.org. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month.

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El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Dec. 28, Jan. 16 and 23.

Jackson Ranch development moves forward; more discussion of the I-25 gap project

By Helen Walklett

At the El Paso Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) Jan. 23 meeting, the commissioners approved final plat applications for Jackson Ranch Filings 3 and 4. At the Dec. 28 meeting, the commissioners ratified the submittal of the federal infrastructure grant application to assist with funding for the third-lane expansion of I-25 from Monument to Castle Rock. The commissioners also made decisions relating to the Monument Hill Road Safety Improvements Project, the Forest Lakes development, the Highway 105 Improvement Project and Black Forest Regional Park.



Above: Location of the Jackson Ranch development. Map courtesy of El Paso County Development Services.

Jackson Ranch development

At its Jan. 23 meeting, the BOCC unanimously approved two requests by Four Gates Land Development LLC for approval of final plats for Jackson Ranch Filings 3 and 4. The development is zoned RR 2.5 (Residential Rural) and is located east of Roller Coaster Road, north of Higby Road, and west of Sahara Road.

The final plat for Jackson Ranch Filing 3 is 26.21 acres and will create nine single-family lots, a single tract to be used for open space and drainage, and rights-of-way. Jackson Ranch Filing 4 is a 31.18-acre area and the final plat will create eight single-family lots, two tracts for open space and drainage and rights-of-way.

Water was found to be sufficient in both cases, and the applications were approved with 11 conditions and two notations. The El Paso County Planning Commission had recommended the applications for approval at its meeting on Jan. 2.

Progress has also been made with Jackson Ranch Filing 1. At the Dec. 28 BOCC meeting, the commis-

sioners approved the final release of the letter of credit for public improvements at the subdivision for \$8,600 following the completion and inspection of all the improvements. On Jan. 23, the commissioners approved an application to accept certain streets within the subdivision into the county road maintenance system.

I-25 federal infrastructure grant

The commissioners ratified the submittal of the federal infrastructure grant application relating to the I-25 expansion project at their Dec. 28 meeting. The Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for \$65 million was submitted on Nov. 2, 2017 by the county, which is acting as the regional applicant. The commissioners again stated their support for the project and opposition to any tolling of a third lane.

Commissioner Stan VanderWerf said, "We know that this decision about whether that third lane is tolled or not ... is not made yet but I want to make sure that CDOT [the Colorado Department of Transportation] identifies early and publicly ... when the points are where the public can interact with CDOT with regard to the different choices."

Commissioner Darryl Glenn urged the public to make their views on the project known to CDOT. He said, "I think it's also incumbent upon this board to initiate the meeting. I intend to hold several in my commissioner district. I think it's also important to make sure our state transportation commissioner is there."

At their Jan. 16 meeting, the commissioners recognized a resolution by the county Highway Advisory Commission designating the I-25 gap project as the highest-priority project for the Pikes Peak region.

Since the Dec. 28 BOCC meeting, CDOT has announced that it will hold a series of outreach meetings through late February to give the public several options to learn the latest information, ask questions, and provide comments. Two meetings are scheduled for the Monument area in February:

- Thursday, Feb. 8 at Monument Library, 1706 Woodmoor Drive, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 13 at Natural Grocers, 1216 W. Baptist Road, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Jennifer Irvine, county engineer, told the commissioners that CDOT expects to conclude its assessment of the options for the project later this spring.

Monument Hill Road Safety Improvements Project

At its Dec. 28 and Jan. 16 meetings, the BOCC approved four further requests relating to the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority's (PPRTA) Monument Hill Road Safety Improvements Project, which ex-

pects to start construction this summer.

The BOCC approved four easements that the county Department of Public Works had identified as necessary to allow construction to be carried out. The first is a non-exclusive permanent easement from property owned by 1880 Properties LLC at Woodmoor Business/ Technological Park for the sum of \$24,000. The other three relate to property owned by Greater Europe Mission. One temporary construction easement is being obtained for \$2,300. A further temporary construction easement and a non-exclusive permanent easement are being obtained for \$6,750. All three are situated along Monument Hill Road.

Park Lands Agreement for the Forest Lakes Development

At its Jan. 16 meeting, the BOCC approved a Park Lands Agreement between the county, Forest Lakes Residential Development LLC, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD). The owners of the development requested the agreement to address the refund of paid urban park fees in exchange for constructing urban park improvements. The fees of \$11,565 were paid at the time of the recording of the final plat for Forest Lakes Filing 2B in 2017 and are being refunded by county because the owner is completing park improvements of an equal or greater value. The agreement stipulates that the trail and park amenities be accessible to the public. The county Park Advisory Board unanimously endorsed the agreement at its meeting on Dec. 13.

The improvements, known as Waterfront Park, include a section of regional trail, trailhead parking for the park and trail, a gazebo, a small amphitheatre, a low-profile playground, a turf area, seating, and signage.

Other decisions

- Jan. 16 - approval of the award of a construction contract to Singletrack Trails Inc. for construction of new soft surface trails and trail drainage structures within Black Forest Regional Park that were damaged in the 2013 Black Forest fire. The contract stipulates a not-to-exceed cost of \$85,360.
- Jan. 23 - approval of a contract amendment to the intergovernmental agreement between the county and CDOT for the Highway 105 Improvement Project. The amendment modifies the agreement to incorporate new requirements and procedures required by the Federal Highway Association. The initial phase of the project extends from Woodmoor Drive to Lake Woodmoor Drive.

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Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations Inc., Jan. 13

Leaders propose new Regional Transportation Authority

By Jennifer Kaylor

El Paso County Engineer Jennifer Irvine provided transportation updates on 2018 planned projects, and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) Program/Contracts Manager Rick Sonnenburg educated the membership about the history, governance, and scope of PPRTA at the Jan. 13 meeting of the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations Inc. (NEPCO). The presentations served as a precursor to announcing NEPCO's intention to—possibly—create a Tri-Lakes Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Engineer reviews 2018 capital projects

Irvine reported that PPRTA dedicated \$18 million and the federal government supplemented another \$4 million to expand State Route (SR) 105—from Interstate 25 to SR 83—to four lanes and add passing, intersection, shoulder, and sidewalk improvements. Phase one of construction, from Woodmoor Drive to Lake Woodmoor Drive, is expected to begin late in 2018.

Monument Hill Road will consume about \$4 million of PPRTA funds to upgrade shoulders, surface pavement, and intersections, and add a sidewalk. The

county hopes to capitalize on less congestion during summer months when there is less school traffic.

A third PPRTA-funded project is Beacon Lite Road. Another \$4 million will transform Beacon Lite from gravel to pavement and improve shoulders and intersections. Irvine added that a joint El Paso County-Douglas County effort will make improvements on County Line Road, as well.

Irvine addressed the Struthers-Gleneagle roundabout and acknowledged that some people "just don't like roundabouts." She described the Struthers-Gleneagle roundabout as having a "through" lane for