

Colorado Open Records Act requests.

The board also debated Resolution 06152022-2, which defines how the board will review financial reports. The resolution specifies that if a board member has a question about a report or an invoice, that question should go first to the district manager and may then be discussed at the next board meeting. These processes have been discussed in previous meetings, with Director Laura Kronick often arguing that the board should be more diligent in reviewing financial reports and invoices.

Kronick expressed concern that the resolution

would increase the workload of Cheran Allsup, the district's accounts administrator. The board decided to continue its current process of filing invoices as they are paid and then pull them for discussion as needed.

After some discussion, the board voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

Kronick said she had recently taken on the presidency of the Joint Use Committee, which manages the wastewater treatment plant used by Palmer Lake, Monument and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. As a result, she wished to resign as treasurer of the MSD board. Director John Howe agreed to take on the duties

of treasurer in her place.

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Monument Sanitation District meetings are normally held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the district conference room at 130 Second St., Monument. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 9 a.m. See <https://colorado.gov/msd>. For a district service map, see <https://colorado.gov/pacific/msd/district-map-0>. Information: 719-481-4886.

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### Donala Water and Sanitation District, June 16

## District bows out of Northern Monument Creek Interceptor project

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

On June 16, the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board voted against proceeding with the Northern Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) project. It also voted in favor of including a property in Chaparral Hills in the district's service area. General Manager Jeff Hodge covered treatment plant updates and wells in his manager's report. The board celebrated the contribution to the district made by Tanja Smith, the retiring DWSD office manager. Finally, the board briefly discussed the ongoing drought in the western United States and commented on DWSD's water supply.

### NMCI not in best interest of DWSD customers

The NMCI project proposed by Colorado Springs Utilities aims to convey wastewater produced by districts in the northern part of the county to a treatment plant in Colorado Springs, benefitting those districts by eliminating their need to treat the wastewater themselves. The board put an end to its consideration of the project by voting unanimously in favor of Resolution 2022-2, which says the project does not address DWSD's desire to recapture and re-use its wastewater.

Hodge said DWSD had done two analyses of the potential economic benefits of NMCI, and both determined there was no financial benefit to the district. Hodge added an analysis of NMCI done by Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Manager Jessie Shaffer showed that NMCI would need to cut its cost of participation by half for the project to make economic sense to districts in northern El Paso County.

Board President Ed Houle concurred with Hodge's

assessment and said NMCI failed to address the question of re-use, which he saw as more important than cost.

### Inclusion to service area approved

The board considered a petition from Bill and Vickie Hancock to include their property at 15220 Leather Chaps Drive in the Chaparral Hills neighborhood in DWSD's service area. Inclusion would mean DWSD will provide water and sewer service to the property. The Hancocks agreed to pay the costs required to connect to the DWSD infrastructure.

The board voted unanimously to grant the petition.

### Manager's report covers treatment plant and wells

Hodge told the board that the work underway at the Holbein Treatment Plant would be complete by July 1. Hodge said he believed the newly replaced filter media and other upgrades at the plant would result in a reduction of radium in the water the plant treats. He said the amount of radium removed from the groundwater at the plant could double to between four and five picocuries per liter.

The district's newest well, 16A, has been drilled, Hodge said, and well screens have been installed and the sound walls are coming down. Brett Gracely of LRE Water, the company managing the well drilling, said he expected the well to produce at close to 600 gallons per minute, based on what other similar wells are producing.

Hodge mentioned that Wells 2A and 2D were both back in production after maintenance, allowing Well 1A to be taken out of production to have a more efficient variable flow pump installed.

### Tanja Smith retires

The board thanked longtime Office Manager Smith for her years of service and dedication to DWSD and its customers. Smith is retiring to Florida. Houle compared Smith's role in the district to that of non-commissioned officers in the Air Force, who have an impact far beyond their rank. Director Wayne Vanderscheure reflected on the 10 years he had worked with Smith and wished her the best in Florida.

### Drought in Western states a concern

The board meeting ended with a brief discussion of the severe drought in the western United States. Hodge mentioned that Las Vegas recently banned watering lawns. Houle added that Los Angeles had instituted a daily cap on water usage. Hodge said the water level in Lake Mead was at an historic low and pointed out that Los Angeles had instituted water restrictions.

Nonetheless, Hodge said that DWSD has an adequate supply of water, pointing to a portfolio of water sources that includes groundwater from wells and surface water from Willow Creek Ranch and from the Laughlin Ditch.

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The next meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 9 a.m. Generally, board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. and include online access; call (719) 488-3603 or access [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org) to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs.

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### El Paso Board of County Commissioners, June 7 and 14

## Ongoing code violation brought to commissioners' attention

By Helen Walklett

During June, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) heard details of an ongoing code enforcement violation and approved a minor subdivision off Hodgen Road.

### Code violation at Highway 83 property

Jill Fowler spoke during the public comments part of the June 7 BOCC meeting to bring awareness to a code enforcement issue on a property neighboring hers that is yet to be resolved after more than three years. Her concerns relate to the RV storage business that Steve Real Jr. has been operating on his property at 18220 Highway 83.

Fowler said, "The business is in violation of numerous sections within the El Paso County land development code not only for the fact that he's operating the business without a special use permit but also because the RV storage does not meet setback or screening requirements. Real currently has about 25 or 30 RVs, trailers, and a semi-truck trailer parked and stored right up to my east property fence line."

She added that while county was only made aware of the issue in October 2018, the business has been operating without approval and in violation of the code for 12 to 15 years.

Fowler explained that although Real began the process to obtain a special use permit in early 2019, there had been significant gaps in time between revised submissions, all of which required review by the planner.

She said, "Frustrating most of all is that Code Enforcement has threatened to send this matter to the county attorney's office on at least three to five occasions. Inevitably, responses are received at the 11th hour, and that starts the clock ticking all over again because there's always something that has not been addressed." Describing Code Enforcement's hands as tied, she told the commissioners, "All I'm asking for is a more timely resolution to this matter with appropriate action taken and ultimately enforcement."

Chair Stan VanderWerf thanked Fowler for her testimony and asked staff to make sure that the matter was followed up.

### Minor subdivision north of Hodgen Road approved

At the June 7 BOCC land use meeting, the commissioners approved unanimously a request by Brian Warner to allow a minor subdivision to create four single-family lots on a 40-acre property along the north side of Goshawk Road to the north of Hodgen Road. The property is zoned RR-5 (residential rural).

Lots 1 and 2 will be 5 acres, Lot 3 will be 20 acres and will contain the existing home and well, and Lot 4 will be 10 acres.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend the application for approval at its May 19 meeting. It was heard as a consent item at the BOCC meeting, meaning there was no discussion.

### CDOT Listening Session, June 29

## Roundabout project being designed

CDOT planned to hold a listening session on June 29, just after OCN went to press. This is the press release sent out by CDOT on June 24:

The southeastern region of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has identified a need to evaluate traffic operations and design of a roundabout at the intersection of Colorado 83 and County Line/Palmer Divide Avenue located at the boundary of Douglas and El Paso Counties

CDOT will host a listening session to discuss the intersection and planned roundabout on June 29 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the commons area at Monument Academy Middle School (East Campus), 4303 Pinehurst Circle, Colorado Springs.

The project is in the design phase. Funding for construction of the project has not been identified. There will be an additional public meeting in the fall when the project design reaches 30 percent.

For additional information about this roundabout project, see:

- Project hotline: 719-823-2177.
- Project email: [CO83PalmerDivideRoundabout@gmail.com](mailto:CO83PalmerDivideRoundabout@gmail.com)
- Project web page: [codot.gov/projects/co83-palmer-divide-roundabout](http://codot.gov/projects/co83-palmer-divide-roundabout)