



# THE Pipeline

YOUR CURRENT WATER INFO SOURCE

## Summer 2017

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### ACWWA's Water Supply

As we've all seen, the weather in Colorado is unpredictable. Temperatures were in the 80's and dry in February; then in the 30's and snowing in mid-May. This can cause impacts on ACWWA's water supply and water demands so ACWWA continually monitors daily and monthly water usage vs supplies. ACWWA continues to develop several important projects to help ensure long term water supply to its customers. Here is a short update on one of them.

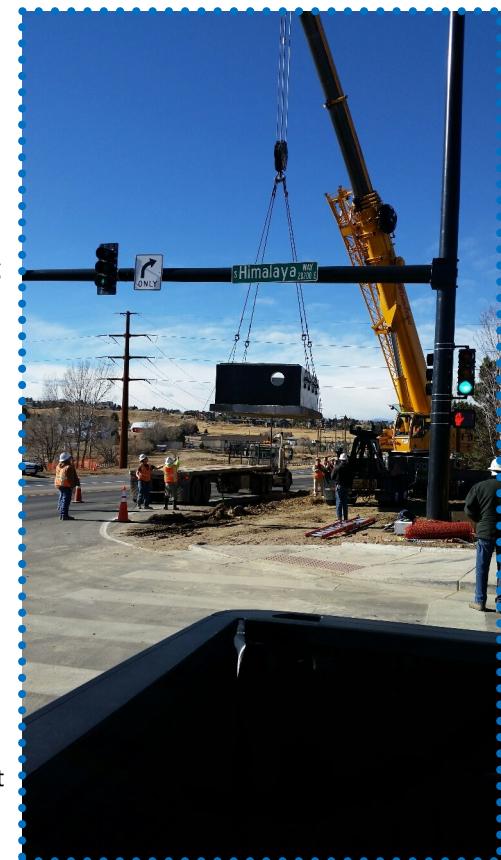
#### A New Connection:

ACWWA has just recently completed a new water connection at Arapahoe Road and Himalaya Way (The included picture is of a vault being installed to allow for monitoring and management of the water flow). This is a second connection to bring ACWWA Flow renewable water to ACWWA's customers (More information on the ACWWA Flow Project is at [www.acwwa.com](http://www.acwwa.com)). Completion of this connection is Phase One of three that will eventually bring all ACWWA Flow's water supply to ACWWA.

What occurred in Flint, Michigan when a new water source was introduced to their system is a cautionary example to all water providers. When ACWWA prepared to introduce our new water supply/new location into ACWWA's system, we conducted extensive tests and sampling on the supply to ensure compatibility. We also conducted computer modeling of several water constituents and started slowly ramping up the use of the connection to mitigate any impacts of the introduction of a new water supply. This connection has been flowing water for about 3 weeks with no issues, but we continue to monitor it.

#### Water/Irrigation Schedules:

ACWWA is currently in Stage 1 of its Water Conservation Response Plan which encourages customers to use water wisely and water outdoors only 3 times a week. ACWWA will implement other restrictions on outdoor water use, if conditions require, to protect the ability to supply water to ACWWA customers throughout the irrigation season. ACWWA has a Water Conservation Response Plan that can be viewed on our website at [www.acwwa.com](http://www.acwwa.com). Click on the Water Efficiency tab. The document can be found at the bottom of the page. As stated above, ACWWA will closely monitor its system and climactic conditions to determine if additional steps are necessary. Water conservations tips can also be found on the Water Efficiency tab on ACWWA's website as well.



# Inspecting ACWWA's Potable Water Storage Tanks



**ACWWA** has a number of potable water storage tanks that have been added to our finished water delivery system over the years.

Finished water storage facilities are an important component of the protective distribution system “barrier” that prevents contamination of water as it travels to the customer. Historically, finished water storage facilities have been designed to equalize water demands, reduce pressure fluctuations in the distribution system, and provide reserves for fire fighting, power outages and other emergencies. Many storage facilities have been operated to provide adequate pressure and have been kept full to be better prepared for emergency conditions.

The requirements for maintaining these finished water storage tanks are dictated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) through their implementation of the **STORAGE TANK RULE**. This is a regulation that details the requirements for protecting the water supply held within the storage tanks that ACWWA has. One of the many requirements is the obligation to inspect the tanks, both the exterior and the interior of the tanks.

The routine exterior tank inspection is a relatively easy task that is part of the normal work of ACWWA's operations staff. This is accomplished by visually inspecting the exterior surfaces by walking around the tank and climbing on top of the 25-foot-tall tanks. These routine and periodic exterior inspections are required at least 4 times per year.

The comprehensive interior inspection is a little trickier to accomplish. Comprehensive inspection can be performed by draining the water from the storage tank or by inspecting the tank when it is full of water using specialty companies to inspect the inside while full. ACWWA retains skilled companies whose focus is to perform an inspection of the interior of storage tanks. This comprehensive inspection requires entrance into the tank when there is water held within the tank. ACWWA performs this internal inspection every two years. The companies that ACWWA hires perform multiple tasks, both inspecting and cleaning out the settled material from the bottom of the tank. The trained divers are connected with air supply for underwater breathing, and with video inspection equipment to allow communication and recording of the conditions encountered during their couple of hours of immersion within the tanks. The recording of the conditions is part of the documented report given to ACWWA for further action if needed, and for our required recordkeeping per CDPHE.

Determination of any needed repairs or improvements is the outcome of the multiple inspections ACWWA performs during the course of the normal year.



Every ACWWA account is created with an account number and password for online access. To login and view your account or to pay your bill, you will need to use your account number and password.

Your account number can be found on your water bill.

If you have never logged in or do not know your password please contact us (303) 790-4830.

Here are just a few of the many variety of native plants that will work well in your garden:



Torch Lilly



Blue Avena Grass



Apache Plume



Prairie Coneflower

## Save Water & Enjoy a Beautiful Yard with These Landscape Tips

**Colorado is a dry state, averaging only 15 inches of precipitation a year. By utilizing low water plants that grow naturally in this climate, watering your landscape efficiently and implementing sustainable gardening practices, you can reduce your water use and maintain a stunning yard that complements Colorado's natural beauty.**

**All plants will benefit from the use of compost. In our predominantly clay and sandy soils, compost tilled to a depth of 4-6" loosens the soil and changes its texture to allow water to be better stored and released. For most plants, that equates to 1-2" of compost over the area to be tilled. Native plant material needs minimal compost to establish an area.**

**For efficient irrigation of lawns, use gear-driven rotors or rotary/high-efficiency spray nozzles that have larger droplets and low angles to avoid wind drift. Spray drip line or bubbler emitters are most efficient for watering trees, shrubs, flowers and ground covers in designated beds. If you water by hand, avoid oscillating sprinklers and other sprinklers that throw water high in the air to release a fine mist. Use sprinklers that release big drops, close to the ground. And, allow the soil time to soak up the water, by using multiple start times. Never water between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to reduce water lost to evaporation.**

**Mulch helps to keep plant roots cool, prevents soil from crusting, minimizes evaporation and reduces weed growth. Organic mulches, such as bark chips, should be applied at least 4" deep.**

**Inorganic mulches, such as rocks and gravel, should be applied at least 2" deep.**

# Responsibility Guidelines

ACWWA has responsibility for the water/irrigation lines up to the curb stop. The customer has responsibility from the discharge side of the curb stop, up to and including inside their unit. Although the meter is on the side of the Owner's Responsibility, any tampering or damage to the meter will result in a \$1000 fine.

When a customer suspects that they are losing water due to a leak, it is the responsibility of the customer to have the line checked, and if a leak is found, to have it repaired. The fact that water is metered and charged to the customer signifies that it is passing through the meter to the customer's line and is the customer's responsibility.

ACWWA staff does not repair leaks on the customer's line or make any repairs inside the customer's home/business. If ACWWA staff is contacted to make a service call to check for leaks or other services outside ACWWA's responsibility, a minimum \$50 charge will apply and be billed on the next billing cycle. If ACWWA staff detects a leak or other issue they will advise the customer to contact their plumber or landscaper to make the repair. ACWWA staff does not perform customer repairs.

The water pressure for the entire main water pipes that ACWWA owns will range from 60 to 150 psi depending on the location of the main pipe. ACWWA recommends that all customers should have a pressure reducing valve (PRV) located inline of the pipe going into the home or business. The valve is created to reduce pressure. Any adjustment on the pressure reducing valve should be done by a plumber or the home owner. This is the standard for most water systems.

