

# The AVC Quarterly

Your Official Source for News on the Arkansas Valley Conduit



Edition II

January 2021



Learn more on our website:  
[www.usbr.gov/gp/ecao/avc/](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/ecao/avc/)

Ceremonial AVC groundbreaking at Pueblo Dam in October 2020. From left: Commissioner Brenda Burman, Secretary of the Interior David Bernhart, Senator Cory Gardner, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District President Bill Long, Colorado Water Conservation Board Executive Director Becky Mitchell, and Senator Michael Bennett.

## Breaking Ground

A ceremonial AVC groundbreaking event was held at Pueblo Dam on October 3, 2020. While we are still over a year away from putting pipe in the ground, this historic event marked a real step forward towards making this project a reality.

The Bureau of Reclamation has appropriated a total of \$36 million in 2020 and 2021 towards design and construction of the AVC – which more than doubles the total federal investment in this project since its authorization in 1962. Additionally, the State of Colorado has shown a significant commitment to completion of the AVC with the issuance of a \$100 million loan/grant package to Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The District will use these funds to design and construct the “spur and delivery lines” of the AVC.

**“The Arkansas Valley Conduit will provide a reliable long-term water supply to rural communities who now depend on groundwater that contains naturally occurring toxins. Reclamation is proud to provide a source of safe and clean water to promote health, welfare, and economic opportunity for these Americans.”**

**—Commissioner Brenda Burman.**

Final design work for the first construction contract is currently underway and expected to be completed in mid-2021. This first contract will put over 10 miles of 30-inch pipe in the ground. Reclamation expects this first construction contract to be awarded in 2022.



— BUREAU OF —  
**RECLAMATION**



Southeastern  
Colorado Water  
Conservancy District

# Federal Land Acquisitions

Constructing the AVC will require the Bureau of Reclamation to complete numerous land acquisitions along the project alignment. One of the established goals for federal land acquisitions is that “owners of real property to be acquired are treated fairly, consistently, and equitably”.

## “Owners of real property to be acquired are treated fairly, consistently, and equitably”

There are many laws and regulations guiding federal acquisitions to ensure proper due diligence prior to acquiring a property (or an easement). The process to acquire a property is quite lengthy and may be confusing to those unfamiliar with real estate transactions. It is the objective of the AVC Project Management Team to ensure the process is as transparent as possible to all involved.

The goal of this article is to provide some general understanding about the federal acquisition process and what a landowner might expect if you are contacted. We also encourage any landowners with concerns or questions about this process to reach out to Reclamation’s Project Manager at [sbraverman@usbr.gov](mailto:sbraverman@usbr.gov).

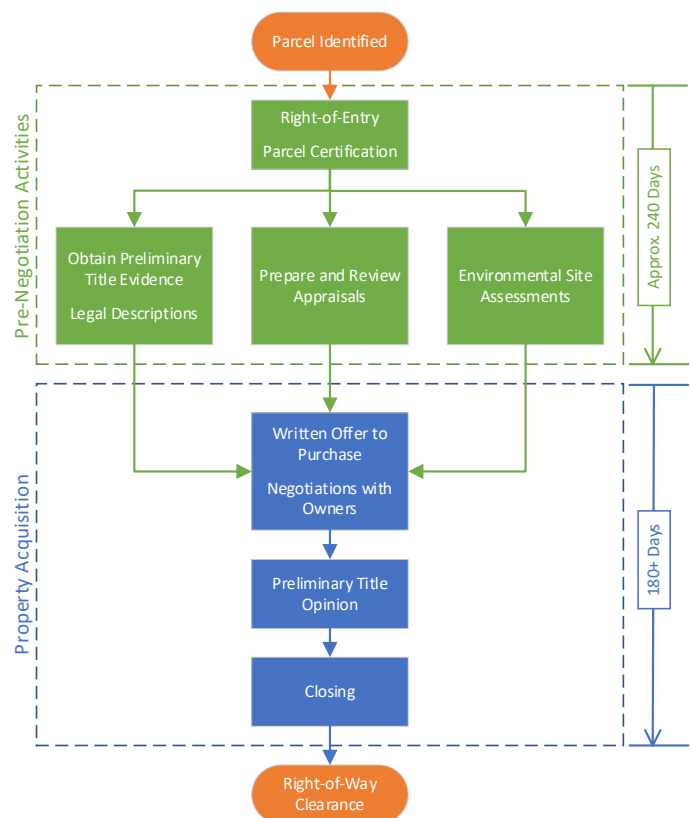
## Anticipated Land Acquisitions

Wherever possible, the Project Team is trying to minimize private land acquisitions by locating the pipeline within existing public rights-of-way (such as those owned by the Colorado Department of Transportation). In areas where public ROWs are not available, the Project will generally be looking to acquire easement interests (not full ownership of parcels). Easements will allow for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the AVC, and depending on the location, additional easements may be necessary to include both temporary construction areas and/or permanent access roads. The Project designers are working to run these easements along parcel boundaries and not cut across parcels, however due to design factors and topography, that may not always be possible.

## Permission to Enter Property

The first official communication a landowner would expect to see is a Permission to Enter Property (also known as Right-of-Entry) request. These forms are necessary for the staff to have access to your property. Just receiving one of these forms does not mean an acquisition of your property is needed, these are used early on for geotechnical and other investigations as well. From the day a landowner receives one of these requests to the day the acquisition is complete can be 18 to 24 months (or more). If you are one of these landowners, don’t be surprised if there are significant periods of time in which you don’t hear anything. Feel free to contact us to check in if you are wondering how things are going!

Prior to any offer being made to a landowner, Reclamation will have to procure title evidence, legal descriptions, appraisals and environmental assessments. This information is used as the basis for a written offer. Once an agreement is made, a few regulatory activities take place and then a closing will finalize the purchase. The figure below depicts the general flow of activities from the parcel identifications to eventual right-of-way clearance, releasing the property for construction.



# The People of AVC

In our first newsletter, we introduced you to our Project Sponsors. Now we'd like to turn our attention to our Project Managers (PMs): Sam Braverman for Reclamation and Kevin Meador for Southeastern. Sam and Kevin work together closely to oversee project execution and to ensure that the project is completed on time, on budget, and within scope. A project of this scope and complexity involves hundreds of people and the PMs are responsible for the coordination of all these resources.



**Sam Braverman** hails from the great city of Chicago. He holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University, an MBA from the University of Iowa, and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Colorado.

Sam started his professional career in commercial nuclear power as a power plant operator in Cordova, Illinois. He joined Reclamation in 2017 and works out of the Eastern Colorado Area Office in Loveland.

Sam has a wife and two children (ages six and two) and enjoys hiking, camping, snowboarding, climbing, and pretty much anything else outdoors.

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**"The AVC is easily the most personally rewarding project I have worked on in my professional career. I have learned so much over the past few years about the water quality issues that face the Lower Arkansas Valley in Colorado and I feel personally invested in seeing this project constructed in its entirety."**

**—Sam Braverman, Bureau of Reclamation**

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**Kevin Meador** grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Colorado.

Kevin started his professional career in Denver and devoted the first 35 years in the engineering consulting business. He joined Southeastern in 2014 as Principal Engineer to manage AVC and construction of Southeastern's hydroelectric plant.

Kevin has a wife and three grown children (five grandchildren) and enjoys the Colorado outdoors, wine and bourbon collecting, and officiating high school basketball.

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**"Contributing to the completion of the AVC and serving the Arkansas Valley's water needs has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. AVC is the culmination of an over 60-year vision by water leaders in Colorado and I am honored to be a small part the history and future completion of this important project."**

**—Kevin Meador, Southeastern**

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# Current Events

## Water-Related Contracts

The Southeastern District, Reclamation, and Pueblo Water are in technical discussions which are anticipated to lead to a three-way contract for the transmission of AVC water through Pueblo's existing infrastructure.

This will enable water to be moved from Pueblo Dam to a point near 36th Lane and U.S. 50 in Pueblo County, without having to build any new infrastructure. The original AVC plan had a pipeline being built all the way around the south side of Pueblo. This contract eliminates the need for that part of the pipeline. The contract will cover the projected maximum average annual usage of about 7,500 acre-feet.

In addition, the District and Reclamation will begin negotiations for a repayment contract when the three-party contract is in place. Under Public Law 111-11, the participants are responsible for repayment of 35 percent of construction costs, but those costs also can be paid through miscellaneous revenues of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. AVC participants are responsible for operations and maintenance costs.

## Geological Investigations



Reclamation drill crews have been quite busy the past few months obtaining critical geological data to support final design of the Boone Reach.

See the article "AVC Geological Investigations" from Edition I of this newsletter for more information about the importance of geological investigations.



## Project Managers – Contact Information

### Sam Braverman, P.E.

Bureau of Reclamation  
Eastern Colorado Area Office  
11056 West County Rd 18E, Loveland, CO  
970-278-6222  
[sbraverman@usbr.gov](mailto:sbraverman@usbr.gov)

### Kevin Meador, P.E.

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District  
31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81001  
719-948-2400  
[kevin@secwcd.com](mailto:kevin@secwcd.com)

More information is available  
on the AVC website:

[www.usbr.gov/gp/ecaoc/avc/](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/ecaoc/avc/)



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