



This monthly newsletter summarizes activities related to the Arkansas Valley Conduit and is made available to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors and Arkansas Valley Conduit stakeholders. To request a subscription to the Report, please contact info@secwcd.com or view it at <https://www.secwcd.org/>



AVC Committee

The next meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit Committee has not been scheduled. Check our website for more information.

<https://www.secwcd.org/>

Want to learn more about the AVC?

If your organization would like a presentation on AVC, contact Chris Woodka, 719-289-0785 or email chris@secwcd.com



Read past newsletters

For past issues of the AVC Report:

<https://www.secwcd.org/>

Federal AVC legislation advances

Legislation to keep the Arkansas Valley Conduit affordable in light of increased federal cost has moved ahead in the U.S. House of Representatives. A full report appears on **Page 2** of this publication, while a letter from our congressional delegation is on **Pages 3-4**.



From left: Robert Banham, District Water Resources Engineer, and Trevor Singleton, District Project Engineer, meet with Blake Williams, Olney Springs, Keith Benbow, Crowley County, and Greg Sekera, Kennedy Jenks, to discuss AVC alignments and water issues on May 22, 2026 at the offices of the Crowley County Water Association in Olney Springs.

District, Kennedy Jenks continue AVC design

Delivery points and water resources issues relating to Crowley County were discussed at a meeting on May 22, 2026 at the Crowley County Water Association offices in Olney Springs.

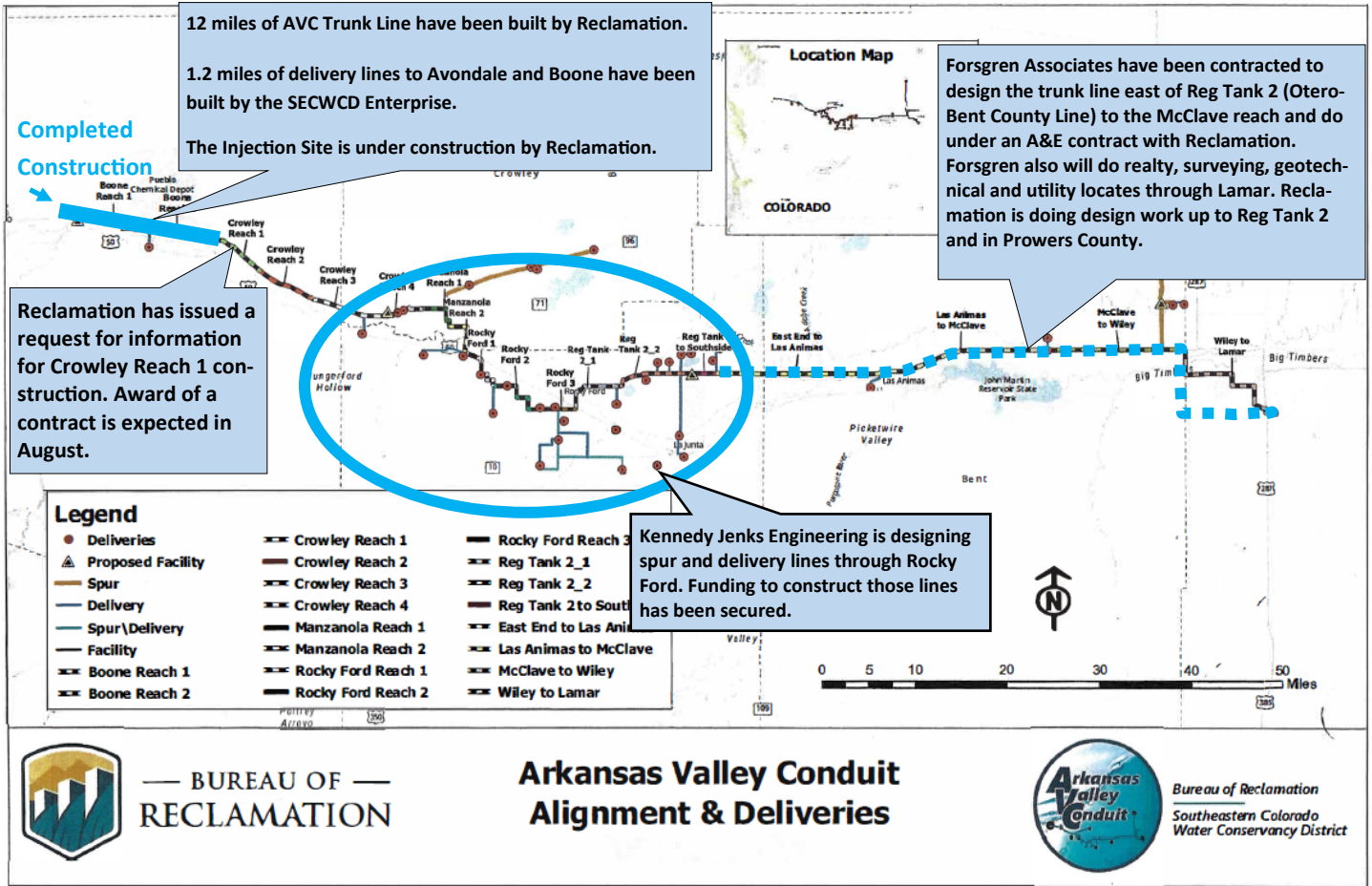
There are three delivery points in Crowley County. Olney Springs, located at the west end of the county, will have a dedicated delivery line. The Crowley County Water

Association, which serves a large portion of the county, will have a connection near its well. The Crowley County Water System, which serves the towns of Crowley and Ordway along with the 96 Pipeline Company, will have a connection near its well.

Design work also continues in Otero County, where similar meetings were held earlier.



AVC PROJECT UPDATE



Work is continuing along the entire route of the AVC with design contracts that will lead to construction in following years.

AVC FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congress moves on AVC affordability bill

The Southeastern Water Conservancy District’s team remains committed to passage of H.R. 131, which will reduce interest on cost-sharing for the project, and extend the timeline for repayment.

Thanks to the good legislative work of Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, and support from Congressman Jeff Hurd, H.R. 131 was included in the FY ‘27 Agriculture appropriations bill.

The activity now moves to the Senate. In anticipation of Senate consideration, Reps. Boebert and Hurd and Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet sent [this letter](#) to the Senate appropriations committee

(pages 3-4).

While the timeline for Senate consideration is uncertain, our Senators are working hard to move this to the next step.

The leadership of the Senate Appropriations Committee is working on an agreement for “top line spending,” meaning the total amount of funding they will provide to all departments and agencies for FY 2027.

We will continue to monitor closely! Your support and patience is greatly appreciated.



CONGRESSIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AVC



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

June 5, 2026

Chairman John Hoeven
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman John Kennedy
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Hoeven and Kennedy, and Ranking Members Shaheen and Murray:

We write to respectfully request that H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, be included in either the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2027 Agriculture or Energy and Water appropriations bills.

Incorporating this legislation would fulfill a long-standing federal commitment to deliver clean, affordable drinking water to tens of thousands of rural Coloradans while advancing a project with strong bipartisan support—without increasing federal spending.

H.R. 131 passed both the House and Senate in 2025 without objection but has not been signed into law. Additionally, the text of H.R. 131 was included in H.R. 8646, which passed the House on June 4, 2026. The legislation would adjust the non-federal cost-share financing for the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC), the final unfinished component of the Fryingpan–Arkansas Project authorized by Congress in 1962. More than six decades later, over 50,000 residents in 39 communities across southeastern Colorado still rely on groundwater contaminated with naturally occurring pollutants, including carcinogens. These predominantly rural and economically vulnerable communities have waited generations for the federal government to honor its commitment.

We respectfully urge the Subcommittees to include the House-passed language from H.R. 131 in either the FY2027 Agriculture or Energy and Water appropriations bills and ask that the conferees concur in the House language during conference. This is a practical and targeted way to keep this critical project on track. Administrations of both parties have supported the AVC, but rising material and labor costs now threaten its completion. Adjusting the financing terms to reduce interest rates and provide greater repayment flexibility will enable project completion without imposing additional costs on taxpayers.



CONGRESSIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AVC

Including this language would deliver on a decades-old promise to southeastern Colorado and demonstrate Congress's continued commitment to rural water infrastructure.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We stand ready to provide any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator