

Aurora Water Collection

Collection Summary

Dates: 1883-2007

Quantity: 5 Boxes, 160 photos, 1 framed photo, 1 over-size map

Location: Archives BA 2, BA 3, BK 5, BK 6 (Aurora Water, 5 Boxes)
BG 1 through BG 4 (Paul Beck Collection)

Archives C – MD 3 (over-sized map)

Elevator Vestibule (framed photo)

Abstract: Since its earliest days, even when known as Fletcher, the city of Aurora has sought to acquire a steady water supply. As the city expanded in population and area, the search for additional water sources became even more crucial. The Aurora Water Collection documents the city's continued efforts to provide water as well as treat and dispose of waste water.

Arrangement: The collection begins with the history of Aurora's water acquisition from the end of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first. Details of specific projects for transporting water from the mountains to the plains include right of way acquisition, costs, and construction of reservoirs and tunnels. The Homestake Project makes up the largest part of this section. The last part of the collection documents problems of storm drainage and sewers. Five folders contain material on Denver Metropolitan Water and regional water issues.

Contents

Box 1 of 5

Series I: History of Aurora Water

Folder 1: A 1902 resolution to connect Fletcher's water mains with Denver's Colfax Avenue water main stipulates cost and other agreements of the arrangement. Further Fletcher water history is attached to a 1952 letter to the Aurora City Council proposing development of underground water sources. A report of a test well drilling program dates from 1955.

Folder 2: Two similar copies of "City of Aurora Long Range Water Development Program," 1955-1957, contain a summary of events leading to the development of Homestake and other water acquisitions.

Folder 3: A 1957 letter outlining Aurora's current and long-term water policy, 1958 water supply report with graphs, 1958 list of water rates, memorandum outlining historic and current Aurora water situations, and a 1960 report on water sources for Aurora. All are copies.

Folder 4: Miscellaneous memos and correspondence pertaining to Bureau of Land Management regulations, utilities construction procedures, relations with other water districts such as Denver, water rights acquisition, and water division capital budget date from 1965-1974.

Folder 5: Water Resources 1974 Annual Report includes general comments, tables, and specific water sources. Aurora Utilities Department water supply report is dated 1984 (2 copies, one has Acc. # 2012.26.6) Comparison tables of water and sanitation costs, 1970-1990 and undated. Color map showing river drainages, 1966. Letter and brochure about tours to Homestake and Arkansas River valley water operations, 2001. Maps showing Aurora's water supply system are undated.

Folder 6: News clippings from 1965 through 2003 and undated include a 24-page *Rocky Mountain News* special section on Aurora's water problems and some of its solutions to those problems.

Series II: Early Documents

Subseries A: Legal Documents

Folder 7: Handwritten District 8 Water Rights Priority document is dated 1883. Two copies of the 1920 Nevada Ditch rights transfer are part of a 1943 document. Last Chance Ditch Transfer to Platt Canyon Ditch is dated 1926. All are photocopies.

Folder 8: Prince Ditch transfer, 1968, and Last Chance Ditch transfer, 1969, are copies.

Subseries B: Bonds

Folder 9: Copies of newspaper articles, handwritten letters, a court document, and original notices of bond offerings (originals) date from 1912 to 1964.

Series III: Reports

Subseries A: Hoper & Company

Folder 10: 1955 *Preliminary Report on Ground Waters in Aurora Vicinity* and final report.

Folder 11: 1956 *Preliminary Report on Feasibility of Expansion of Water Supply Facilities* concerns Cherry Creek and South Platte projects. September 1956 *Engineering Report* includes Aurora's economy, water history, present and planned waterworks systems.

Folder 12: 1957 *Supplementary Report on Economic Feasibility of Water Supply Facilities*

Folder 13: 1961 *Engineering Report on Economic Feasibility* by C. H. Hoper

Subseries B: Beck & Associates

Folder 14: 1969 *Qualifications and Experience* report on providing engineering services for Aurora water system expansion.

Folder 15: 1970 *Feasibility Report on Water System Expansion Program*

Folder 16: 1973 *Feasibility Report on Water System Expansion Program*

Subseries C: CH2M Hill

Folder 17: 1971 *A Study of the Municipal Water System of Aurora, Colorado* includes existing facilities and future requirements as well as charts, maps, and tables.

Folder 18: 1972 *Qualifications Brochure* for investigating bulk supplies of water and power

Folder 19: 1974 *Siting Study* for Aurora's second water treatment plant

Subseries D: Black & Vetch

Folder 20: 1984 study of water and sewer facilities

Subseries E: City of Aurora

Folder 21: 1971 Planning Department *Development Guide for Aurora* includes information for contractors, investors and developers. Photos, charts, but very little about water.

Folder 22: 1980 *Landscaping for Water Conservation in a Semiarid Environment* by Joanne Rondon for the City of Aurora Department of Utilities

Folder 23: 2002-2007 and undated brochures on Aurora's water

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Series IV: Water Projects

Subseries A: Aurora Reservoir

Folder 1: 1984, 1991 and undated newspaper articles; photo of Mayor Paul Taur

Subseries B: Cherry Creek and South Platt

Folder 2: 1956-1984 reports and newspaper articles include maps, photos and charts

Subseries C: Foothills Water Treatment Complex

Folder 3: 1964-1978 agreements between Denver and Aurora, correspondence, resolutions, and plans for construction

Folder 4: 1978-1983 correspondence on construction, operating agreements, construction, and costs and dedication of the Foothills facility. Undated brochure contains color photos.

Subseries D: Homestake, Phase I

Folder 5: 1952-1967 mimeographed and original histories of the Homestake project include maps and details of size and cost. Newspaper articles, Kuiper Water Plant dedication documents, and correspondence about 1967 completion of the reservoir (copies) are included. Undated history of Homestake Phases 1 and 2 is original.

Folder 6: Bechtel Corporation Progress Reports, Sept. 1963-May 1964

Folder 7: Bechtel Corporation Progress Reports, June-Nov. 1964

Folder 8: Bechtel Corporation Progress Reports, Dec. 1964-Aug. 1965

Folder 9: Bechtel Corporation Progress Reports, Sept. 1965-Jan. 1966

Folder 10: Bechtel Corporation Progress Reports, Feb.-Mar. 1966. History of Homestake, 1952-1965.

Folder 11: Bechtel Corporation Progress Reports, Apr.-Sept. 1966

Subseries D: Homestake, Phase II

Folder 12: Wright Engineering Reports on Otero sedimentation basin and Homestake tunnel rehabilitation, 1978-1981.

Folder 13: Black and Vetch *Design Report on Otero Pumping Station*, 1978. Map showing Otero pipeline extension. B & V Exhibits 1-7, *Homestake Water Collection System Extension for Aurora and Colorado Springs* color maps and charts. 1983 B & V Executive Summary of Design Report has maps, charts and plans.

Folder 14: Black and Vetch 164-page *Environmental Impact Report*, Vol. I, 1981, contains color photo, project description, Exhibits 1-7 (same as Folder 13), and tables.

Folder 15: Black and Vetch *Environmental Impact Report*, Vol. II, 1981, includes description of the project and environmental impacts; contains tables and copies of correspondence and other documents.

Folder 16: January - July 1978. Memos to City Manager W. R. Semple from Director of Utilities C. A. Wemlinger, and other memos and minutes. Subjects: power installation, Rampart tunnel, water leasing, Otero pump station.

Folder 17: August - October 1978. Correspondence and report subjects include efforts to allow Homestake construction access through proposed Holy Cross Wilderness area and private roadless areas, road maintenance, cloud seeding, construction progress, and Aurora's water rights.

Folder 18: November 1978 - June 1979. Reports on progress, water storage in other reservoirs, water rights in proposed Forest Service Holy Cross Wilderness area, purchase and sale agreement of lands owned jointly by Aurora and Colorado Springs.

Folder 19: July – December 1979. Legislative hearings on wilderness proposal, weather modification, litigation and costs of rock falls in tunnel.

Folder 20: 1980. Article on Holy Cross, memos and letters on water rights, annual report, tunnel data for litigation, tour of Homestake project. Congressional Record proceedings and debates on wilderness area legislation. Fryingpan-Arkansas project, tunnel rehabilitation, repair of delivery conduit, Twin lakes pipeline.

Folder 21: 1981. Memos on progress reports, original letter on schedule and cost updates for Homestake II Extension after congressional approval of construction within Holy Cross Wilderness area, Otero pumping station and pipeline extension, Twin Lakes dam.

Folder 22: January – June 1982. Water supply outlook for 1982, Denver Post article on impact of Homestake extension project on Cross Creek in Holy Cross wilderness, court proceedings on tunnel cave-in, tunnel improvement project, *Vail Trail* articles on Homestake II, information for Homestake II Water Trade Alternative meeting.

Folder 23: July – December 1982. Views on Environmental Impact Statement, tour of existing Homestake collection facilities, newspaper articles on EIS, comments from Congressional Oversight Hearing Committee on Public Lands and National Parks, Homestake diversion alternatives.

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Subseries D: Homestake, Phase II (continued from Box 2)

Folder 1: January – March 1983. Otero pipeline, agreements with Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, purchase of Colorado Springs surplus water, Arkansas River contamination, Homestake II tunnel, list of Homestake II milestones from 1980-83.

Folder 2: April-May 1983. Metropolitan Water Roundtable draft, water diversion issues, water storage issues, Holy Cross Wilderness and water diversion, license agreement with Western Slope Gas, Otero pipeline.

Folder 3: June 1983 and undated. Copies of articles on controversy issues - Spinney, Rocky Ford, Otero. Brief summary of Aurora Water system with capacities and yields, Hartsel groundwater study, easement agreement on Otero extension. *Denver Post* articles on Mayor Warren Hern and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Maps of Homestake system.

Folder 4: July 1983. Articles on water rights issue; correspondence and articles on acid spill at Homestake II, EPA opposing Homestake project permit, Otero Pipeline, engineering costs.

Folder 5: August – December 1983 and 1984. Problems with environmentalists, answers to planning commission questions on environmental impact. Resolution and memos on Otero pipeline approval and feasibility of water trade, Green Mountain Exchange proposal. 1984 *Rocky Mountain News* article on Vail's court challenge of Homestake II.

Folder 6: 1982. Portion of Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement and summary of the draft, including maps and charts. Concerns about Vail Valley water district water trade proposal. Bechtel Corporation maps.

Folder 7: Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement, reference copy, 1982

Folder 8: Memo and Record of Decision for Final Environmental Statement, 1983.

Folder 9: Final Environmental Impact Statement on Application for Land Use, Vol. I (FEIS)

Folder 10: Final Environmental Impact Statement on Application for Land Use, Vol. II (FEIS)

Folder 11: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 1, Study Overview, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 12: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 2, Surface Water Hydrology, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 13: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 3, Ground Water Hydrology, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 14: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 4, Water Quality Hydrology, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 15: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 5, Vegetation, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 16: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 6, Beaver, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 17: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Vol. 7, Aquatic Life, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Folder 18: Homestake Phase II Wetland Baseline Report, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan, 1986. Cross Creek and Fall Creek Drainages, White River National Forest, Eagle County, Colorado.

Subseries E: Jefferson Lake

Folder 19: 1973-1974 correspondence, memos, and agreements concerning the purchasing of water rights.

Folder 20: 1976-1984 correspondence, memos, agreements, and deed of trust concerning water rights purchase.

Subseries F: Spinney Mountain

Folder 21: Preliminary draft of Spinney Mountain Project Feasibility Report, Vol. 1, from R. W. Beck and Associates, February 1974.

Folder 22: Spinney Mountain Project Feasibility Report, Vol. 1, from R. W. Beck and Associates, February 1974.

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Subseries F: Spinney Mountain (Continued from Box 3)

Folder 1: January – June 1976. Correspondence, newspaper articles, and legal document concerning problems of

Huron Investment Company's agreement with Aurora on water rights in High Chaparral Ranch. Beck and Associates financial requirements. January – June 1976

Folder 2: July-August 1976 correspondence, newspaper articles, and legal document concerning problems of Huron Investment Company's agreement with Aurora on water rights in High Chaparral Ranch. Also included is a 33-page report on contractual and other agreements between Aurora and Huron from July 1973-1976. An August 23, 1976, memo summarizes the proposed settlement with Huron.

Folder 3: Proposed agreement between Aurora and Huron (3 copies), memos, and correspondence are dated September through December 1976. Huron's payment arrangement plan, a court document, is dated November 1976. 1977 payment from Huron.

Folder 4: Correspondence on South Park Water Rights, January 1977. Spinney Mountain contracts, engineering agreements with Beck & Associates (October and December), Badger Basin acquisition, water purchase agreement between Badger Basin Grazing Association and Aurora.

Folder 5: Correspondence and purchase agreements between Aurora and Badger Basin Grazing Assoc., 1978. Letter from U. S. Environmental Protection Agency on Spinney Mountain project, 1979.

Folder 6: January 23, 1980, letter and narrative on need for Spinney Reservoir, which includes a history of Aurora's water system. Letter from Colorado Geological Survey on seismic hazard report. City Council agendas and correspondence on costs of Spinney Mt. project, approval of site and plans, agreement with Park County, agreement between Aurora and Colorado Department of Natural Resources. January-May 1980

Folder 7: Documents on phone cable, power lines. Description of Spinney Mountain project including location and detail maps, July 1980. *Denver Post* article, correspondence about spillway location, construction progress, recreation management, housing of caretakers, Beck construction details and cost increases. June-December, 1980.

Folder 8: Progress reports, work stoppage because of strike, Homestake diversion structure, original memo summarizing strike by carpenters, ironworkers and laborers May 1 through June 26. Memo and attached documents on emergency purchase of equipment for Spinney project. January-June 1981.

Folder 9: Progress reports, July-September, 1981. Colorado Springs *Gazette Telegraph* article on Future of fishing at Spinney reservoir, caretaker home construction, city council/press tour. Completion of reservoir and water being drawn from Homestake, October 1981, completion report from Division of Wildlife, November 1981. Reservoir closed to fishing for 1 year to allow for brown trout growth, November 1981. Request from Beck & Associates for funding increase.

Folder 10: Claim from Downare Land, Cattle and Equipment Co. for injuries and death to horse, and two head of buffalo from improper cattle guard left open, January 1982. City council approval of change orders, bidding procedures, purchases. Beck detailed budget estimate for completion of engineering services and approval by council, March 1982. Memo on acquisition of public access easements. Copy of dedication plaque. Huron/Aurora settlement agreement. Summary of construction costs. January-April, 1982.

Folder 11: Memos on Huron settlement and water storage rights, release of escrowed funds to Park County, fence construction, reservoir dedication, claims for additional compensation to Granite Construction Co., exchange program with Denver Water Board, map of Aurora's water supply system. May-December, 1982.

Series V: Sewage, Storm Drainage

Subseries A: 1959-1976

Folder 12: 1959 surface drainage ordinance #832. 1960-61 mimeographed memos, letter, and reports on agreement between Aurora and Altura sanitation districts, areas of high water after storm, and High Line Canal.

Folder 13: 1962 correspondence on and receipts for sale of Altura sanitation district land to Aurora, summary of Aurora storm sewer studies and correspondence from ECI (Engineering Consultants Inc.) Most items are mimeographed copies.

Folder 14: 1963 correspondence and memos to and from ECI and other engineering firms on various storm drainage areas in Aurora. Map of storm drainage in Aurora attached to ECI Nov. 1 letter. Agreements on land acquisition for detention pond in Apache Mesa and use of Highline Canal.

Folder 15: 1964 bids on Upper Westerly Creek, correspondence on Sand Creek and Westerly Creek plants, report on Lowry-Dayton Sanitary Sewer, agreement between Aurora and Valley Country Club on Cherry Creek water rights.

Folder 16: 1965 memo and 1959 ordinance # 832 on storm sewer installation south of 6th Ave. between Dayton and Potomac, memos and data on storm drainage costs, original letter of complaint about lack of storm drainage plan in Graham district. Nov. 1965 Aurora plan for expansion of sewage treatment facilities, particularly at Sand Creek. Upper Westerly Creek Storm Sewer Project map.

Folder 17: 1966 Application of Flood Plain Regulations in the city of Aurora, Bechtel Corp. contract changes, items on proposal to join Metro-Denver Sewer District, costs of storm drainage, storm drainage in other Colorado cities, memos on Graham drainage.

Folder 18: 1967 memo and application for federal grant for Graham drainage facility, list of escrow fund balances.

Folder 19: 1968 memos on drainage projects to be arranged, federal grant agreement, letters and memos on various drainage projects – bids, contracts, plans, costs.

Folder 20: 1968 ordinances and agreements on fees, contracts, sale of Sand Creek Sewer Treatment Plant, and creation of storm drainage division of Public Utilities department.

Folder 21: March – June 1969. Memos on Water and Sewage school, Sand Creek and Cherry Creek basins, Westerly Creek and Graham drainage, bridge construction bids, flood control on Sand and Toll Gate Creeks, and possible landfill sites.

Folder 22: July – September 1969. Memos on Havana Gardens floodway park, growth of Storm Drainage Division, solid waste collection costs, storm drainage analysis with maps and tables of costs, storm drainage policy planning.

Folder 23: October 1969. Preliminary copy of *Storm Drainage Specifications*, from Storm Drainage and Flood Control Division of Department of Utilities, contains details of flow analysis, design standards for sewers, etc. Letter on tap fee for financing storm drainage.

Folder 24: November – December 1969. Letter from Army Corps of Engineers on construction of Sand Creek and Toll Gate Creek dams includes stick-figure chart. Memos on ground water in south Aurora include letter from Colorado Geological Survey. Memos on pipe installation for Graham area, Village East drainage study, and issuing of revenue bonds. Several lists of storm drainage problem locations. Proposed budget for storm drainage division. Table of costs of 1969 water breaks.

Folder 25: January – March 1970. Table of estimated costs for proposed drainage facilities, 1079-75. Correspondence on problems of acquiring right of way and future annexation for expansion of water facilities. Reports on handling metropolitan area sewage without air pollution. Memos on various sewer lines and detention ponds. Tables of water and sewer tap installations, list of storm drainage problem locations. Agreement between Aurora and Industrial Park Water and Sanitation District.

Folder 26: April – December 1970. Letter and other documents on sale of bonds, report on ground water problems in southeast Aurora, correspondence and report on Rocky Mountain Arsenal as disposal site for Metro Sewage District sludge, deactivation of and removal of equipment from Aurora-owned filter plants, sewer service rate increases, and storm drainage improvements agreement.

Folder 27: 1971. Memos to and from Metro Sewer District on sludge disposal bids, costs, sewage analysis, odors, sludge handling. Correspondence on Del Mar storm sewer escrow fund, sewer system study, sludge recycling, Tollgate sewer line, and goals of ICRPC drainage advisory committee.

Folder 28: January 1972. Norfolk Glen Subdivision Drainage Study booklet and map.

Folder 29: 1976 and undated. Court documents on case between East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District and the City of Aurora, includes 1976 map of the part of the district within Aurora. Undated items pertaining to costs, funds received, and miscellaneous documents.

Subseries B: Sand Creek Treatment Plant

Folder 30: 1960s and undated. Documents on bid, description of Toll Gate Creek, and reports on South Platte River Basin, Sand Creek, and Toll Gate Creek Basin. Documents on flood control and 1975 study on waste water treatment facility for Aurora. Sand Creek Facility Plan, Phase 1 Report (date missing), contains CH2M Hill maps and charts.

Folder 31: January - May 1980. Items on Sand Creek plant expansion and Interceptor Step II grant conditions, Environmental Protection Agency grant.

Folder 32: June – September 1980. Memos on Sand Creek improvements, costs, EPA assistance, a history of the Sand Creek Interceptor Sewer, Metropolitan Sewer District Sand Creek parallel interceptor.

Folder 33: October – December 1980. Proposed agreement between Aurora and Metropolitan Sewer District on Sand Creek Basin, financing of Sand Creek interceptor.

Folder 34: January – February 1981. Financing of Sand Creek Sewer.

Box 5 of 5

Subseries B: Sand Creek Treatment Plant (Continued from Box 4)

Folder 1: March – June 1981. Sand Creek Interceptor financing, implementation of construction, map, resolutions on allocations of costs, revocable permit to City of Aurora, and scheduling of construction.

Folder 2: July 1981-April 1983. Sand Creek Interceptor financing, construction agreements, sale of surplus equipment, agreement with Metro Denver Sewage Disposal District, reuse of sewage plant effluent, wastewater reclamation facility.

Subseries C: Water and Sewer Tap Management Task Force

Folder 3: 1979. Correspondence about reduced number of new water taps if Spinney and/or Homestake Reservoirs are not developed, alternatives to tap management program, and the possibility of dissolving the Aurora-Denver-Sable agreement.

Folder 4: January – April 1980. Memos on availability of water taps and procedures for allocating them. Water and Sewer Tap Management Task Force Report dated February 1980. Memos and correspondence on the budget impact of water and sewer tap limitations and the effects of these limitations on Aurora's growth. Potential overflow problems from Sand Creek Interceptor Sewer. Comments on February Task Force Report.

Folder 5: July 1980 – June 1981. More Water and Sewer Task Force correspondence on water available for increased building in Aurora. Memos on February 1980 Water and Sewer Tap Management Task Force Report (Folder 4). Water and Sewer Tap Management Task Force Report, May 1981, includes tables on economic impact on Aurora as well as lists of 1980 installed and pending taps and meters .

Subseries D: Environmental Study

Folder 6: Environmental Study for Drainage Masterplan, September 1985, was prepared for the city of Aurora by Thorne Ecological Institute for a proposed 85-square mile annexation. Included are historic and cultural resources of the area as well as wetlands and drainage.

Subseries E: Miscellaneous

Folder 7: 1994-1996 and undated. Brochure on leaks, booklet on Aurora's water system (3 copies), *Water Wise* (2 copies), and youth water festival information.

Series VII: Denver Metropolitan Water

Folder 8: 1931-1982. History of Denver Water includes 1932 report on Highline Canal, water development report by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1971, and other information on Colorado water.

Folder 9: 1961 *Ways out of the Confusion*, inter-county regional planning commission report on alternative forms of organization for metropolitan services.

Folder 10: 1966 Metropolitan Water Study Inventory from Inter-County Regional Planning Commission

Folder 11: 1971 Interim Plan for Water Quality Management in the Denver Metropolitan Area, prepared by Denver Regional Council of Governments

Folder 12: 1974 Water Quality Management in the Denver Metropolitan Area, draft summary prepared by Black and Vetch and Denver Regional Council of Governments. 1979 reports on water tap allocations in Denver region. Miscellaneous undated brochures on water use.

Additional Aurora Water Items in Other Collections

Archive B: Paul Beck Collection, - BG 1 through BG 4

Archive C: 160 Photographs:

Reservoirs – 131 photos

Sewers – 1 photo (construction)

Water Supply – 2 photos

Water Use – 1 photo

Waterworks – 25 photos, 1 contact sheet, negatives (water treatment plant)

Oversize drawer MD 3 – Map of Senac Reservoir Boundry Survey 1981

Elevator vestibule, 2nd floor – Framed photo of Homestake Reservoir and John P. Elliott Dam, 1967

October 23, 2013