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**CDPHE approves higher capacity of safe drinking water for 150,000 residents in Northern Colorado**

*Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Plant expands from 60 to 68 million gallons per day*

**NORTHERN COLORADO (September 17, 2024)** – Nearly 150,000 residents will have greater access to safe drinking water without high costs for decades to come, after an approval by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This authorization will increase capacity at the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Plant from 60 to 68 million gallons per day (MGD).

"The approval from CDPHE is a big win and a huge savings in dollars for the Tri-Districts all operating from the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority's Plant," says Eric Reckentine, General Manager of North Weld County Water District.

The re-rating by the CDPHE which increases capacity from 60 to 68 million gallons per day (MGD), was successfully accomplished by the collective work of the three water districts operating out of Northern Colorado – North Weld County Water District (NWCWD), East Larimer County Water District (ELCO), and the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District (FCLWD).

"The expansion ensures that we can continue to provide water supplies to match our customers' future growth needs and provide added resilience to our water supply systems," states Mark Kempton, P.E, CWP, General Manager of Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority. "The Authority achieved the 8 MGD expansion using the Plant's existing facilities, resulting in no construction and minimal costs. This efficiency has allowed us to keep our water rates low for our customers while continuing to provide a reliable, safe, and affordable drinking water supply to the Tri-Districts."

The CDPHE expansion will provide water and larger capacity many years into the future for the tremendous development and population growth that Northern Colorado towns are experiencing.

"We continue to see projections for additional growth in the northern Colorado region and expanding water treatment capacity is a fundamental building block to sustain that growth. This

treatment capacity increase represents the most cost-effective expansion in Soldier Canyon's history and ensures all three partners can continue delivering high-quality drinking water well into the future," explains Chris Pletcher, P.E., General Manager of Fort Collins - Loveland Water District.

"Like much of Northern Colorado, we anticipate continued growth within the East Larimer County Water District (ELCO) service area, and this addition of water treatment capacity will aid in meeting that new demand," states Mike Scheid, General Manager of ELCO.

"I am very proud of the work of the other water districts and the staff and board of North Weld County Water District for helping to make accomplishments like this happen - it further stands by our commitment that we follow-through on what we promise for our customers," says Reckentine. "This collaborative undertaking between the districts ensures we have secured the highest quality treated water for our Northern Colorado customers today, tomorrow, and into the future."

#### **ABOUT THE SOLDIER CANYON WATER TREATMENT AUTHORITY:**

The [Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority](#) (SCWTA) owns and operates the Soldier Canyon Filter Plant, which is a 68 million gallon per day (MGD) conventional water treatment plant located in Fort Collins, CO. Since 1961, the Authority has provided high quality, reliable, safe, and affordable drinking water to over 145,000 people living in three water districts and adjacent communities in the Northern Colorado region. The three water districts (Tri-Districts) are:

- [East Larimer County \(ELCO\) Water District](#),
- [Fort Collins-Loveland Water District](#), and
- [North Weld County Water District](#).

We can set up interviews with you to help tell this story. Please let us know if you'd like to connect with one of the General Managers of the Tri-Districts, along with Mark Kempton from the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Plant.

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