



FACT SHEET

October 2018

Current and future Thornton residents need a clean, reliable water supply 365-days-a-year, 24-hours-a-day. To meet that demand through 2065, Thornton has worked proactively and thoughtfully since the 1980s to secure water rights and now needs to construct a pipeline to deliver their water through Larimer and Weld Counties to the people of Thornton.

- The Thornton Water Project will not take additional water out of the Poudre River. The water Thornton will deliver through the pipeline has been diverted out of the river, at the same location north of Fort Collins, for over 100 years.
- Thornton purchased its Poudre River water rights from willing sellers in the mid-1980s.
- Thornton leaders started this project over 30 years ago, and the city has completed all of the legal and water court processes necessary to use this water in Thornton.
- Thornton has been working cooperatively with other cities and counties for many years on this plan and they are committed to being good partners now and into the future.
- Thornton is required to secure a Larimer County 1041 permit and a Weld County Use by Special Review permit for the development of the pipeline.
- As part of those efforts, Thornton began a public outreach process in 2016. There were a number of public meetings and significant community outreach to help Thornton identify a suitable pipeline route.
- Thornton has implemented a robust water conservation program, which has resulted in Thornton customers being among the most efficient water users in the state.
- Thornton has maintained a thorough and active farm management program since purchasing the farms in the 1980s, and will continue to make voluntary tax payments to Larimer and Weld Counties until Thornton no longer owns the land.
- In 2015, Thornton implemented a new water rate structure to help pay for the pipeline project as well as the ongoing cost of maintaining and updating their water infrastructure.
- Thornton will pay for the pipeline project through bond financing, as well as revenue from tap fees and water rates.
- Thornton's water customers will need this additional water supply by 2025, and this pipeline project will provide the water supply that is critical to the health and wellbeing of Thornton residents through 2065.
- Every major water supplier on the Front Range, such as Denver, Aurora, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins, gets some of its water from sources located far from their communities, and many use water transported from a different river basin.