

# Water Views

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHGATE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICTS

VOL. 20, NO. 3

AUGUST, 2010

“ WE BUILT OUR REPUTATION FROM THE GROUND DOWN! ”

## 2010 Directors Election

Congratulations to the candidates and the electors for a most successful directors election in May. The candidates vigorously sought voter participation and the contest was close. Following are the election results:

### Southgate Water District

|                         | <i>Arapahoe</i> | <i>Douglas</i> | <i>Combined</i> | <i>Results</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Don E. Winslow          | 810             | 406            | 1,216           | 1              |
| Terrence D. Kirkpatrick | 834             | 261            | 1,095           | 2              |
| David Culberson         | 627             | 235            | 862             | 3              |
| Peter Gabel             | 563             | 205            | 768             | 4              |

### Southgate Sanitation District

|                         | <i>Arapahoe</i> | <i>Douglas</i> | <i>Combined</i> | <i>Results</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Don E. Winslow          | 1,516           | 372            | 1,888           | 1              |
| Terrence D. Kirkpatrick | 1,591           | 268            | 1,859           | 2              |
| David Culberson         | 1,295           | 239            | 1,534           | 3              |
| Peter Gabel             | 1,104           | 220            | 1,324           | 4              |

Don Winslow and Terry Kirkpatrick were declared to have been re-elected to both the Southgate Water District board of directors and the Southgate Sanitation District board of directors. Oaths of office were administered at the May board meeting.

As to the electors we would like to report the following: 1) the combined number of registered electors (Arapahoe/Douglas/Water/Sanitation) was 57,988, 2) 35,666 ballots were mailed to electors appearing on the county lists as “Permanent Mail-in Voter”, 3) 54 ballots were issued at the polling places, 4) 5,884 ballots were cast and counted. The voter participation was a very respectable 10.15%. The number of ballots cast was 573% greater than our previous high number of ballots.

## November, 2010 Ballot Issues

Proposition 101, Amendment 60 and Amendment 61 have been certified for the November, 2010 State wide election. These ballot issues are significant and the citizens should be prepared to cast knowledgeable votes. The content of these proposals can be found on the Southgate website and on many of the websites below.

Proponent information can be found at [www.cotaxreform.com](http://www.cotaxreform.com), [www.limitcodebt.com](http://www.limitcodebt.com), and [www.limitpropertytax.com](http://www.limitpropertytax.com).

Opponent information can be found at [www.donthurtcolorado.com](http://www.donthurtcolorado.com), <http://www.cml.org/ballot.aspx>, <http://www.ccionline.org/index.cfm/ID/126/Announcements/>, and <http://www.sdaco.org/resources>

The Southgate Boards of Directors have adopted the following resolution: A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTHGATE WATER DISTRICT AND THE SOUTHGATE SANITATION DISTRICT (“THE DISTRICTS”) ADOPTING A POSITION OF ADVOCACY PURSUANT TO §1-45-117(1)(b)(III), C.R.S., IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 101, AMENDMENT 60, AND AMENDMENT 61.

Amendment 60 would require the Districts, as enterprises, to pay property taxes, thereby increasing their expenditures while Proposition 101 is simultaneously

## Concerns Regarding the Directors Election

It is our goal to maximize the opportunity for elector participation in the special district elections, and that this be achieved with fiscal prudence.

The special district director elections have become increasingly complicated and costly. With more and more electors requesting to receive all ballots by mail, even traditional special district polling place elections are becoming partly, or mostly, mail-in elections. The organizational capabilities and technical competencies of the local districts are increasingly challenged.

*MORE IMPORTANTLY* our electors have voiced confusion and concern regarding: 1) the number of ballots received, 2) the scattered ballot return locations, and 3) the inefficiencies of the process. Ballots were returned in the wrong envelopes. Ballots were returned to the wrong special district.

Our current special district director election process is not meeting the above goal.

The Southgate Districts have been working with the Colorado Special Districts Association, the Arapahoe and Douglas election officials, and the Secretary of State’s office to see if there is a way to better conduct the special district directors elections in the future. We will keep you posted.

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## November, 2010 Ballot Issues (continued from Page 1)

reducing the Districts' revenues. Amendment 61 will significantly impair the Districts' ability to fund long term capital projects including the necessary rehabilitation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of the Districts' infrastructure.

Amendment 60 does not clearly define the manner in which those property taxes are to be calculated, leaving the Districts to believe that the tax burden could be as much as \$5.5 million *per year* for the Southgate Water District and as much as \$4.7 million *per year* for the Southgate Sanitation District.

The Southgate Districts have a long standing history of fiscal prudence. For the budget year 2010 the Water District has an operating budget of \$1.6 million with NO property tax, while the Sanitation District has an operating budget of \$1.6 million with a property tax of *less than 1 mil*.

The requirement for the Districts to pay property taxes would require the imposition of substantially higher service charges or taxes to our customers.

IT IS JOINTLY RESOLVED BY THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTHGATE WATER DISTRICT AND THE SOUTHGATE SANITATION DISTRICT THAT:

1. The Boards adopt an official position opposing Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61 as not being in the best interests of the Districts nor in the health, safety, and welfare of their customers.
2. As authorized by §1-45-117(1)(b)(III), C.R.S., the Districts' administrative staff is hereby directed to report the passage, and to distribute copy, of this Resolution through established, customary means (other than through advertising) by which other District information concerning other proceedings of the Districts and their Boards of Directors is regularly provided to the public, including posting on the Districts' website and publication in the Districts' newsletter.

Unanimously adopted this 19th day of July 2010

## Geographic Information System

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a program to systematically bring the Districts' mapping and records together for fast and reliable access in response to customer inquiries and staff's operational needs.

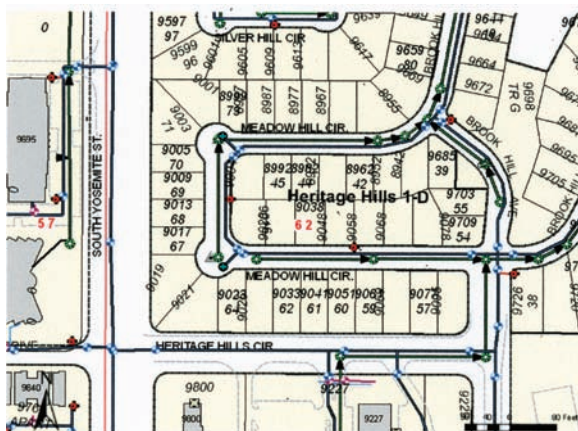
In Phase I of the program there was Needs Assessment analysis, development of an Implementation Plan, Cost/Benefit analysis, and a demonstration project.

Phase II brought all of the Districts' computer based mapping and records together through the GIS software, developed viewing and records access applications, made the results available

to Southgate staff through the desk-top computers and completed a test application of GIS access via laptop computers in two of the District vehicles.

Phase III consisted of an evaluation of the software and data functionality as achieved to that point, moved the program onto more robust software and made "fixes" as determined to be necessary, implemented a Work Management/ Maintenance Management system, and expanded the field accessibility technology to all District vehicles.

In Phase IV we are developing a bundle of asset management tools to make our rehabilitation/replacement planning and budgeting more sophisticated. In related work the District Engineer is refining the attribute data for our assets and developing the capability for sewer and water hydraulic modeling on the foundation available through the geographic information system.



## Water Tips:

- Inside water lines, particularly in unheated areas or adjacent to foundation walls, should be checked to ensure that they are adequately protected against winter freeze.
- Know where your water shut off valve, (within the home [typically in the basement] and at the irrigation), are located before you need them. Lost time spent looking for a valve during an emergency can spell trouble. Exercising the water shut off valves, together with valves at the sinks/ toilets/ water heater, once a year is an excellent idea.
- During the month of December, if we have had no precipitation for a month, give your trees some water at their roots.

## Eyes and Ears

We need your eyes and ears.

Southgate continues to be vigilant regarding water and sewer system security. We request your vigilance as well. If you see suspicious activity at manholes, fire hydrants, or water reservoirs please call the local law enforcement agency or the Southgate Districts.

Your eyes and your ears can help to keep the systems secure for the good of us all.

**Southgate**  
Water & Sanitation Districts

**For your convenience...**  
[www.southgatedistricts.org](http://www.southgatedistricts.org)

## Grease in the Sewer System

You know grease is bad for your arteries and heart. It eventually clogs up your body's plumbing. *It's no different with the plumbing in your home or in the municipal system.*

Grease clogged pipes are increasingly responsible for sewer overflows and back-ups. The grease gets into the public mains from restaurants, household drains, and customers with food preparation activities. Pipe clogging grease comes from: meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, food scraps, sauces and dairy products. *Overflows and back-ups resulting from grease blockages cause big problems!* Raw sewage that overflows from a grease blockage can spill into yards, streets and parks threatening the environment. Raw sewage can back-up into your home, damaging interiors and resulting in a costly clean-up.

Grease will not dissolve with hot water, break-up in the garbage disposal, or break-down by putting chemicals or soap down the drain.

The Rules and Regulations of the Southgate Sanitation District provide as follows: 1) Foreign Materials are defined as "objects, materials or substances which are not appropriate for transmission by a sanitary sewage system, including without limitation paving or construction materials or debris, furniture, appliances, clothing, bicycles, rocks, dirt, trash, grease, oil, sand, grass, bush or tree clippings, or any unauthorized material or substance", 2) makes "...the unauthorized entry of any foreign materials or substances into any sewer facility" an enforceable violation, and 3) provides for enforcement up to and including termination of service.

### Southgate is stepping up its grease investigation and enforcement programs!

Solutions: 1) never pour grease down the drain or into your toilet, garbage disposal or dishwasher, 2) put all grease and food scraps into a can or other container and place in the trash, and 3) use strainers over your sink drains to catch food scraps and solids and empty strainers in the trash. For food providers (e.g. restaurants), in addition to the above: 4) frequently inspect and maintain your grease interceptors.

For those of you who are not yet controlling or properly disposing of grease we urge initiation of best management practices and we give you notice of Southgate's affirmative investigation and enforcement programs.

For those of you who are exercising care in the control and disposal of grease we express a very sincere thank you, and hope that you will keep up the good work

For the commercial establishments doing a particularly good job we have initiated an "A+ Establishment" program. A certificate of recognition will be issued and less frequent inspections will be necessary.



## Reporting an Emergency

You turn on the faucet and no water comes out, or you observe water coming up through the street... whom do you call? The answer is the Southgate Water District at 303-779-0261. You have reason to believe that the sewer main is obstructed... whom do you call? The answer is the Southgate Sanitation District at 303-779-0261.

Such occurrences could be the result of problems in either the water and sewer mains (for which Southgate is responsible) or in the individual service lines (for which the property owner is responsible). It is, however, our practice to offer first response in all cases to determine if the problem is in the mains. If such is the case our crews will act quickly to restore the system to proper working order.

If it is found that the problem is in the service lines our crews may be able to give helpful advice.

It is our goal, through high quality preventative maintenance programs to minimize any problems you may experience with your water and sewer service.

## Sewer System Reliability

Many utilities must deal with the cost, complexities and periodic failures of sewage lift stations to pump the wastewater from one drainage basin to another.

Southgate Sanitation had several lift stations in it's system until the early 1990's. The largest was eliminated after construction of the 1 1/4 mile long Colman sewer tunnel. Others were eliminated as sewer mains were constructed around topographic obstructions.

We are fortunate that the system now operates entirely by gravity. No more mechanical or electrical dependency. No more emergency response to pump or power failure. No more environmental risk as commonly associated with lift stations.

## Newsletter Delivery

Should you wish to receive delivery of the *WaterViews* newsletter by email just drop me an email at [dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org](mailto:dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org) with an indication of your wishes and your email address. I will delete you from the hard copy mailing list and add you to the email delivery listings.

Should you wish to discontinue delivery of the *WaterViews* newsletter by any means, just drop me an email at [dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org](mailto:dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org) with an indication of your wishes, name and address. Alternately, you could give me a call at 303-713-7742 or send a note to the District offices at 3722 E. Orchard Road, Centennial, CO 80121. I will delete you from the mailing list. You will still have the opportunity to view the newsletter on the Southgate website, [www.southgatedistricts.org](http://www.southgatedistricts.org).

Duane Tinsley, District Manager



# Southgate

## Water & Sanitation Districts

Southgate Districts  
3722 East Orchard Road  
Centennial, Colorado 80121  
(303) 779-0261

**Return Service Requested**

PRESORTED STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DENVER CO  
PERMIT NO. 152

***“We Built Our  
Reputation From  
The Ground Down!”***

**The Districts:** Southgate Water District and Southgate Sanitation District, 3722 E. Orchard Road, Centennial, CO 8012, 303-779-0261

**The Directors:**

George J. MacDonald, President and Chairman, Term expires - May, 2012\*  
Terry Kirkpatrick, Vice President, Term expires - May, 2014  
David Bickham, Secretary, Term expires - May, 2012\*  
John J. Herbolich, Treasurer, Term expires - May, 2012\*  
Don E. Winslow, Asst. Treasurer & Asst. Secretary, Term expires - May, 2014  
\* Office will be on the May, 2012 ballot

**Contact Information:**

**District Manager:** Duane Tinsley, 3722 E. Orchard Road, Centennial, CO 80121, 303-713-7742, dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org

**Web Site:** [www.southgatedistricts.org](http://www.southgatedistricts.org)

**Service Problems:** 303-779-0261

**Billing Information:** Water = Denver Water - 303-893-2444, Sewer = City of Englewood - 303-762-2635

**Board Meetings:** 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Southgate Districts Offices

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### ***Service Line Responsibility***

Southgate is responsible for the water and sewer main lines near the center of the street. The property owner is responsible for maintaining, repairing and replacing the service line (from the building to the point of connection with the water or sewer main line); and is liable for damages associated with failure to do so.

While the Sanitation District is not responsible for sewer service lines we are concerned for the well being of our customers. If you are experiencing sewer problems in the home please give us a call. We want the opportunity to check the main and the service connection at the main. If the problem is at the main it will be our responsibility to remedy same. If the problem is determined to be in the service line we will provide counsel and encourage the owner to have the service line videoed (with a copy provided to the owner). We would be happy to view that video and provide a “second opinion” to the owner. Not all service line problems require costly open trench replacement. Root problems may be resolved through periodic application of foaming root chemistry such as “RootX”. More significant service line problems might be resolved through the increasingly effective and cost competitive cured-in-place pipe lining and pipe bursting practices.

The Water District, subject to written application and crew availability, may assist in water service line repair, (under the hard surface portion of the public right-of-way), so as to minimize damage to the roadway or to neighbors.