

## 19. Water Quality Management Associations and Watershed Planning Groups

This section discusses wastewater operating agencies, management agencies/associations, and watershed groups/organizations in the Fountain Creek Watershed.

### 19.1. Wastewater Operating Agencies

The following organizations are recognized as wastewater operating agencies within the Fountain Creek Watershed. These agencies are responsible for controlling all aspects of the collection, treatment, and discharge of sewage or industrial concern, within their agency's sphere of operation. Each of these operating agencies is discussed in further detail in Section 8.3, Fountain Creek Watershed Point Source Dischargers.

- Academy Water and Sanitation District
- Cheyenne Mountain Estates–Broadmoor Park
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Fountain Sanitation District
- Fort Carson
- Lower Fountain Metropolitan Sewage Disposal District
- Security Sanitation District
- Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (Monument, Palmer Lake, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District)
- United States Air Force Academy
- Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (Donala Water and Sanitation District, Forest Lakes, and Triview Metropolitan Districts)
- Widefield Water and Sanitation District

### 19.2. Management Agencies/Associations

Within the Fountain Creek Watershed, there are three existing Water Quality Management Associations (WQMA):

- Upper Monument WQMA
- Mid Monument WQMA

- Lower Fountain WQMA

WQMAs were formed under a Joint Powers of Agreement, and specific authorities were given to the management associations under section 208(c)(2) of the CWA. All existing WQMAs were incorporated between 1977 and 1987. Because of this, the traditional role of the WQMAs has been addressing point source rather than nonpoint source related problems and issues. Each WQMA has specific issues, policies, and planning activities based on the recommendations of the 208 Plan.

#### **19.2.1. Upper Monument Water Quality Management Association (UMWQMA)**

The Upper Monument WQMA was incorporated in December 1985 and meets bi-monthly to review and recommend actions on water quality issues pertaining to members, including the review of site applications in their area. The agency is also involved in the review of development projects, such as subdivisions that have the potential to impact water quality in its area. It is located entirely in the Monument Creek Subwatershed and borders Elbert and Douglas Counties to the north. Districts within the UMWQMA include Palmer Lake Sanitation District, Monument Sanitation District, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Academy Water and Sanitation District, Donala Water and Sanitation District, Triview Metropolitan District, U.S. Air Force Academy, Town of Monument, and Town of Palmer Lake.

#### **19.2.2. Mid Monument Water Quality Management Association**

The Mid Monument WQMA incorporates most of the City of Colorado Springs urbanized area and is bordered by Upper Monument to the north, Lower Fountain to the south, Upper Fountain to the west, and eastern El Paso to the east. The City of Colorado Springs is the lead agency in the Mid Monument WQMA, and its relationship with other agencies is generally guided by contractual service agreements with the overlapping entities. It holds meetings on an as-needed basis.

#### **19.2.3. Lower Fountain Water Quality Management Association (LFWQMA)**

The Lower Fountain WQMA was incorporated in 1977 and meets monthly. This WQMA encompasses the southern portion of the Fountain Creek Watershed, which includes the mainstem of Fountain Creek. Entities within the LFWQMA include Fort Carson, Fountain Sanitation District, Security Sanitation District, Widefield Water and Sanitation District, Cherokee Metropolitan District, and the City of Fountain.

### 19.3. Watershed Groups/Organizations

#### 19.3.1. Fountain Creek Watershed District

The Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District (District) was established under Title 32 of the CRS. The boundaries, governance, powers, and duties of the district are established through this legislation. The district is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a representative from El Paso County, City of Colorado Springs, City of Fountain, small municipalities in El Paso County, Pueblo County, City of Pueblo, Citizen of Pueblo County, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, and Community Advisory Group. A Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Group provide input to the Board. The district is authorized to manage, administer, and fund the capital improvements necessary in the Fountain Creek Watershed to mitigate flooding, erosion, and sedimentation; address water quality issues; improve drainage; fund the protection of open space; and develop public recreation opportunities including open space. The district has land use authority in the 100-year floodplain on the mainstem of Fountain Creek, south of the City of Fountain in El Paso County, and north of the City of Pueblo in Pueblo County. Outside of this area, the District can provide input to public bodies on land use applications that have a direct or indirect impact to the watershed. The district has adopted the recommendations in the Army Corps of Engineers Study and Fountain Creek Watershed Strategic Plan. More information on these reports can be found at [www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org)

### 19.4. Other Groups/Organizations and Authorities

#### 19.4.1. El Paso County Water Authority/Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority

The El Paso County Water Authority was initially formed in 1997 to study groundwater quality and quantity and to explore future sources of water in the county. The El Paso County Water Authority includes municipalities and special districts located within El Paso County. The authority met on a monthly basis. The purpose of the report was to identify water demands, evaluate water sources to meet demands, identify issues in ability to meet demands, and provide recommendations to address issues.

#### 19.4.2. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

(Note: the following text was taken from the website <http://www.secwcd.org/>.)

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District was created under Colorado State Statutes on April 29, 1958, by the District Court of Pueblo, Colorado, for the purpose of

developing and administering the Fryingpan- Arkansas Project. The District extends along the Arkansas River from Buena Vista to Lamar, and along Fountain Creek from Colorado Springs to Pueblo, Colorado. The District consists of parts of nine counties deriving benefits from the project.

The District is the legal agency responsible for repayment of the reimbursable costs of the project. In addition to administering this repayment responsibility, the District makes supplemental water from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project available for use by approximately 280,600 acres of irrigated land under various private and mutual ditch companies, and for use by the many municipal and domestic water suppliers who directly serve the District's approximately 600,000 constituents.

The District is governed by a 15-member board representing the nine counties within the District. Each board member is appointed by the state's district court system. Director positions may also be elected if citizens petition the court for such an election. Members serve for four-year terms and are then subject to re-appointment.

#### **19.4.3. Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority**

The Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority was organized on January 10, 2007, through the adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement executed by the members. Prior to its organization, the entity was known as the Palmer Divide Water Group. The Palmer Divide Water Group was dissolved upon the organization of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority. Like its predecessor, the PPRWA is a consortium of water providers serving the communities in northern El Paso County.

#### **19.4.4. The Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District**

The Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District was formed as a mechanism to implement several of the recommendations made through the Fountain Creek Corridor Study, which can be found at [www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org)

#### **19.4.5. The Fountain Creek Watershed Planning Group**

The Fountain Creek Watershed Planning Group was formed as a committee of AF CURE in 2016 as a mechanism to address large-scale issues within the Fountain Creek watershed. In 2019, the group successfully completed an EPA Nine-Element Watershed-based Plan which focused on management of *E. coli* for the Fountain Creek watershed.

The plan can be found at: [http://www.fountain-crk.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FWC E.Coli-Watershed-Plan\\_FINAL\\_03\\_29\\_19-1.pdf](http://www.fountain-crk.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FWC_E.Coli-Watershed-Plan_FINAL_03_29_19-1.pdf)