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Largest Flood Control Project in the Metropolitan Area Complete
Public Officials Dedicate South Platte River Project

(Denver)...The completion of the South Platte River project in North Denver (Globeville Area), the single largest flood control project undertaken by either the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) or the City and County of Denver was formally dedicated today.

Senator Ken Salazar, Mayor John Hickenlooper, Councilwoman Judy Montero, Public Works Manager Bill Vidal, and Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Chairperson and Mayor of Westminster Nancy McNally attended a dedication ceremony on-site along the new greenways trail on the north bank of the river.

This project represents state-of-the-art water resources engineering by removing over 300 acres of land in north Denver and south Adams County from the 100-year floodplain. This plan connects Denver's new 12-foot wide concrete greenways trail to Adams County's trail system including a new pedestrian bridge over the river and a pedestrian trail underpass below Franklin Street and the Denver Rock Island Railroad (DRIRR) track thus eliminating an at grade street crossing of Franklin Street.

The total design-construction cost for the project was approximately \$25,000,000 and was implemented in three separate construction phases.

Phase I - Completed in May 1997, consisted of:

- 2,000 linear feet of channel improvements including levees, trails, bank stabilization, aquatic and wildlife habitat improvements, landscape plantings, and removal of a large abandoned above grade sanitary sewer, which crossed the river, thereby removing a major obstruction to the river flows.

Phase II - Completed in August 1998, included:

- Improvements include flood control, recreational and riverine enhancement improvements between East 50th Avenue and 38th Street (a reach of approximately one mile). Proposed improvements include: construction of flood walls and flood levees along the west bank, construction of a 12-foot wide colored concrete trail, slope stabilization measures along the east and west banks of the river, fish habitat improvements using rock deflectors and random boulder placement, wetland restoration, landscape and riparian vegetation of the stream banks, storm sewer outfall modifications and related facilities.

Phase III - The most challenging part of the total project, began construction in the Fall of 2005 and is now complete. It included:

- The removal of the Burlington Ditch/O'Brien diversion dam and its relocation from downstream of Franklin Street approximately 1,000 feet upstream of its current location. These ditch facilities irrigate over 100,000 acres of land and are the same facilities that fill Barr Lake and several other downstream reservoirs.
- The Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO) have been an integral part of the project insuring these reconstructed facilities meet the needs and requirements of their water users. This required the construction of a open channel and 700 lineal feet of a 40-foot wide by 7-foot high structure to convey the river flows to the FRICO headgate, a new river control structure with fish passage feature and boat landings upstream and downstream through this reach of the river, eliminating major hazard to safety and a barrier to fish migrations.

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