

**LA PLATA WEST WATER AUTHORITY**  
**Update on User Commitments and Rural Domestic Water Supply System**  
**May 25, 2010**

The La Plata West Water Authority (LPWWA) engaged in a mass campaign to collect domestic water tap commitments from landowners in Western La Plata County. Approximately 640 tap commitments were made as of May 15, 2010. LPWWA will use these commitments to evaluate the feasibility of the system and prepare an application to the USDA for funding assistance.

LPWWA worked hard to contact property owners in the potential service area by sending letters and postcards, posting information online ([www.lpwwa.org](http://www.lpwwa.org)), holding several community meetings, publishing notices in the Durango Herald, and making numerous phone calls and email inquiries.

LPWWA sincerely appreciates the support demonstrated by the hundreds of individuals willing to make a financial deposit and stand behind their commitment. The broad interest in the community shows the need to pursue additional domestic water to the La Plata River drainage via the ALP project. Developing a system will provide a consistent supply of safe drinking water that will greatly benefit rural residents and reduce pressure on limited groundwater resources.

The next step is already underway. LPWWA's engineer is designing the preliminary layout of the system based on the tap commitments and respective parcels to determine the economic viability of providing service to various parts of the potential service area. The proposed system will include the intake structure in the ALP Reservoir (construction of which was completed in July 2009), pumps, storage, a water treatment plant, and a residential water distribution system.

In approximately six weeks, the engineering, cost, and environmental studies will be completed in draft form. At this time, if the project is determined to be feasible, the studies will be submitted to federal agencies for review and comment. Following this review, final documents will be prepared and a complete application package will be submitted to the USDA.

In the meantime, LPWWA continues to work with governmental entities and the community to advance the other components of the USDA funding application. For more information, please visit LPWWA's web site at [www.lpwwa.org](http://www.lpwwa.org) or contact a LPWWA Board member or Bikis Water Consultants (LPWWA's project manager) at 970-385-2340.