



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

THE FOUNTAIN CREEK

One of my greatest honors this legislative session was to be the primary House Sponsor of Senate Bill-141, the creation of The Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District. I believe this is one Colorado's most important water bills since the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project in 1962. This bill forms a large watershed district between El Paso County, Pueblo County, 8 municipalities and is focused on addressing flooding, drainage, sedimentation, water quality, water quantity and erosion problems located within the urban and rural areas of the watershed.

Fountain Creek has had her share of tragedies and triumphs. Manitou Springs and Pueblo lie directly within the path of the creek and the creek has been responsible for several devastating floods in 1921, 1935, 1965 and in 2000. Our watershed is home to over 8 municipalities from Monument, Colorado Springs, Woodland Park, Green Mountain Falls, Palmer Lake, Pueblo, Manitou Springs and Fountain. We do not have to look far to see the damage caused by the creek. One of Fountain's premier businesses the KOA Campground, located along the Lower Fountain Creek has lost seven acres, five cabins and 55 RV sites due to the encroachment of the river.

As the primary House Sponsor of SB141 it is important for our community to be recognized for her leadership, importance and ability to bring all parties to the table on reasonable, commonsense goals and legislation that benefit all of the citizens in our region. Governor Ritter joined Commissioner Hisey, Commissioner Clark, Vice-Mayor Larry Small, Mayor Howells, myself and many other stakeholders on Monday, May 19th at Fountain City Hall to celebrate this monumental success.

Now, with the passage of SB141, and proper funding and focus we can begin improving the wetlands, trails and recreational facilities unique and important to the people of El Paso County, Pueblo County and the State of Colorado. SB141 passed unanimously in the Colorado House and Senate and was signed by Governor Ritter on April 20, 2009. The success of the bill was due to the hard work and dedication of the Fountain Vision Task Force and continued support from Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Hisey, Senator King, Gary Barber, Dick Brown and Jay Winners. A triumphant victory for everyone concerned about the vitality and life of our community, county, region and state. A victory well deserved for House District 19, and celebrated in the great city of Fountain!

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