



**CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, CITY HALL,
#1 CITY HALL PLACE, PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003.**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026
5:30 PM**

Individuals Requiring Special Accommodations Should Notify the City's ADA Coordinator at (719) 553-2295 by Noon on the Friday Preceding the Meeting.

Executive Committee meetings are special meetings of the City Council and are informal Council meetings for the purpose of receiving information and discussion among Council Members; no official action is taken at such meetings. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is generally not received unless otherwise noted.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATIONS

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| A. LOBBYIST UPDATE | 5:30 p.m. |
| Gil Romero - Capitol Success Group | |
| 10 minute presentation | |
| B. MUNICIPAL COURT - LEGISLATION CHANGES | 5:40 p.m. |
| Carla Sikes, City Attorney | |
| Garrett R. Behrens - Assistant City Attorney | |
| 15 minute presentation | |
| C. SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROGRAM | 6:05 p.m. |
| Andra Ahrens, Director Wastewater | |
| 15 minute presentation | |

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| A. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(E)(I) AND THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE PROVIDED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES: POPE BLOCK BUILDING LEASES. | 6:30 p.m. |
|---|-----------|

AND

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS,

DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(E)(I) AND FOR A CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING LEGAL ADVICE ON SPECIFIC LEGAL QUESTIONS UNDER C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(B) AND THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE PROVIDED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES: POTENTIAL LITIGATION.

Carla Sikes, City Attorney

25 minute presentation

ADJOURNMENT



Municipal Court: Legislation Impacts

Changes in Legislation

HB 19-1225 (Bond Reform Bill)

- No longer can impose monetary bond for traffic offenses, petty offense or comparable municipal offense.

SB 21-271 (Misdemeanor Reform Act)

- Significantly overhauled Colorado's misdemeanor and petty offense sentencing by reducing classification levels, lowering penalties for many offenses, and introducing a new civil infraction category for lower-level violations.

In re People v. Camp, ___ P.3d ___ (Colo. 2025)

- Held that when a municipal ordinance and a state statute prohibit identical conduct, the municipal penalties for such conduct may not exceed the corresponding state penalties for that conduct.

Classification of Offenses

City Classifies Offenses as:

Class 1 Municipal Offense – Up to \$1,000 fine or 364 days in jail or both.

Class 2 Municipal Offense – Up to \$1,000 fine.

State Classifies Offenses as:

Class 1 Misdemeanor – Up to \$1,000 fine or 364 days in jail or both.

Class 2 Misdemeanor – Up to \$750 fine or 120 days in jail or both.

Petty Offense – Up to \$300 fine or 10 days in jail or both.

Civil Infraction – Up to \$100 fine.

Municipal Class 1 Offenses (\$1,000/364)	Municipal Class 2 Offenses (\$1,000)		Class 1 Misdemeanor (\$1,000/364)	Class 2 Misdemeanor (\$750/120)	Unclassified Misdemeanor (as stated in statute)	Petty Offense (\$300/10)	Civil Infraction (\$100)
Theft (over \$50)		→	Theft (\$1,000 - \$2,000)	Theft (\$300 - \$1,000)		Theft (\$1 - \$300)	
Battery/Assault		→	Assault (3 rd Degree)				
Disorderly Conduct		→	Disorderly Conduct with fighting			Disorderly Conduct w/out fighting	
Menacing		→	Menacing				
Damage to Property (over \$100)	Damage to Property (under \$100)	→	Criminal Mischief (\$1,000 - \$2,000)	Criminal Mischief (\$300 - \$1,000)		Criminal Mischief (under \$300)	
Prostitution		→				Prostitution	
Indecent Exposure		→				Public Indecency	
Cruelty to Animals		→		Cruelty to Animals			
Dangerous Animals		→		Dangerous Animals			
	Theft (under \$50)	→				Theft (under \$300)	
	False Reporting	→		False Reporting			
	Trespass	→	Trespass in a dwelling or vehicle			Trespass of vacant property or common area of hotel	
	Littering	→					Littering
	Possession of alcohol or marijuana by minor	→			Possession of marijuana by minor (\$100 fine max)		
	Camping on public property	→					Camping on public park
	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	→					Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Impacts of Sentence Reduction on Bonds



- Defendants must be released on a personal recognizance bond if the maximum penalty does not exceed six months' imprisonment (no monetary condition of bond is allowed).
- Defendants more likely to set their case(s) for pre-trial conference and trial.
- Out-of-custody Defendants are unlikely to accept plea offers that include jail time.
- More pre-trial cases means more discovery requests, motions, hearings, and trials.

- Changes in the law have caused Municipal Court to change its procedure to look more like County Court.
- Unlike County Court which has a 6-month speedy trial period, Municipal Court has 90 days.

	Before	After
Motions	Oral	Written
Discovery	Rule 216	Rule 16
Bond	In custody	PR release
Sentencing	As we decided	State's Limits
Court Appointed Counsel #s	3	4

Changes in Court Procedure

Municipal Court Offenses 2025

2025		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFIC TICKETS		255	216	209	162	199	124	228	212	191	263	249	276	2584
GENERAL OFFENSE-ADULT		300	235	353	170	202	232	245	325	400	607	406	367	3842
GENERAL OFFENSE-JUVENILES		23	24	37	21	19	22	6	21	10	41	17	21	262
ANIMAL OFFENSES		84	148	126	145	158	125	98	92	108	144	139	164	1531
MISC. OFFENSES		642	494	740	626	473	430	493	624	658	839	366	895	7280
CODE ENFORCEMENT		50	59	42	81	106	58	99	113	87	43	38	51	827
PARKING TICKETS		142	249	320	278	258	278	376	275	359	277	316	117	3245
		1496	1425	1827	1483	1415	1269	1545	1662	1813	2214	1531	1891	19571

Cases Set for Trial: 145% increase



2024 Numbers from the Court:

192 Violations set for Attorney Trial



53 Violations set for Jury Trial

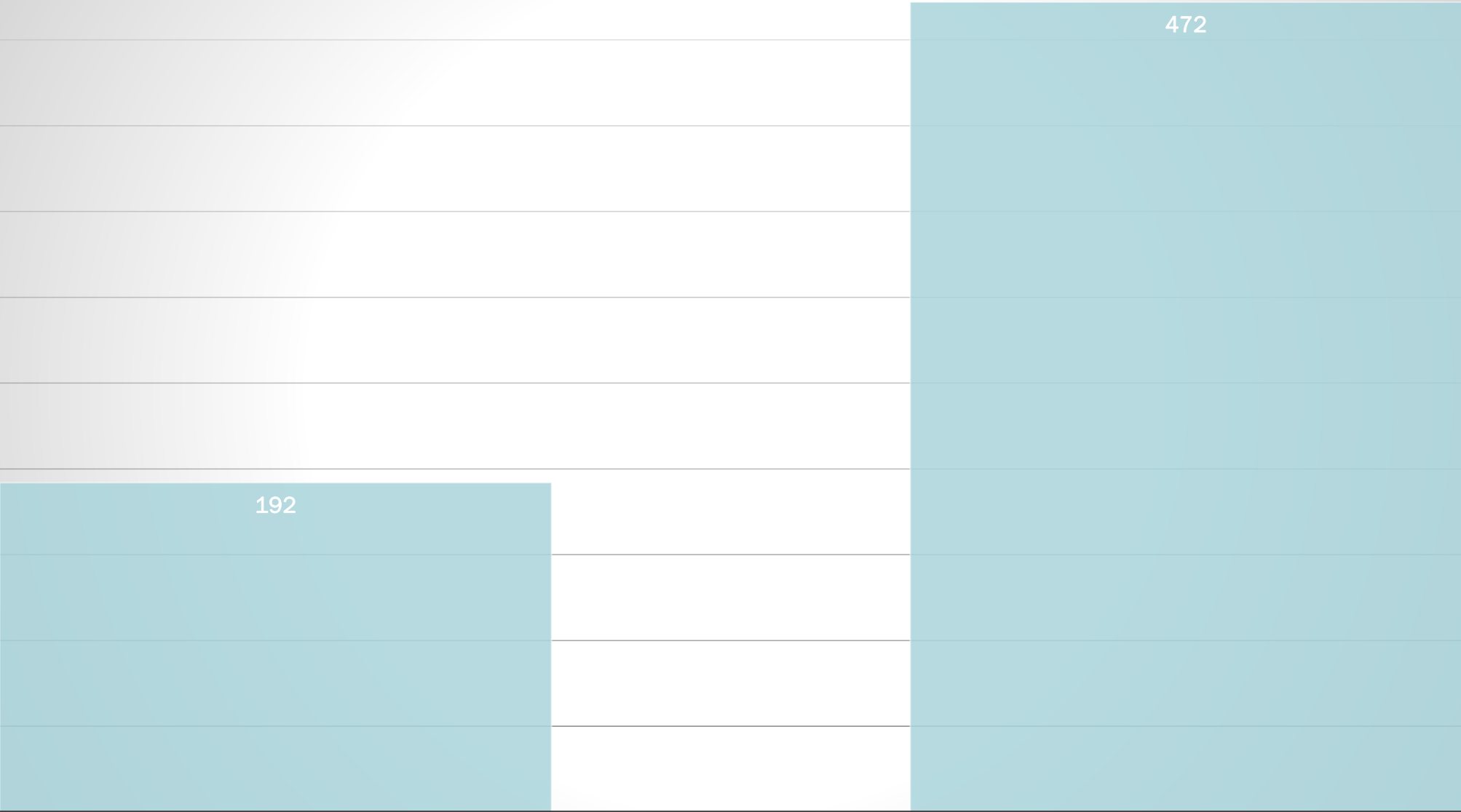
2025 Numbers from the Court:

472 Violations set for Attorney Trial
(145% increase)



106 Violations set for Jury Trial
(100% increase)

Cases set for Attorney Trial



2024

2025

Prosecutor

Licensed in two states

Prosecutor for over 10 years

Congressional (US and state)
recognition for excellence in the
field of prosecution

Awarded County-wide New
Prosecutor of the Year for county of
2.53 million people

920 Royal Crown Ln
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

GARRETT R. BEHRENS, ESQ.

(714) 348-1058
Grbehrens@gmail.com

EDUCATION

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, CA
Juris Doctor, May 2012

- *Honors Achievements*
 - Member, Negotiation Honors Program, 2010-2012
- Member, California Bar Association (Bar No. 285430)
- Admitted to United States Federal Court: 2013
- Member, Colorado Bar Association (Bar No. 61583)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Irvine, CA
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, June 2004

EXPERIENCE

CITY OF PUEBLO LAW DEPARTMENT, Pueblo, CO
Assistant City Attorney, May 2025 - present

Prosecuted all criminal matters within jurisdiction of Municipal Court: solely managed all criminal cases for a population of over 110,00 people; conducted jury trials, court trials, bond hearings, law and order motions hearings, probation revocation hearings; negotiated all cases with assigned attorneys or unrepresented defendants; revised municipal codes and ordinances to adapt to changing legal environments; litigated violations of Pueblo Municipal Code involving Sales Tax, Storm water, Waste Water, Code Enforcement, Parks & Recreation, Animal Law Enforcement, as well as general Police Department citations

RIVERSIDE COUNTY COUNSEL, Indio, CA
Deputy County Counsel, May 2022-May 2025

Litigated all matters related to juvenile dependency proceedings; provided legal advice to Department of Public Social Services pertaining to all juvenile dependency legal matters; reviewed, edited, approved protective custody warrants; managed large caseload of dependent juvenile cases in preparation of contested detention, jurisdiction, disposition, and review hearings; Researched and briefed constantly evolving, specialized field of juvenile dependency; managed working relationships with Indian tribal representatives; negotiated complex case dispositions and intermediated between client and adverse represented parties

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Indio, CA

Deputy District Attorney, December 2012 – February 2013; May 2013- May 2022

Vertically prosecuted serious and violent crimes ranging from misdemeanors to murder; coordinated and conducted forty-four criminal jury trials to verdict, drafted legal motions/responses, oppositions, briefs, replies, and correspondence; negotiated criminal case dispositions and plea bargains; responsible for review of search warrants for legal sufficiency, trained local law enforcement agencies regarding newly enacted legislation and supreme court decisions; appointed leader of misdemeanor attorney trial team

- Awarded Countywide New Career Prosecutor of the Year, 2015
- Awarded Eastern Division Unit of the Year, 2014
- Twice recognized by United States Congress, CA State Assembly, CA State Senate, Riverside County Board of Supervisors for outstanding achievement in criminal prosecution
- Awarded District Attorney Employee of the Quarter, July-September 2015, April-June 2015
- Awarded District Attorney Employee of the Month, May 2014, July 2013



Duties of Prosecutor for City of Pueblo

Attorney Duties

“Calendar” Duties

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday advisement dockets – including holidays
- **Weekend on-call 52 weeks per year**
- Wednesday Pre-trial Conference Dockets
 - Pro se defendants
 - Represented defendants

Trial Duties

- Court trials
- Attorney trials
- Jury Trials
- Probation violation hearings
- Law and Order Motions hearings
 - Competency*

- 
1. Study case facts
 2. Preparing Witnesses
 3. Filing/Responding to motions
 4. Post-filing investigation and discovery
 - a. Brady checks and obligations*
 5. Review of case law
 6. Review of Jury Instructions
 7. Amending charges if necessary
 8. Preparing exhibits
 9. Reviewing BWC for case study and Brady
 10. Conference/negotiation with counsel

Trial Preparation

Paralegal Duties

- Prepare and deliver all discover packets.
- Prepare and insure delivery of all subpoenas.
- Review BWC and other videos, as needed.
- Follow-up with third-parties regarding evidence needed for discovery or trial (i.e. videos from merchants)
- Field phone calls and questions about discovery, subpoenas, or trial process.

County Court requirements without County Court Resources

No investigators

No Victim Witness
Advocates

No Pre-trial Services
Report

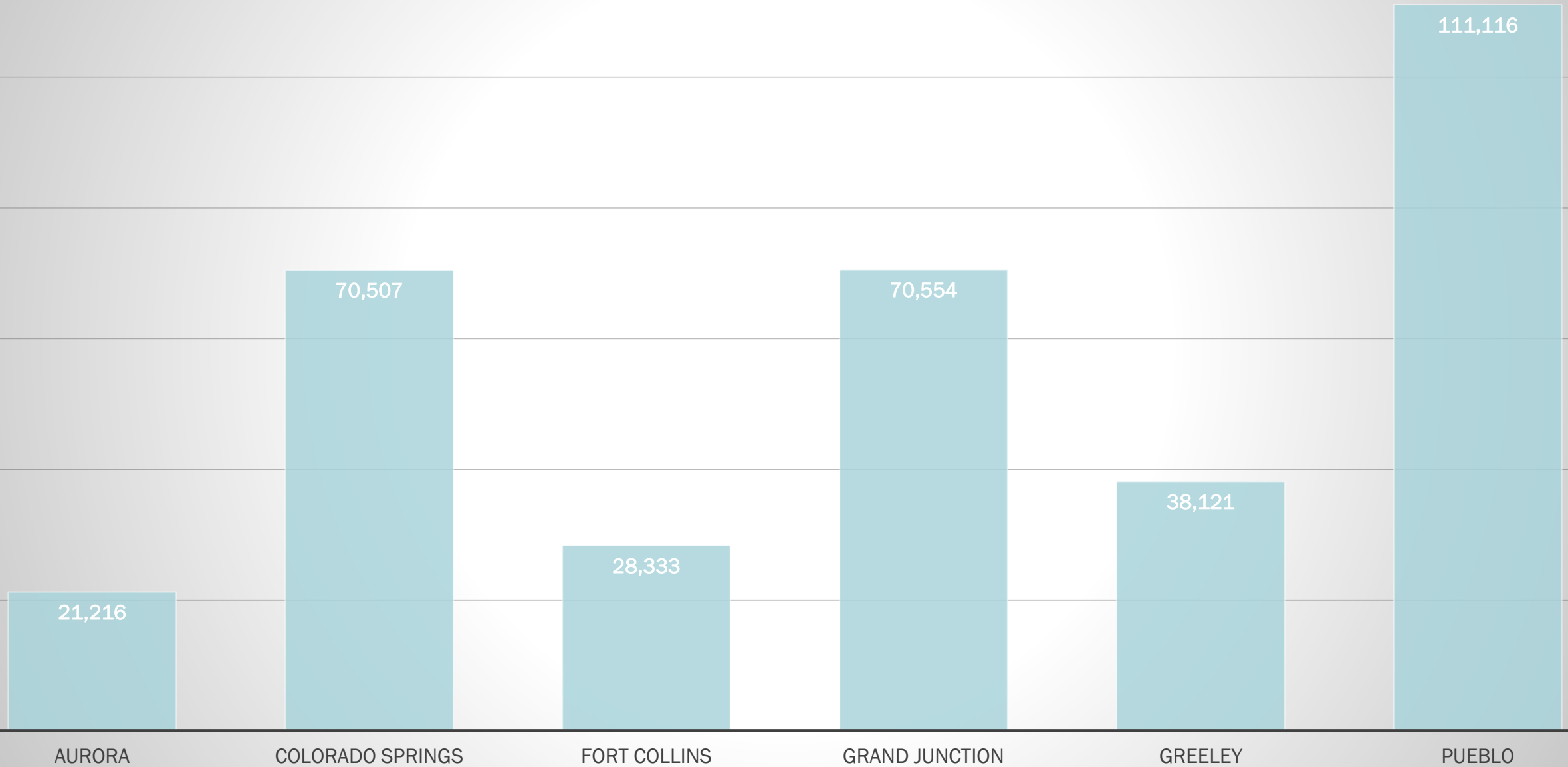
Paralegal inundated
with discovery and
unable to perform
general clerical
support

No Brady Compliance
Check System

Staffing Comparisons

	Fort Collins	Grand Junction	Aurora	Colorado Springs	Greeley	Pueblo
Populations	170,000	70,554	403,130	493,554	114,363	111,116
Municipal Prosecutors	6 Full Time 1 Part Time	1 lawyer, hiring another “for redundancy”	15 lawyers	7 lawyers	3 lawyers	1 lawyer
Ratio	1 per 28,333	1/2 per 70,554	1 per 26,875	1 per 70,507	1 per 38,121	1 per 111,116

Ratio of Citizens per Prosecutor



Overburden creates risk

- Discovery violation or missing evidence could result in dismissal of the case, which negatively impacts victims and public safety.
- Inadvertent errors could result in a denial due process to defendants and potential civil liability to the City.

1→2 change brings enormous benefit

More time for trial preparation

More time to address legal issues that require focus and office time

Improved victim advocacy and engagement

Balancing of weekend duties

Improved efficiency - one person can be in Court, the other can be in the pre-trial office (efficiency)

Continue the current citation policy of the police department

- Maintains local control over the process
- Enables the City to enact sentencing guidelines (within the state maximum limits)
- City will need to invest more resources in prosecution

Instruct police officers to cite all cases into state court except for traffic, code enforcement, animal and parking cases.

- State would pay cost of prosecution, diversion, and jail
- District Attorney's Office is short 15 lawyers
- City will have little to no control over whether cases are prosecuted, dismissed or plead out
- State court is unlikely to impose maximum sentences

City Options



Thank you

Questions?



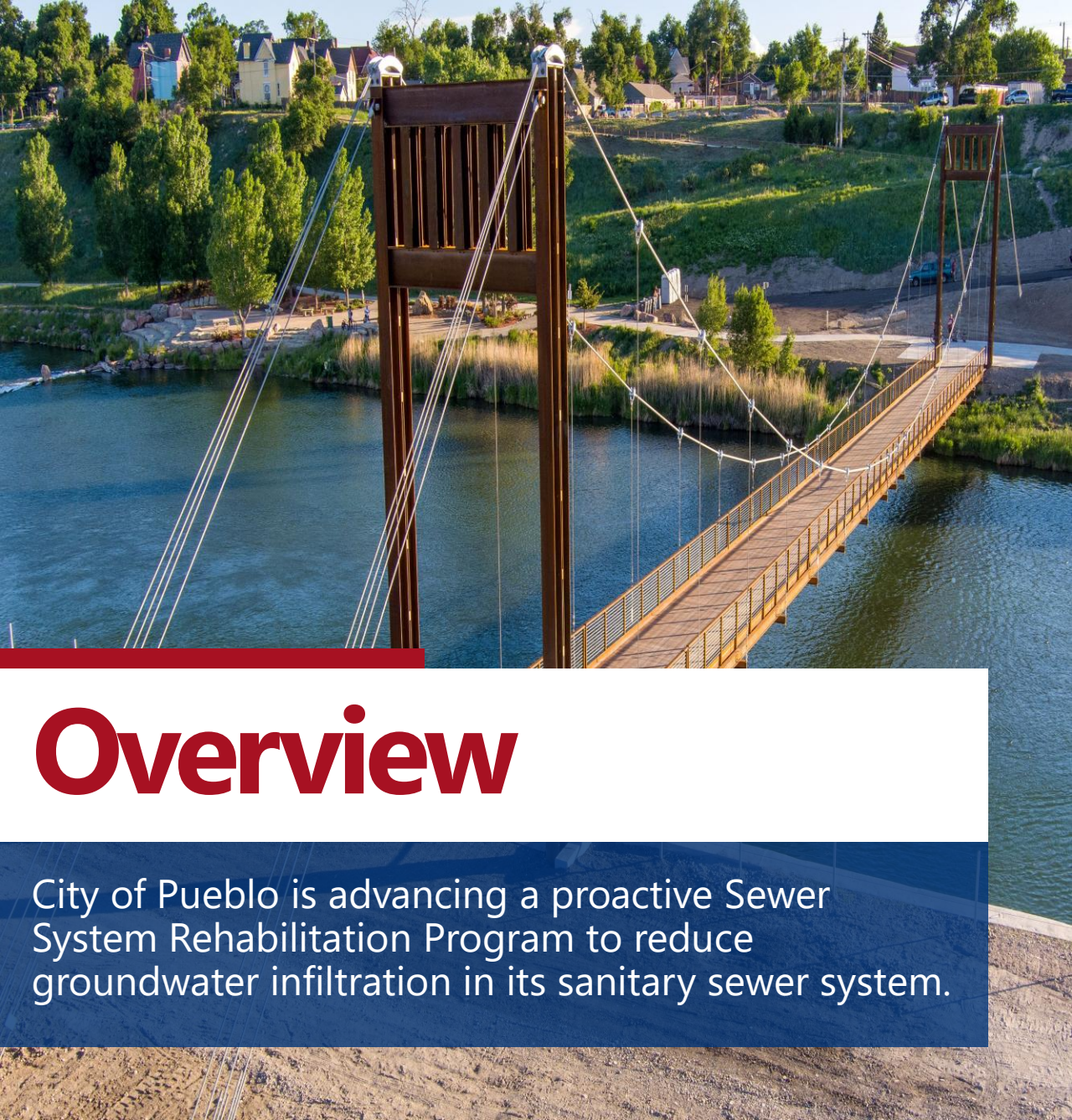
Sewer System Rehabilitation Program

City Council Work Session | JANUARY 26, 2026



Agenda

1. Program Overview
2. Regulatory Compliance
3. Proposed Approach
4. Next Steps



Overview

City of Pueblo is advancing a proactive Sewer System Rehabilitation Program to reduce groundwater infiltration in its sanitary sewer system.

The program prevents minerals like selenium and sulfate from entering the wastewater system, helping avoid expensive treatment upgrades.

While there is no **direct health risk** to residents, by sealing aging infrastructure and rehabilitating mains and laterals in high-risk areas, the City can:



Provide an affordable alternative to treating selenium and sulfate, helping keep rates stable for customers



Improves water quality and health in the Arkansas River.



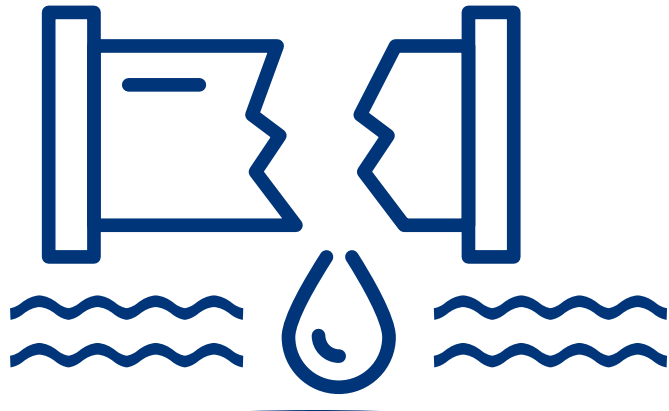
Position the City of Pueblo to meet Colorado water quality standards



Extend the life of sewer system and supports reliable services.

What is Groundwater Infiltration?

Groundwater infiltration occurs when groundwater enters sewer mains and services through breaks, cracks, and deteriorated joints.



This groundwater carries naturally occurring minerals which can overload the sanitary sewer and treatment system.



Infrastructure Challenges

The City of Pueblo is faced with the following challenges when managing the city's wastewater system

- Aging infrastructure is vulnerable to groundwater infiltration.
- Naturally occurring minerals, including selenium and sulfate levels enter sewer system via groundwater.
- Selenium in wastewater effluent is a threat to aquatic life.
- Treatment of selenium and sulfate is complex and expensive.





Regulatory Compliance

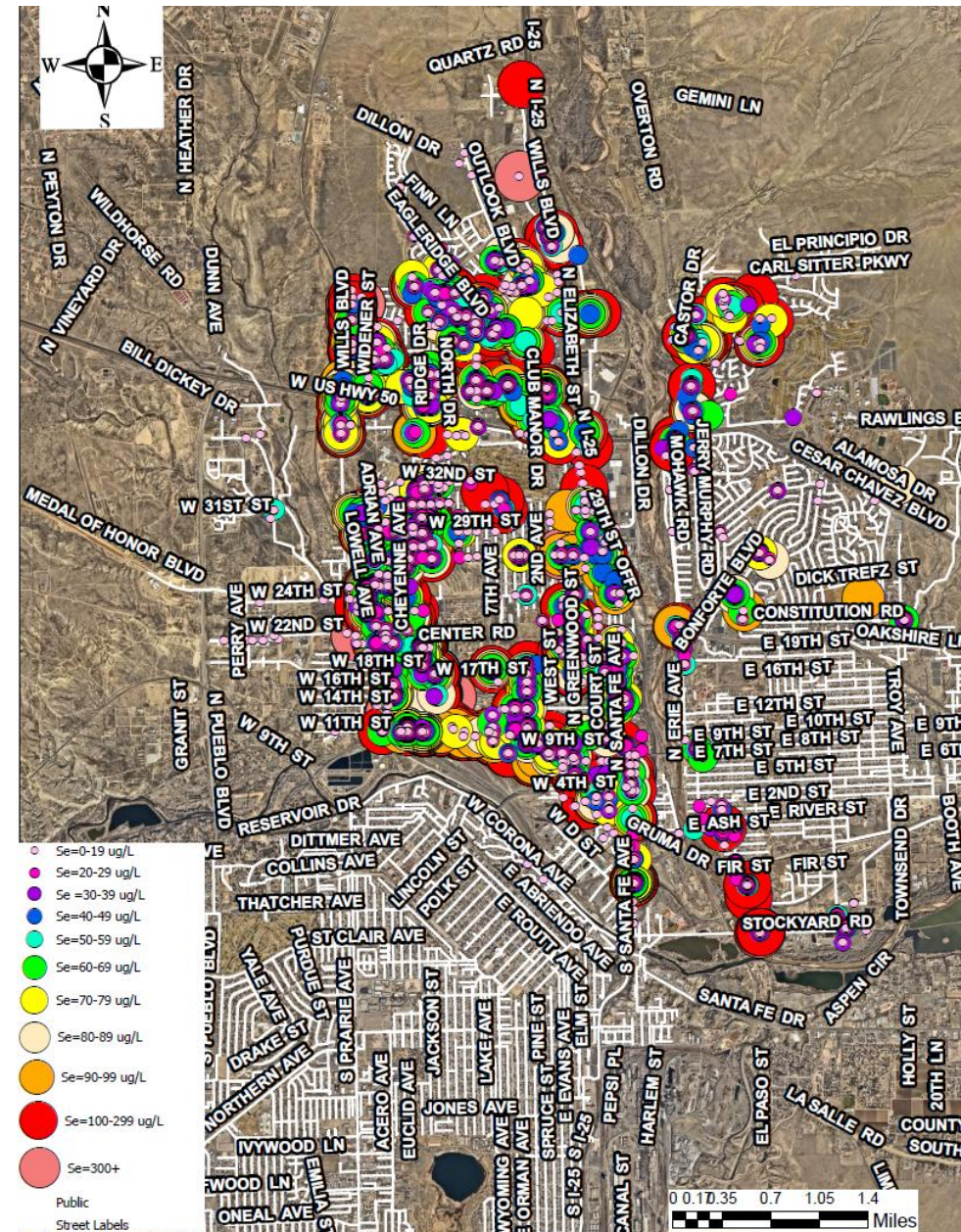
Concentrations of selenium and sulfate in the effluent discharged from the City's treatment plant to the Arkansas River exceed allowable standards

- In 2018, the Colorado, Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), Water Quality Commission (WQC) granted City a Discharger Specific Variance (DSV) to allow the City to explore reasonable solutions to manage infiltration and reach compliance.

Historical Challenges

City has been addressing selenium and sulfate issues for **25 years**, focusing on lower cost and faster implemented solutions:

- Rehabilitating and replacing sewer pipes
- Sealing manholes
- Establishing a homeowners sump pump removal program
- Examining and studying added treatment processes

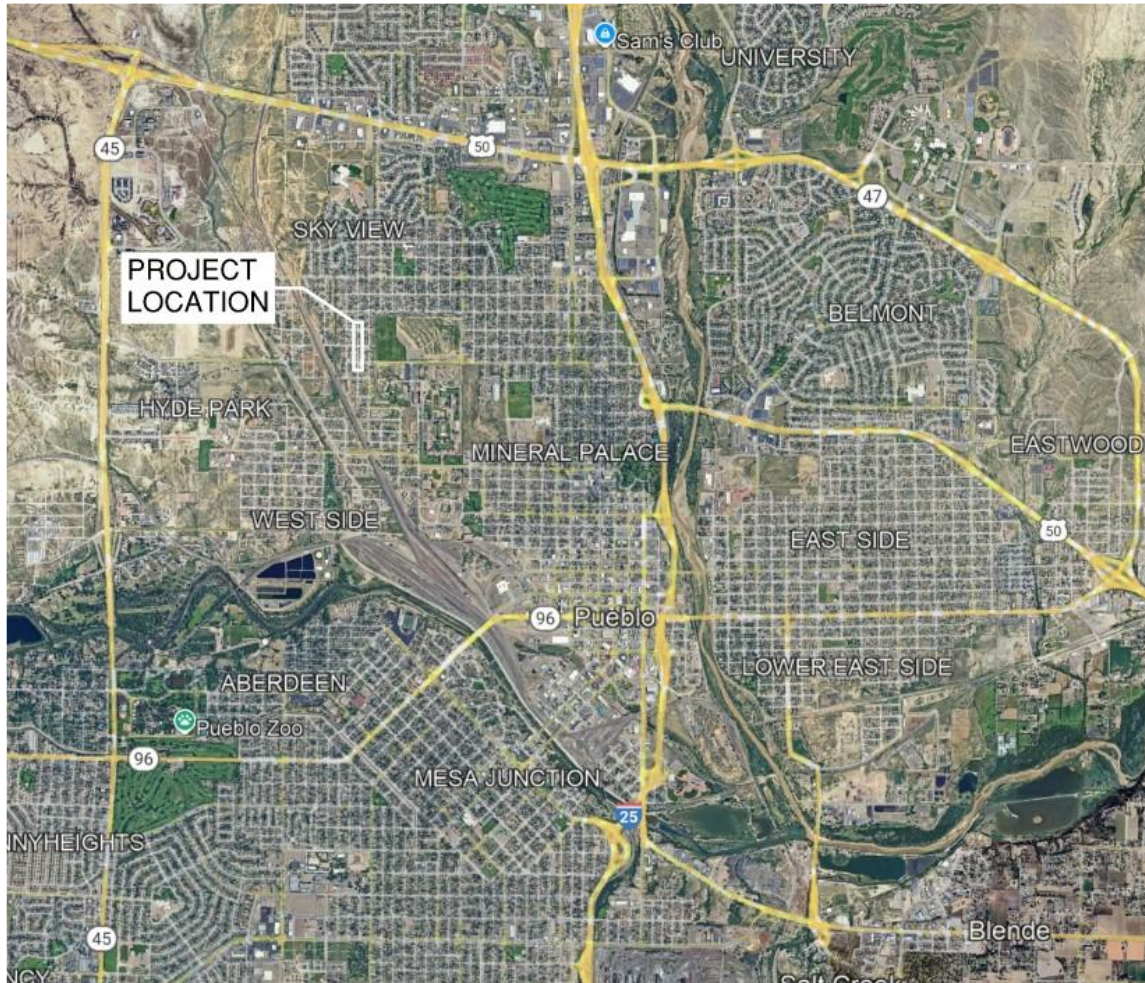




Proposed Approach

The Sewer System Rehabilitation Program is a proactive approach to reduce groundwater from entering the sewer system

Project Overview



- Council District 1 – Skyview Neighborhood
- Area of known high groundwater infiltration
- Infiltration study conducted in this vicinity in 2024 identified most problematic segments of the sanitary sewer.
 - Results utilized to identify project prioritization
- Project 1 of the Sewer System Rehabilitation Program aims to:
 - Remove and replace ~1,900 feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer and associated (6) sewer manholes
 - Identify sanitary sewer services in need of repair, replacement or rehabilitation (up to 46)
- Probable Cost: \$1.5M (Conceptual Level)

Project Map

Project 1 – 26th Street to Bancroft Avenue



Next Steps

1. Notify City Council (today)
2. Notify public and affected property owners of project and purpose
 - Approximate 46 directly impacted properties
3. Obtain right-of-entry from property owners to conduct non-destructive data collection
 - Survey and sewer service video
4. Develop design documents
5. Bid project
6. City Council Resolution for construction contract
7. Construct project
8. Restore public and private property to equal or better condition
9. Assess groundwater infiltration reduction
10. Determine need and location for additional rehabilitation projects

Contact Information

Andra Ahrens
Wastewater Director
aahrens@pueblo.us
719-553-2898



RESOURCE

Sewer System Rehabilitation
Program Handout