

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-715(4)(a), the South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) hereby provide notice that the SPNRD and the Department shall hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or 15 minutes following the end of the public information session, whichever is later, in Sidney at the Western Nebraska Community College, 371 S. College Drive, to consider the proposed Basin-Wide Plan for Joint Integrated Water Resources Management of Overappropriated Portions of the Platte River Basin, Nebraska (Plan). The geographic area subject to the Plan is the hydrologically connected area described in the Department's Order of September 15, 2004. All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present testimony or provide other evidence relevant to the issues being considered. A public information session concerning the proposed Plan will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the same date and place.

The purpose of the Plan is to meet the requirements of *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-715(4)(a) for those portions of the Platte River Basin upstream of the Kearney Canal Diversion designated as overappropriated by the Department on September 15, 2004. This area is defined in the Department's Order, which also defines the area in which ground water is hydrologically connected to the overappropriated surface water basin. This Plan applies to the designated overappropriated basin within the following natural resources districts (NRDs): the North Platte NRD, the South Platte NRD, the Twin Platte NRD, the Central Platte NRD, and the Tri-Basin NRD; collectively referred to as the "Platte River Basin NRDs." This Plan was prepared after consultation and collaboration with stakeholders as required by *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-715.

The Plan serves as the framework for all Integrated Management Plans developed within the Overappropriated Portions of the Platte River Basin. Additionally, the Plan contains goals

OA Basin-Wide Plan

and objectives, a description of the studies and monitoring protocols for the future, and the procedures for review and future modification of the Plan. Goals include: 1) to incrementally achieve and sustain a fully appropriated condition, 2) prevent reductions in the flow of a river or stream that would cause noncompliance with an interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement, 3) keep plan current, and 4) work cooperatively to identify and investigate disputes between ground water users and surface water appropriators, and if determined appropriate, implement management solutions to address such issues. The Plan includes a variety of objectives for achieving these goals. There are no controls included in the Plan as those controls will be identified and adopted in the Integrated Management Plan developed by the District and the Department.

Individuals who wish to attend the hearing and have disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the SPNRD or the Department by June 12, 2009. Testimony or other evidence relevant to the purposes of the hearing may also be submitted in writing to the South Platte Natural Resources District, 511 Parkland Drive, P.O. Box 294, Sidney, NE 69162-0294 or to the Department of Natural Resources, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676, or by electronic mail to the SPNRD at rlhorn@spnrd.org or to the Department at jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov by 5:00 p.m., June 23, 2009.

For further information regarding the proposed Plan or for the full text of the proposed Plan, refer to the SPNRD website at <http://www.spnrd.org> or the Department's website, at <http://www.dnr.ne.gov> or contact the SPNRD or the Department at the address above, or contact the SPNRD at (308) 254-2377, or the Department at (402) 471-2363.

OA Basin-Wide Plan

Following the public hearing on the proposed Plan, the SPNRD and the Department will make a joint decision within 60 days of whether to implement the proposed Plan with or without modifications and whether to adopt the Plan.