

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AWARDS FUNDS FOR ANIMAS-LA PLATA'S LEED-CERTIFIED FACILITY



The Bureau of Reclamation, an agency of the Department of the Interior, has awarded a \$1.9 million contract to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's Weeminuche Construction Authority of Towaoc, Colorado for Animas - La Plata's operating facility.

The contract has been awarded by Reclamation's Four Corners Construction office in Durango, Colorado under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), for the design and construction of a permanent LEED-Certified operating facility for the Animas - La Plata Project.

The new facility will be designed to attain a certified level under the LEED standards set forth by the US Green Building Council. The facility will be sustainable beyond the LEED certified requirements by following the more stringent DOI 2008 Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. These principles include: integrated design, energy performance, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, and reduced impact of materials.

The permanent operating facility will be located adjacent to the Durango Pumping Plant in Durango and will provide office and shop space to be used by the Animas - La Plata Operations, Maintenance and Replacement Association.

The facility was authorized as part of the Animas-La Plata Project by the Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000. When completed, the project will provide the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the people of the four corners area with a reliable water supply for their future needs, without taking scarce water resources away from existing water users in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed in 2009 gave \$3 billion to the Department of the Interior. Under the ARRA, Interior is making an investment in conserving America's timeless treasures including natural landscapes, monuments to liberty, the icons of culture and heritage – while helping American families and their communities prosper again. Interior is also focusing on renewable energy projects, the needs of American Indians, employing youth and promoting community service.

Secretary Salazar has pledged transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Department's economic recovery projects. The public will be able to follow the progress of each project on www.recovery.gov and on www.interior.gov/recovery. Secretary Salazar has appointed a Senior Advisor for Economic Recovery, Chris Henderson, and an Interior Economic Recovery Task Force to work closely with Interior's Inspector General and ensure the recovery program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility, and transparency set by President Obama.