



ARKANSAS RIVER POWER AUTHORITY | eNews
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ARPA Board of Directors Resolves To Support Efforts to Maintain Amtrak's Southwest Chief Passenger Rail Service Through Southeast Colorado

The *Southwest Chief*, one of Amtrak's premier passenger rail services, serves southeastern Colorado, western Kansas, and northern New Mexico as it travels between Chicago and Los Angeles on a host railroad line of BNSF Railway.

The *Southwest Chief* and its famous predecessors (such as the Santa Fe Railroad's fabled *Super Chief*) have served this route since the late 1880s.

The train is a key economic contributor to southeastern Colorado and to the member municipalities of the Arkansas River Power Authority, including the cities of Trinidad, La Junta, Las Animas, Lamar, Holly and Springfield. Rick Klein, City Manager for La Junta stated "this transportation link is of growing importance to southeastern Colorado communities and will likely be more critical in the future as our citizens age and rising prices curtail the attractiveness of driving and flying".

The route of the *Southwest Chief* through Colorado is threatened inasmuch as an alternative route is under consideration that would re-route the train south from Newton, Kansas, through the Texas Panhandle to New Mexico, entirely bypassing Colorado.

ARPA will unite with other Southeastern Colorado cities/towns to strongly endorse continuation of the Amtrak *Southwest Chief* route through Colorado.

The Arkansas River Power Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, organized in 1979 to provide wholesale electric power to its member municipalities. ARPA's member municipalities are Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Springfield, and Trinidad, Colorado.

ARPA | eNews is an electronic newsletter designed to keep member communities and the public up to date on developments associated with the Arkansas River Power Authority. Please forward it to anyone you think would be interested. Contact Arvenia Morris at amorris@arpapower.org to subscribe or unsubscribe.

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