



STERLING RANCH

For immediate release

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Rainwater Harvesting Bill Becomes Law, Allows up to 10 Collection Test Sites in Colorado

The bill, which allows the state to grant a maximum of 10 pilot programs over the next decade, aims to measure the impact of collecting and using rainwater and snowmelt

June 2, 2009 (Douglas County, Colorado) – On Tuesday, June 2, 2009, Governor Bill Ritter signed into law a bill that will allow up to 10 new Colorado developments to implement rainwater harvesting pilot programs during the next decade. Designed to measure the impact of collecting rainwater and snowmelt for outdoor uses, these pilot programs will provide valuable data that could help determine whether the state should allow more widespread rainwater collection in the coming years.

During the legislative session that ended earlier this month, both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill, sponsored by Representative Marsha Looper and Senators Chris Romer and Ted Harvey.

“We have not had the opportunity in Colorado before to store rainwater as a conservation tool,” Sen. Harvey said during the bill signing ceremony. “This is historic, and I want to thank Harold Smethills who worked hard to make this happen. His tenacity made it possible for us to be here today.”

Sterling Ranch hopes its planned 3,120-acre mixed use development in northwest Douglas County will become a site for one of the pilot projects, as part of an overall water-wise strategy.

“Our research shows that very little of the rain that falls from the sky actually makes it to the streams or ground water supplies,” said Sterling Ranch Managing Director Harold Smethills. “Using rainwater harvesting techniques that are already in use in other states, we’ll be able to use the water sensibly, as part of our overall water-wise plan.”

The development plan, filed with Douglas County earlier this year, calls for more than one third of the land to remain open space and be landscaped in a water-wise manner that preserves and enhances the natural beauty of the property. Rainwater and snowmelt captured would be used for non-potable purposes, including maintaining landscaping.

The project’s partners have spent more than seven years meeting with water, conservation, and infrastructure experts, along with local residents and Douglas County planning members. One of the leading objectives is to respect the natural environment and enhance it when possible, while effectively planning for the county’s projected growth demands.

For more details on Sterling Ranch, visit: www.sterlingranchcolorado.com

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