

Williams Creek Generating Station Project

What We Heard Report: Community Engagement Summary

1. Project Overview

We are proposing the Williams Creek Generating Station, a new electric generating facility near Fountain that would provide approximately 400 megawatts of electric generation capacity.

The project is intended to help meet future electricity needs, support electric system reliability and complement renewable energy resources as they continue to be added to our energy portfolio.

Key project benefits include:

- Supporting reliable electric service.
- Providing generation during periods of high demand.
- Complementing renewable energy resources.
- Enhancing energy resilience and operational flexibility.
- Leveraging existing utility-owned property and infrastructure.

The project is currently in the planning, engineering and permitting phase. At this stage, we are seeking to understand community questions, concerns and interests so they can help inform future communications and engagement activities.

2. How We Communicated and Engaged

We used multiple outreach methods to raise awareness of the project and provide opportunities for participation.

Outreach Activities

To help inform nearby residents and stakeholders about the project, we:

- Launched a dedicated project webpage with project information, open house details and an online feedback form.
- Coordinated outreach activities with the City of Fountain.
- Project notification postcards were distributed Sept. 11 to residents and property owners within approximately 3 miles of the proposed site.
- Provided English- and Spanish-language project fact sheets.
- Made a Spanish-language interpreter available at the public open house.
- Conducted stakeholder outreach with local agencies and community organizations.



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Social Media Outreach

To increase awareness of the project and promote participation in the open house, we conducted a paid social media campaign from Aug. 14 to Sept. 14, 2026.

The campaign targeted adults ages 25 to 65 living within approximately three miles of the proposed facility and directed residents to the project webpage for additional information.

Campaign results included:

- Reach: 9,753 accounts
- Impressions: 26,670
- Link clicks: 46
- Campaign spend: \$65.91

The campaign complemented other outreach activities by directing community members to project information and opportunities to participate.

Public Open House

On Sept. 15, 2026, we hosted a public open house at the Fountain Library. Twenty-one attendees signed in at the open house. Project staff observed that some attendees did not sign in, and total attendance is estimated to have been approximately 30 people.

Attendees were able to:

- Review project information boards.
- Speak directly with project subject-matter experts.
- Ask questions.
- Submit written comments and feedback.
- Access English- and Spanish-language project fact sheets.
- Speak directly with a Spanish-language interpreter.

The online feedback form remained available after the event to allow continued participation.

3. How We Received Feedback

Community members shared feedback through a variety of channels, including:

- Conversations with project team members at the open house.
- Paper feedback forms.
- Online feedback forms.
- Direct communication with our Community Engagement team.
- Comments received through project-related communications.



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- Questions and observations documented by project team members during the open house.

All feedback sources were reviewed collectively and analyzed for recurring themes and topics.

4. What We Heard

Feedback from all sources was reviewed together and grouped into recurring themes.

Theme 1: Water Resources and Water Use

Questions about water were among the most common topics raised by participants.

Community members wanted to understand where water would come from, how much would be used, whether groundwater could be affected and what safeguards would be in place to protect water quality.

Common Questions:

- Where will water for the facility come from?
- How will water be used?
- Will groundwater or local wells be affected?
- How will water quality be protected?
- What happens if there is a leak?

Representative Comments:

- *"Will this impact our water?"*
- *"What will the water usage be?"*

Theme 2: Environmental and Wildlife Considerations

Participants expressed interest in understanding potential environmental impacts and how they would be managed. Topics included emissions, air quality, wildlife, lighting and protection of the surrounding environment.

Common Questions:

- What emissions will the facility produce?
- How will air quality be protected?
- What impacts could occur to wildlife?
- How will stormwater be managed?
- What environmental studies are being conducted?

Representative Comments:

- *"Protect our environment and beauty of our area."*



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- Suggestion that bird-friendly and dark-sky lighting practices be incorporated into project design.

Theme 3: Project Location and Community Impacts

Many attendees wanted to better understand the project's location, its proximity to surrounding properties and any potential construction or visual impacts.

Common Questions:

- Where exactly will the facility be located?
- How close will it be to homes?
- Will it be visible from nearby properties?
- Will thermal plumes be visible?
- What construction impacts might occur?

Representative Comments:

- Requests for maps showing the project location in relation to nearby roads, neighborhoods and landmarks.

Observation:

Several project team members noted that location-related questions often decreased once maps and site information were reviewed with attendees.

Theme 4: Project Need and Electric Reliability

Participants asked why additional generation is needed and how the project fits within our broader energy system and reliability planning.

Common Questions:

- Why is the project needed?
- How does it support reliability?
- How does it fit with renewable energy resources?
- Is it intended to meet future growth in electricity demand?

Representative Comments:

- Questions about whether the project is being developed to support future growth and increasing electricity needs.

Theme 5: Community Engagement and Communication

Participants expressed interest in staying informed as the project progresses and wanted to understand how future engagement opportunities would be communicated.



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Common Questions:

- Will there be additional public meetings?
- How can residents stay informed?
- How will community feedback be considered?

Representative Comments:

- Requests for additional community meetings.
- Questions about how many opportunities there will be to stay involved as the project moves forward.

Observation:

A small number of participants suggested that additional outreach methods or earlier notification could help increase awareness of future engagement opportunities. This feedback will help inform planning for future engagement phases.

5. Key Takeaways and Next Steps

The feedback received during this phase of engagement focused primarily on:

- Water resources and water use.
- Environmental and wildlife considerations.
- Project location and community impacts.
- Project need and electric reliability.
- Ongoing communication and engagement.

Community members were generally seeking additional information about the project and its potential impacts. The questions and comments received will help guide future communications, project materials and engagement activities.

We also heard suggestions related to outreach methods and notification approaches. As future engagement opportunities are planned, we will review this feedback and look for opportunities to further improve how project information is shared with community members.

Additional opportunities for community participation are anticipated as the project advances through planning, permitting, and design. Community members can continue to provide feedback through the project webpage <https://www.csu.org/current-projects/williams-creek-generating-station> and by contacting our Community Engagement team at (719) 668-7765 or Engage@csu.org.