

The Blue Line as the Color Line: A Historical Account of Post-Urban Water Infrastructure, Development, and Social Equity.

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THESIS

In Denver, access to water has contributed to racial and social inequality, making the metropolis the epicenter of some of the most intense and insidious resistance to racial justice and integration.

Population Denver Metropolitan Area

Source: US Census Bureau

Year	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	Metro Denver Total
1940	22,481	32,150	37,438	322,412	3,496	30,725	448,702
1950	40,234	52,125	48,296	415,786	3,507	55,687	615,635
1960	120,296	113,426	74,254	493,887	4,816	127,520	934,199
1970	185,789	162,142	131,889	514,678	8,407	235,368	1,238,273
1980	245,944	293,292	189,625	492,694	25,153	371,753	1,618,461
1990	265,038	391,511	225,339	467,610	60,391	438,430	1,848,319
2000	348,618	487,967	269,814	554,636	175,766	525,507	2,400,580
2010*	441,000	566,000	304,000	611,000	289,000	537,0000	2,800,000

“IMAGINE A GREAT CITY”

**DENVER’S ROLE IN UNDERSTANDING THE LEGAL, POLICY, AND
HUMAN CHALLENGES POSED BY THE GLOBAL GROWTH OF
MEGACITIES.**

*2010 are estimates

What the Project Means to Metropolitan Denver

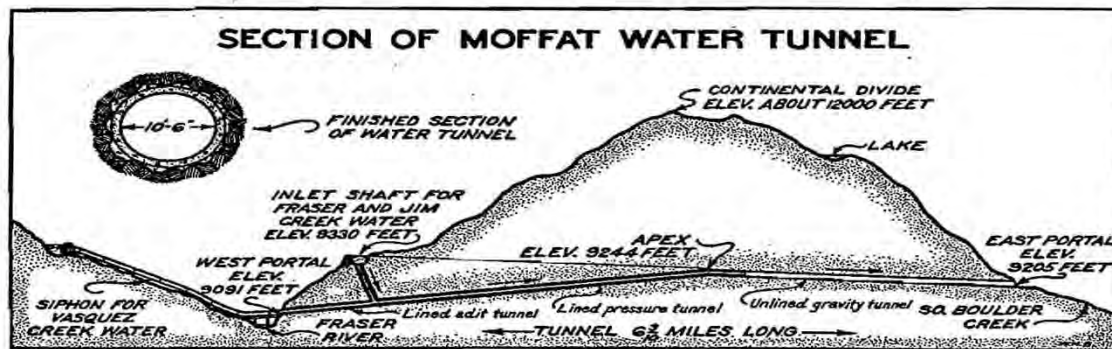
Realization that no human ingenuity could enable Denver to grow without a reasonable water supply makes it apparent that the project is well worth the cost. Through Government grants and cooperation, the City gains a \$9,000,000 project at a cost of \$5,400,000. *Denver's water problem is being solved because the necessary greater supply now is in sight.* Future development may be planned from this time forward with absolute water security. The pioneer spirit lives and leads on to new achievements.

The water that comes from the Western Slope is soft water, much softer than that from the South Platte River. It is clear, clean and cold. It will eliminate high level pumping in the Ashland district. Next year, the remaining half of the present transmountain diversion will be complete, with an added supply of purified water of first quality flowing into City faucets. The mountain barriers which brought death and destruction to many who sought to subdue them, will bring life-giving water to Denver and the arid eastern plains.

Denver now ranks high by every standard of water value—unusual purity, crystal clarity, refreshing coolness, priceless healthfulness, and now a more abundant supply. All these make Denver a better place in which to live, to invest, to make one's home. They enhance business and enrich life.

Good water truly is a wonderful asset!

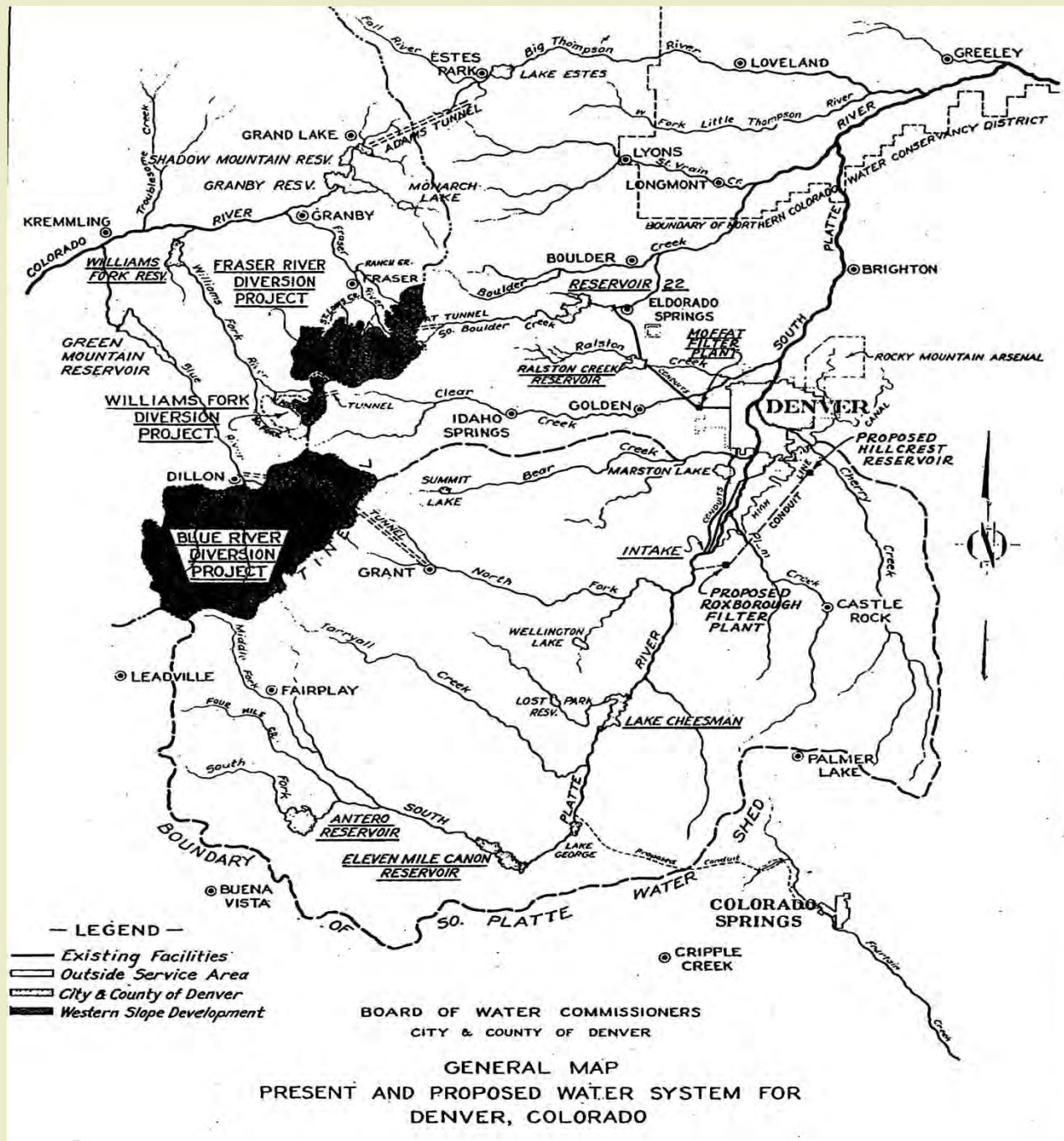
YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED AND NECESSARY.



Twenty-five

"Five years of drought dropped water reserves to new lows and spurred efforts...that would be independent of the already over-appropriated South Platte River rights...Denver reached the point where...Only a few months supply remained."

The Moffat Water Tunnel Project: An Achievement in Denver's Metropolitan Development Program (1936).



Water System of the Denver Water Board circa 1950s

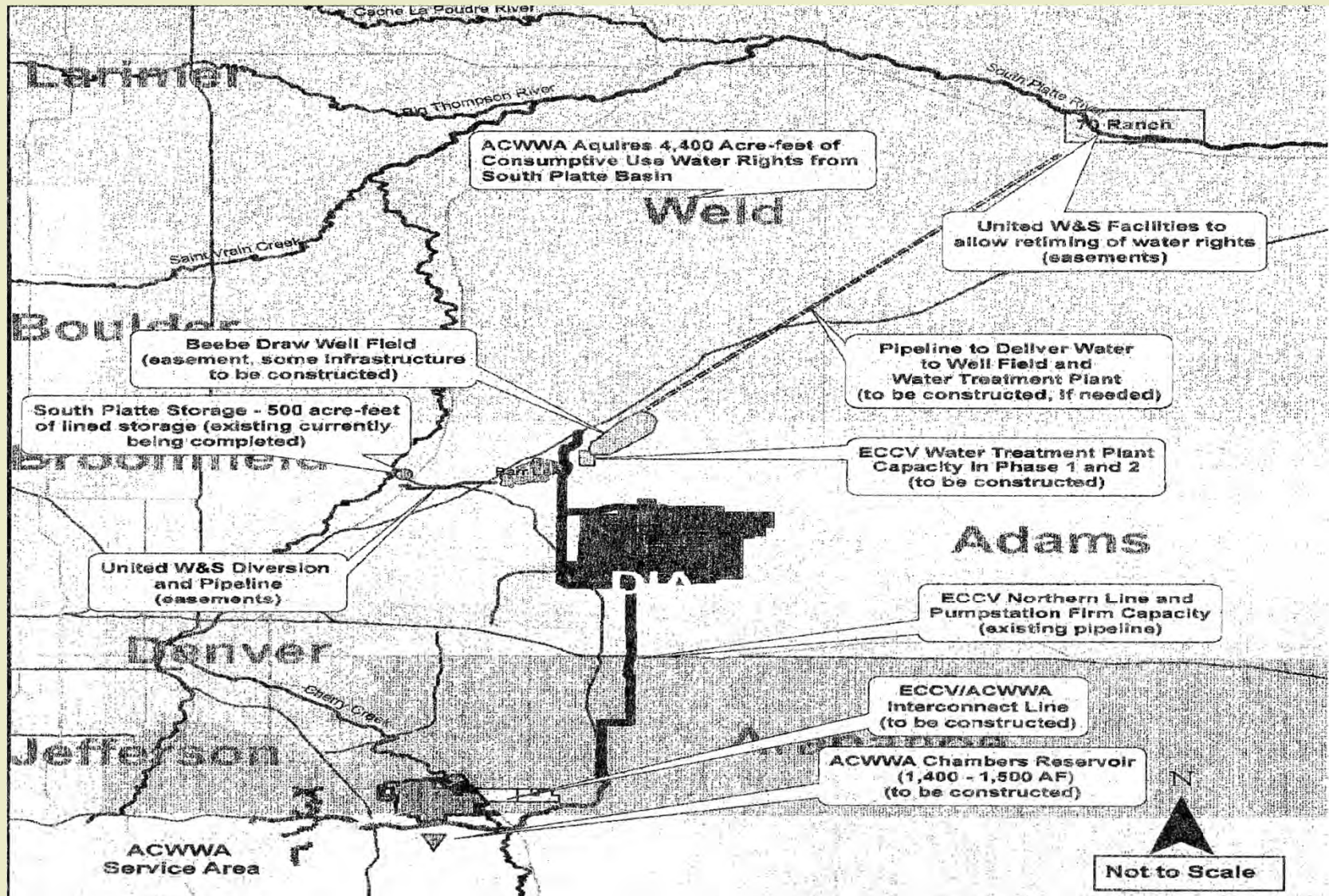
An independent agency of the City and County of Denver.

Supported by user charges and directed by a Board appointed to six-year terms by the Mayor of Denver.

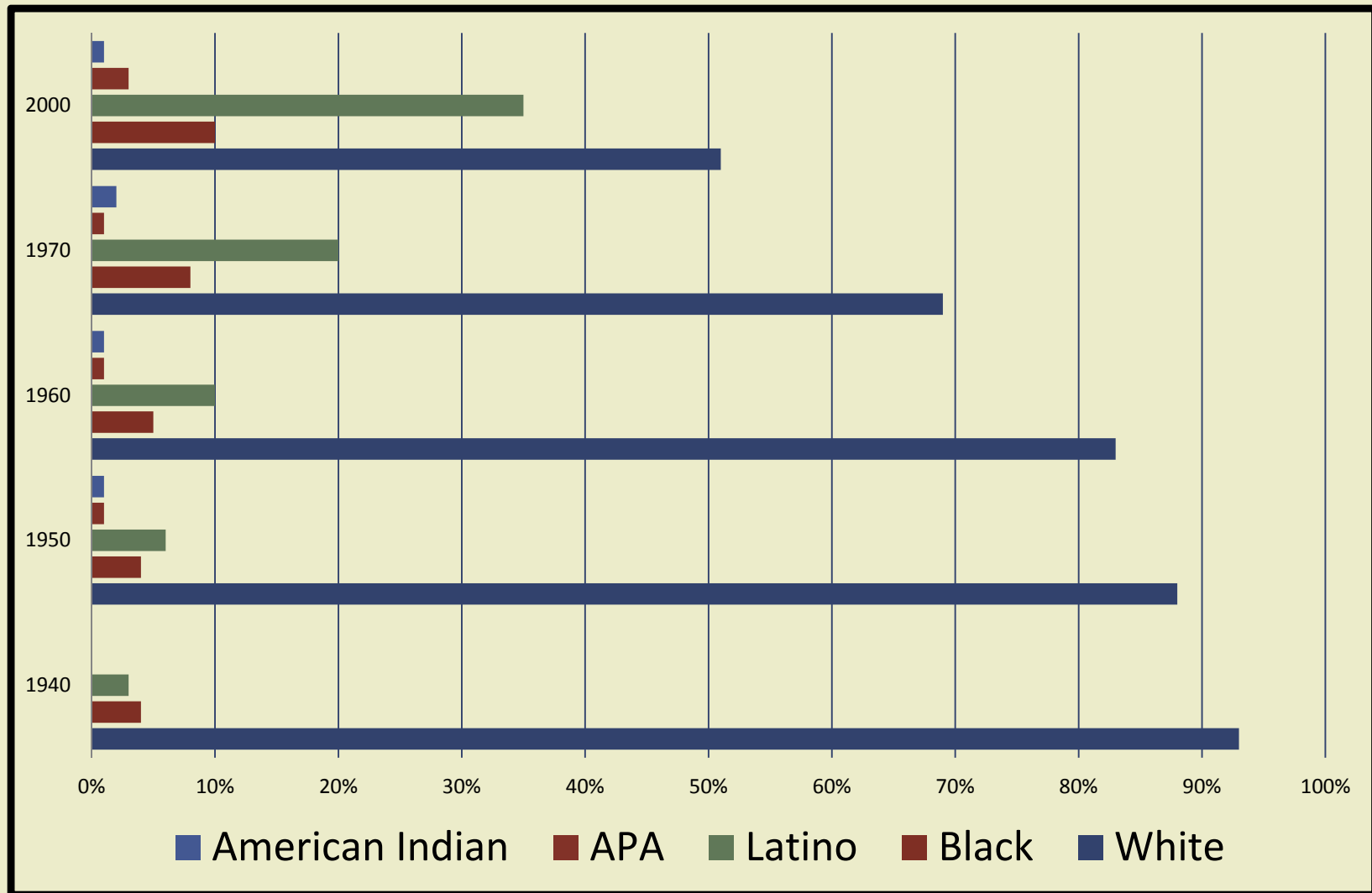
Largest supplier of water in the Metropolitan area.

Proposed Water Development

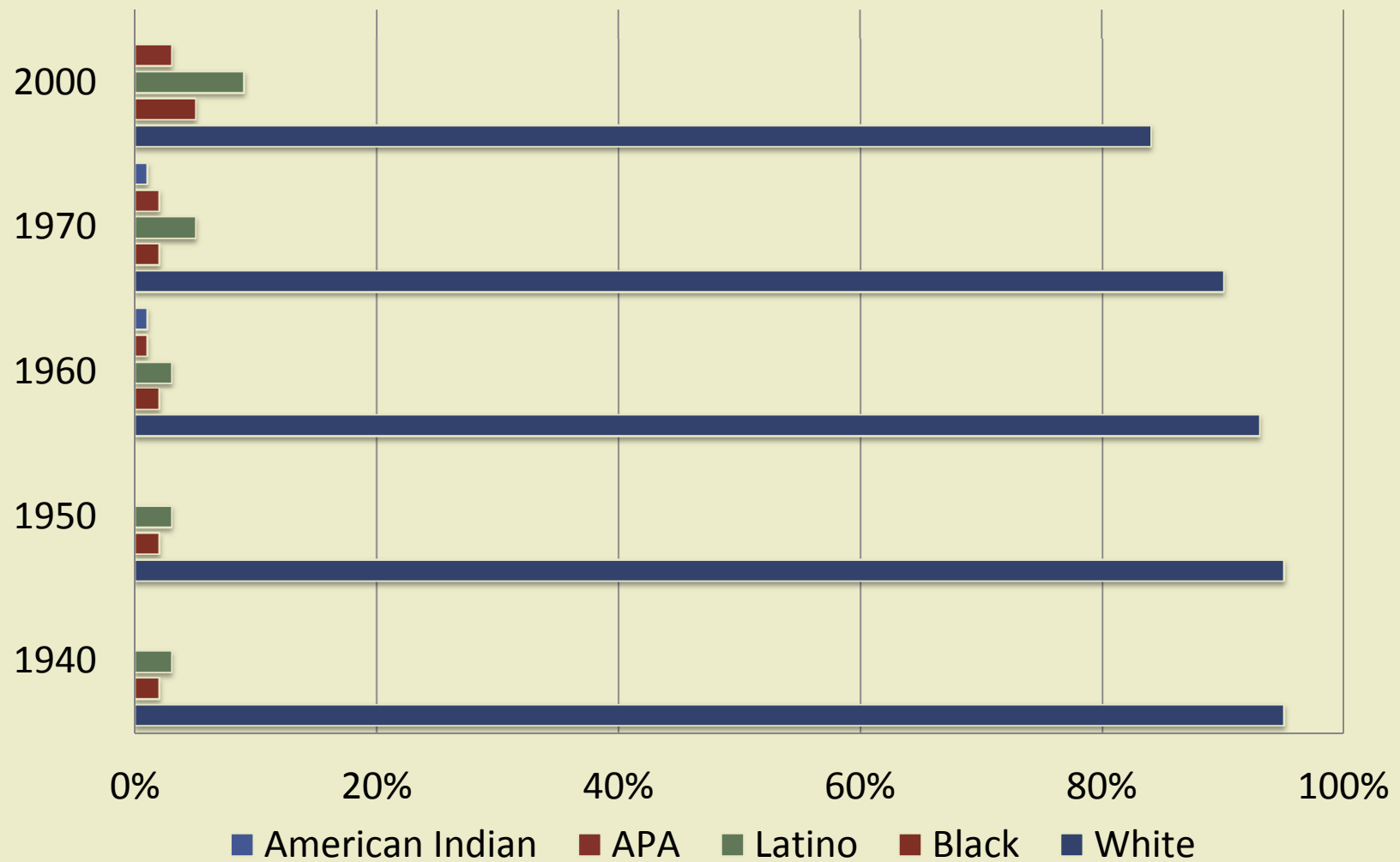
Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority, Circa 2010



Racial Population City and County of Denver



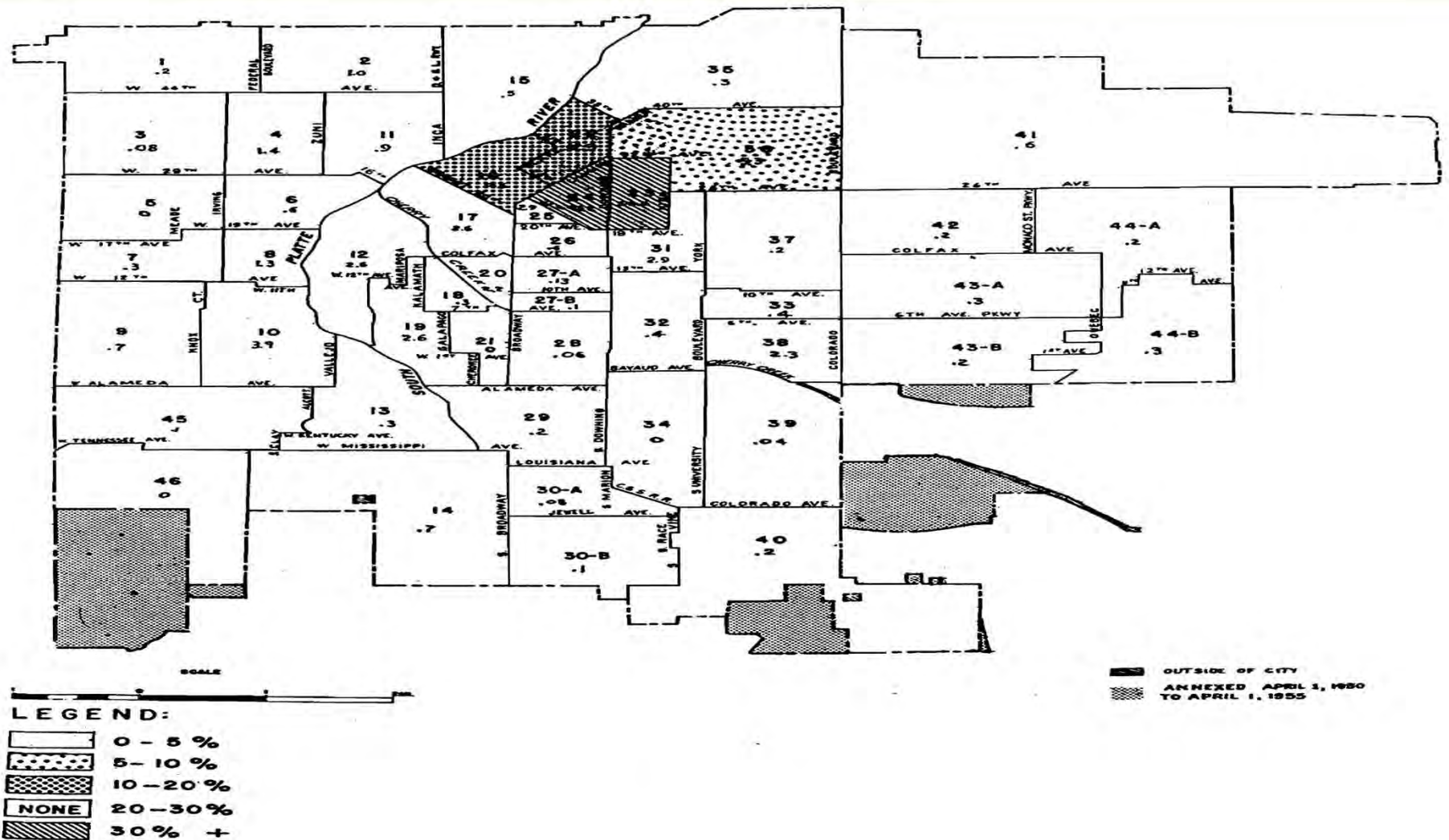
Racial Population Metropolitan Denver





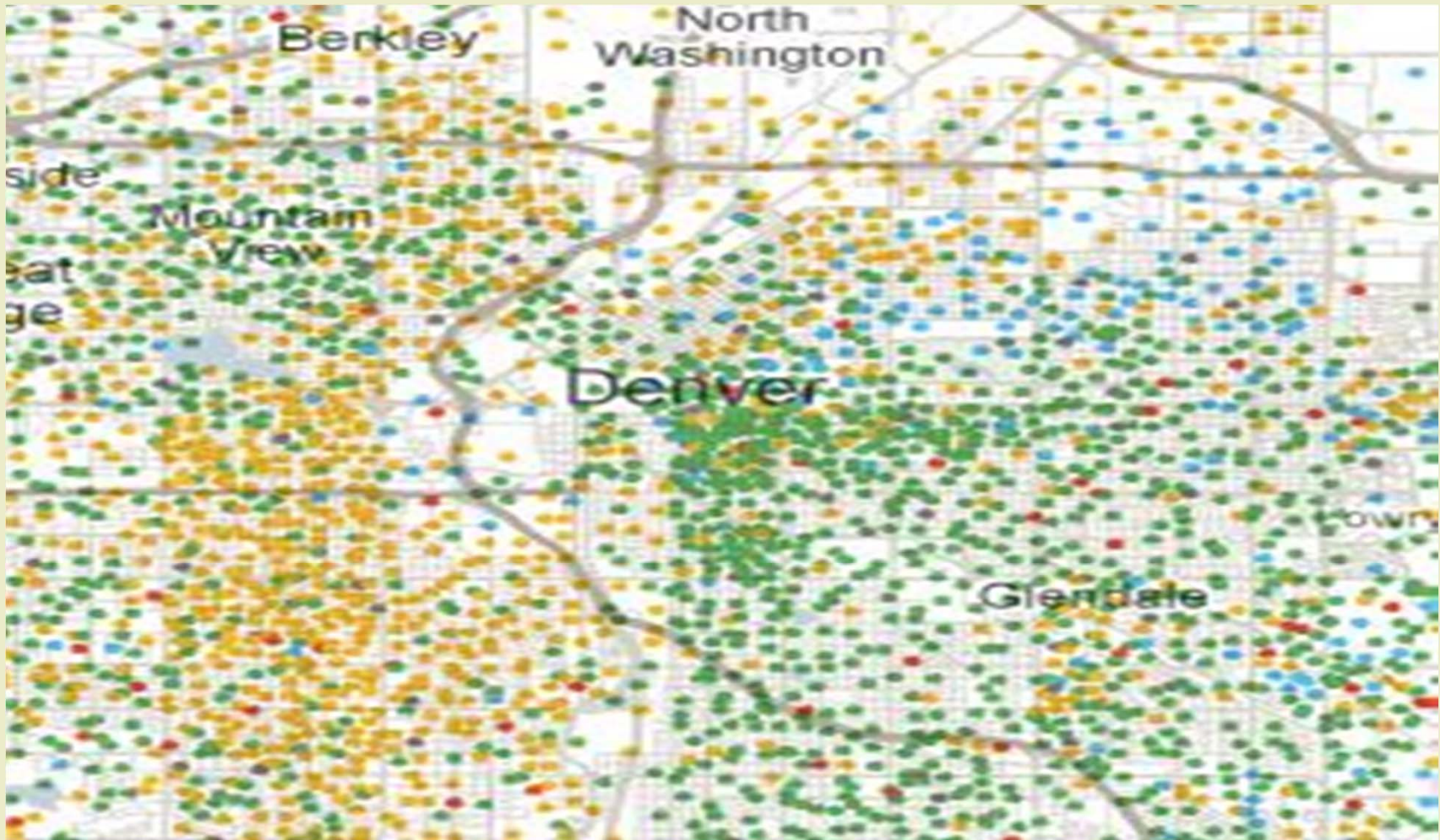
THE RACIAL COLOR LINE

Then



Percent "Non-White" taken from The Police and Human Relations: A Handbook for Denver Police Department Recruits (1957).

Now

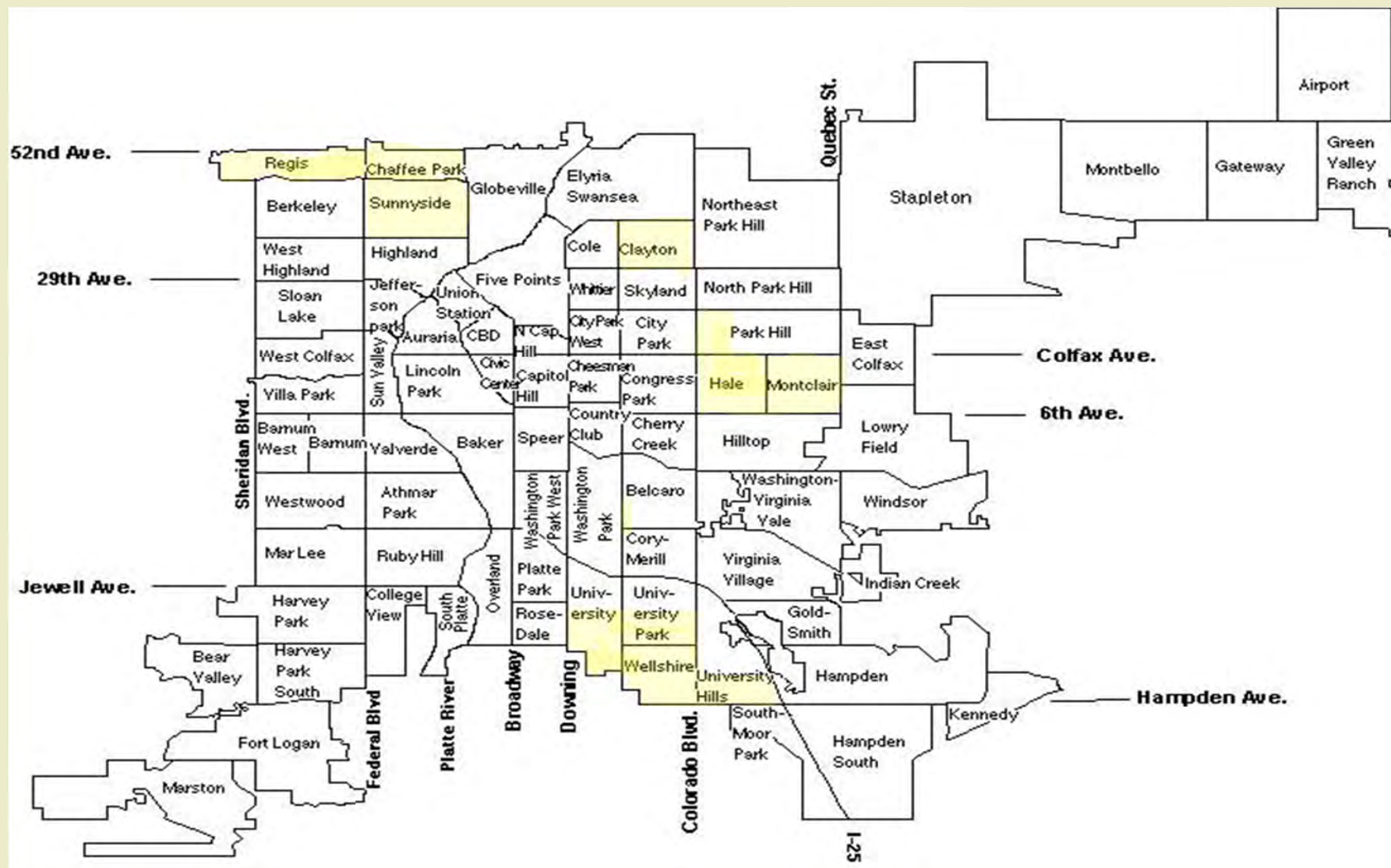


The New York Times: Mapping Every City, Every Block
based on 2006-2009 census data

It is the public policy of the State of Colorado to recognize that “a person who owns a tract of land . . . may prefer to have as neighbors persons of the [W]hite, or Caucasian race.”

-Chandler v. Ziegler et al, 291 P. 822 (Colo. 1930)

Racial Segregation Through
Residential Concentration . . .

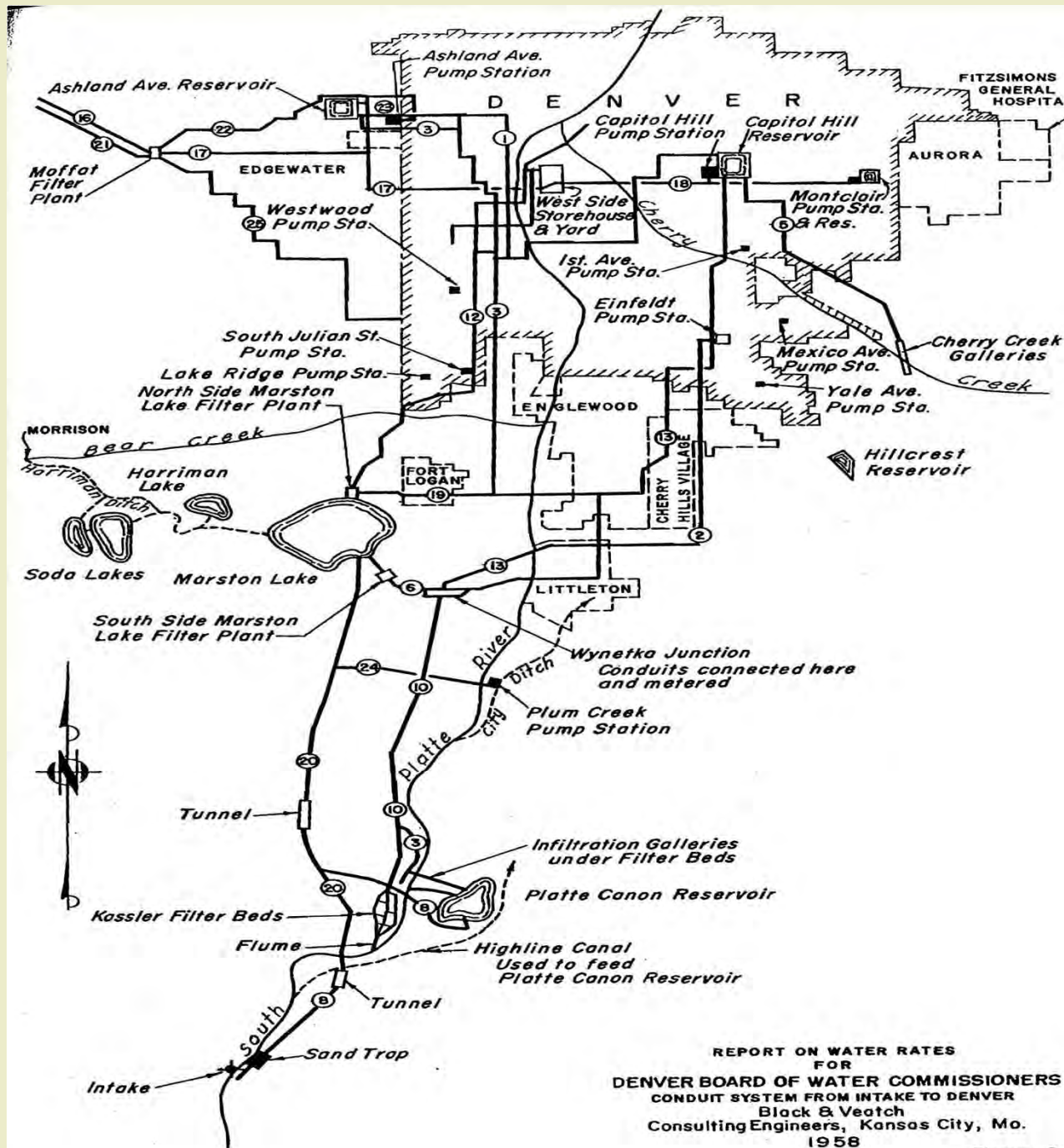


McCulloch, Clayton, Berger and Ashley, Crestmoor, Bonnie Brae, Chaffe Park, Illiff's University Additions, Regis Heights, and Clingers Gardens all had racially restrictive covenants in 1947.

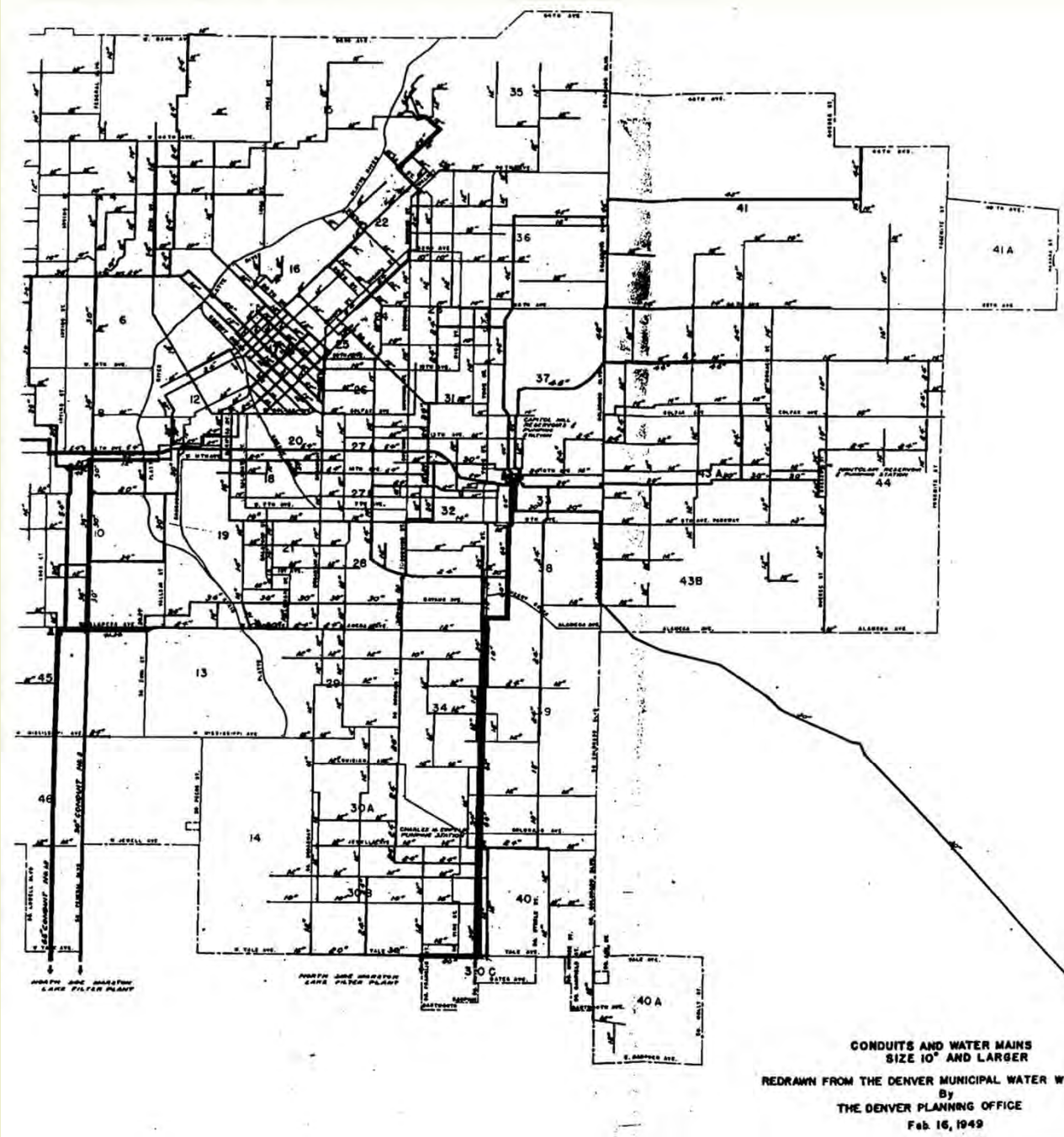
**USE ONLY
WHAT YOU
NEED.**

 **DENVER WATER**
denverwater.org

...And the distribution of water resources and infrastructure throughout the metropolitan area.



Water Delivery System
in Denver
Metropolitan Area
circa 1958

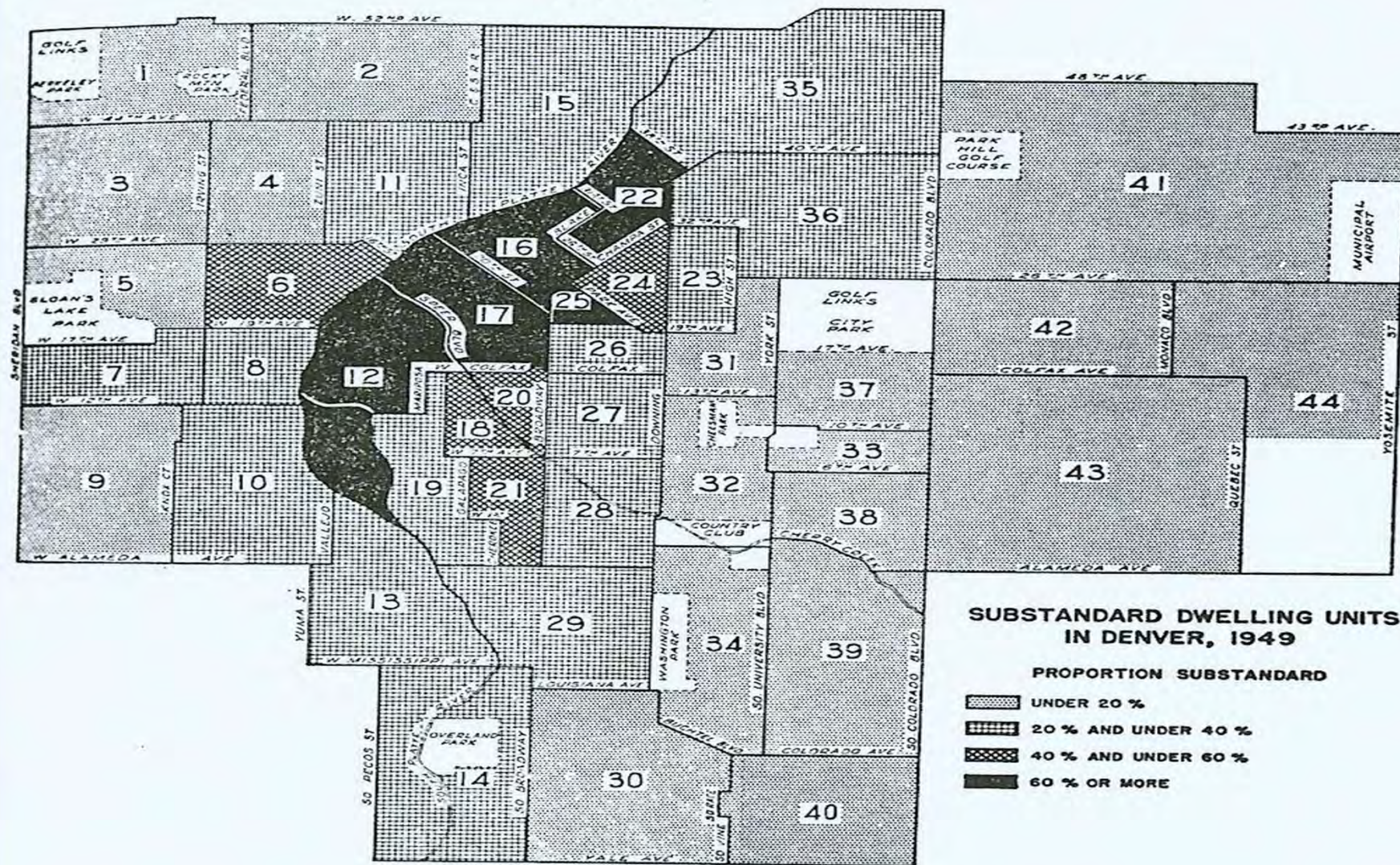


Water Conduits and Water
Mains size 10" and larger

Source: Preliminary Report,
Sites for Low-Cost Housing
Projects

Denver Planning
Commission (1949).

MAP IV

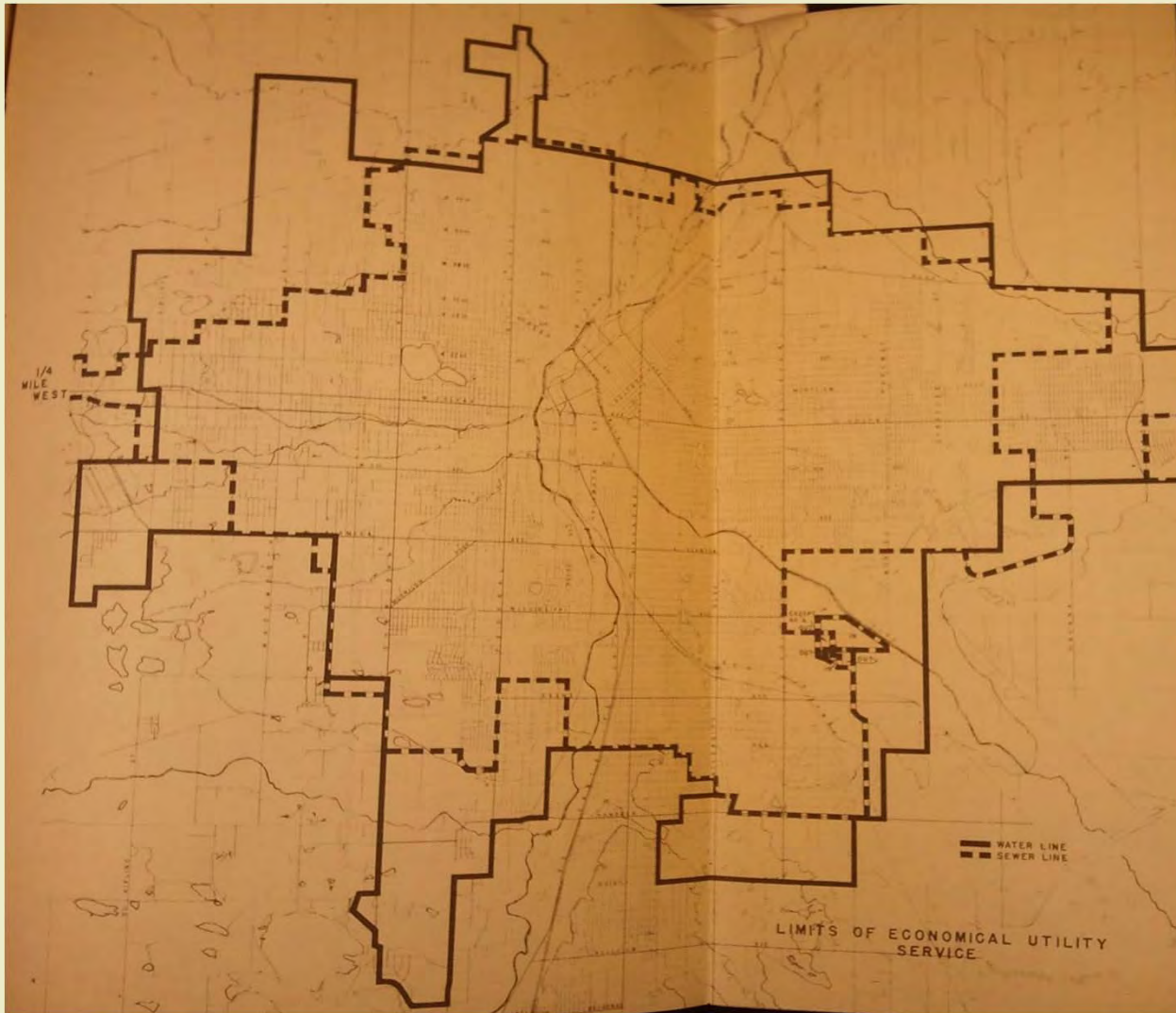


Monthly Usage/Gallons	Inside City	Outside City
5,000	\$1.51	\$2.35
10,000	\$2.66	\$4.10
25,000	\$5.71	\$8.96
100,000	\$19.96	\$31.04
500,000	\$82.46	\$133.04

**Rates for Metered Water Service Inside and Outside Corporate Limits
of City and County of Denver, 1952-1958**

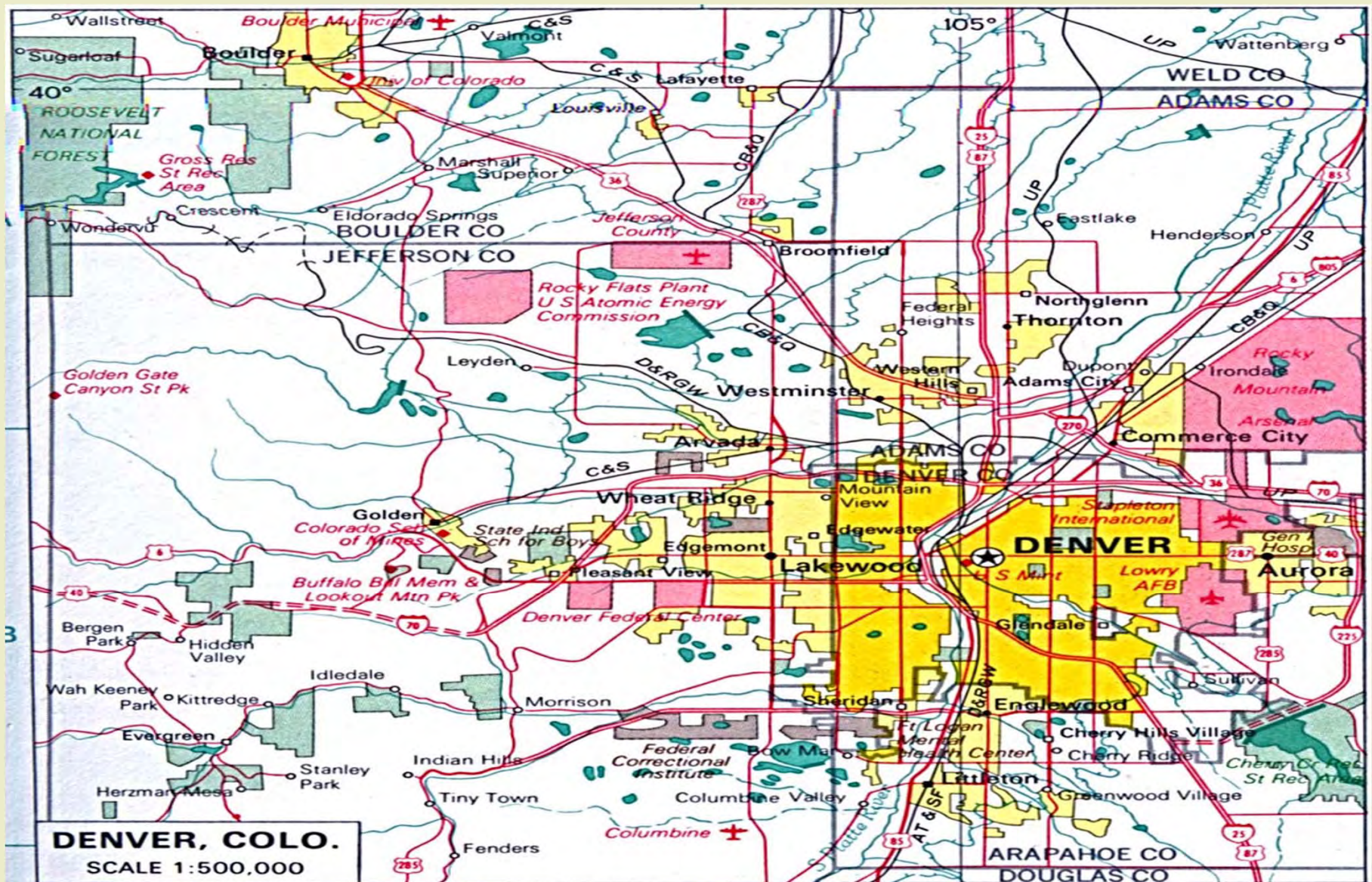
-Black and Veatch, Consulting Engineers, *Report on Water Rates for the Denver Board of Water Commissioners* (1958).

THE DENVER WATER BOARD “BLUE” AND “BROWN” LINE CIRCA 1950

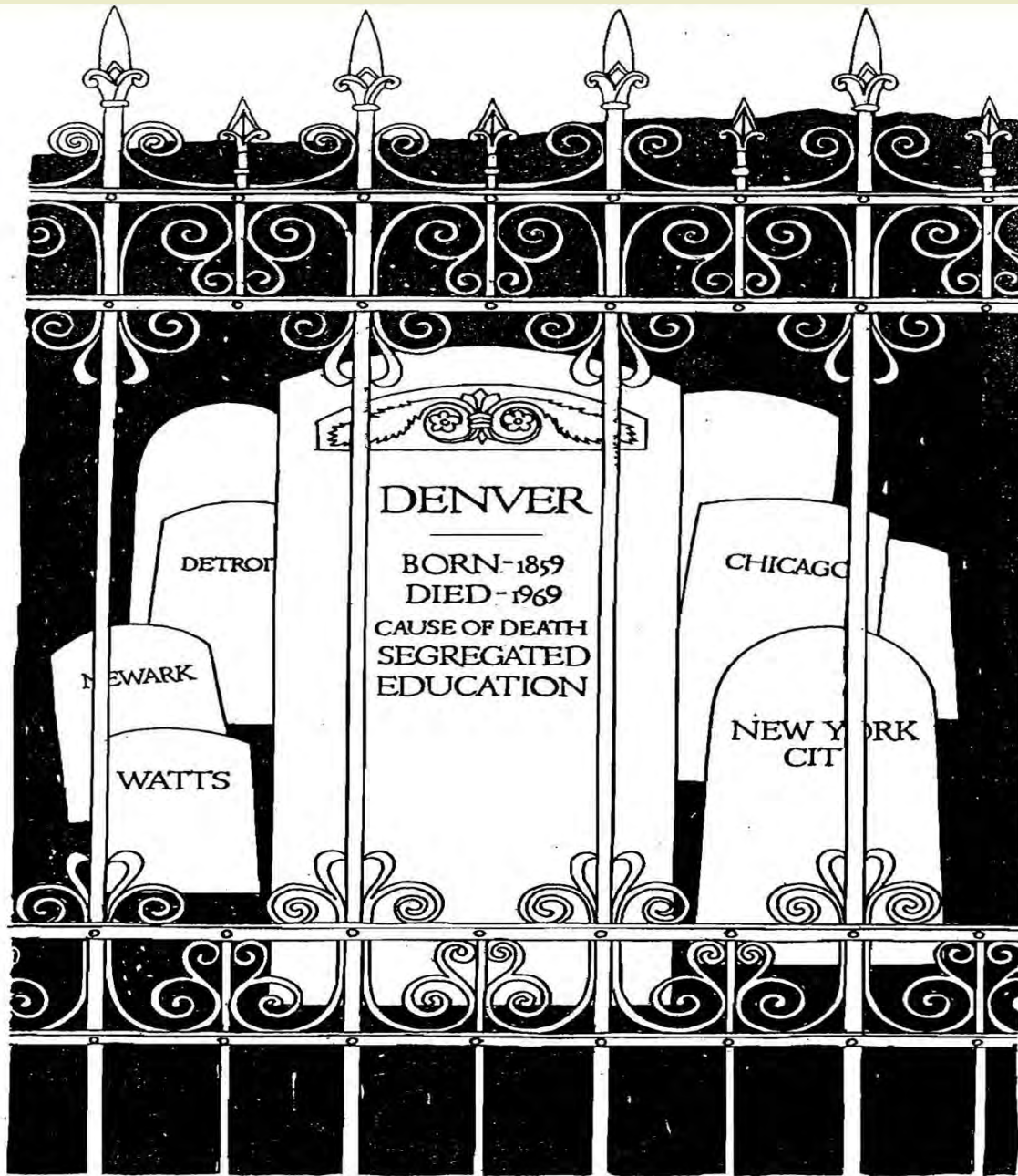


Source: Urbanized
Denver and the
Metropolitan Area:
A Basis For Our
Policy Decision on
our Utilities, Major
Streets, and
Annexation

Denver Planning
Commission (1953).



The National Atlas of the United States of America (Arch C. Gerlach.
Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1970.



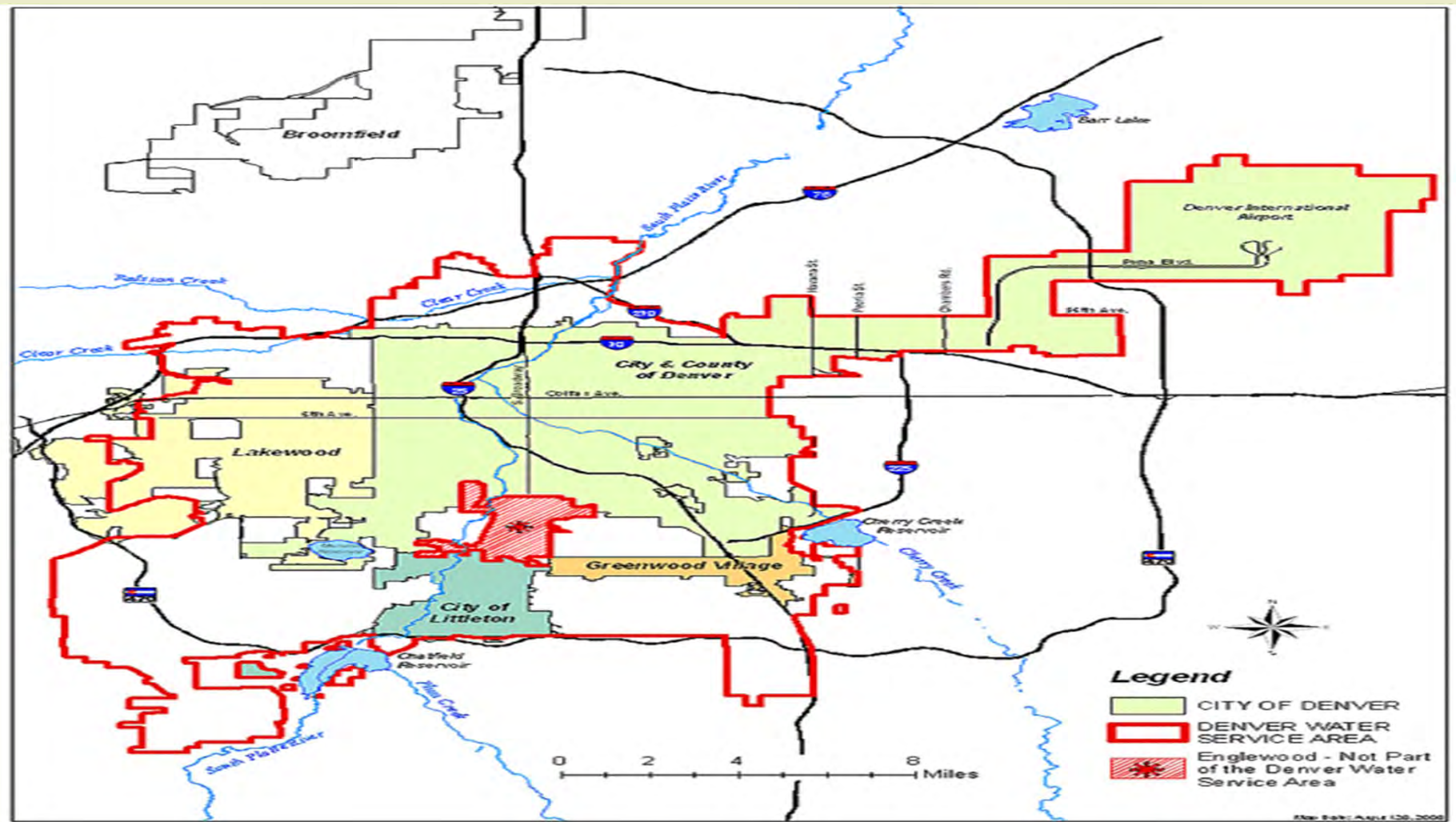
**“Here could
lie a
potentially
great city!”**

Memo to Denver
Business and
Industrial
Community
(undated)

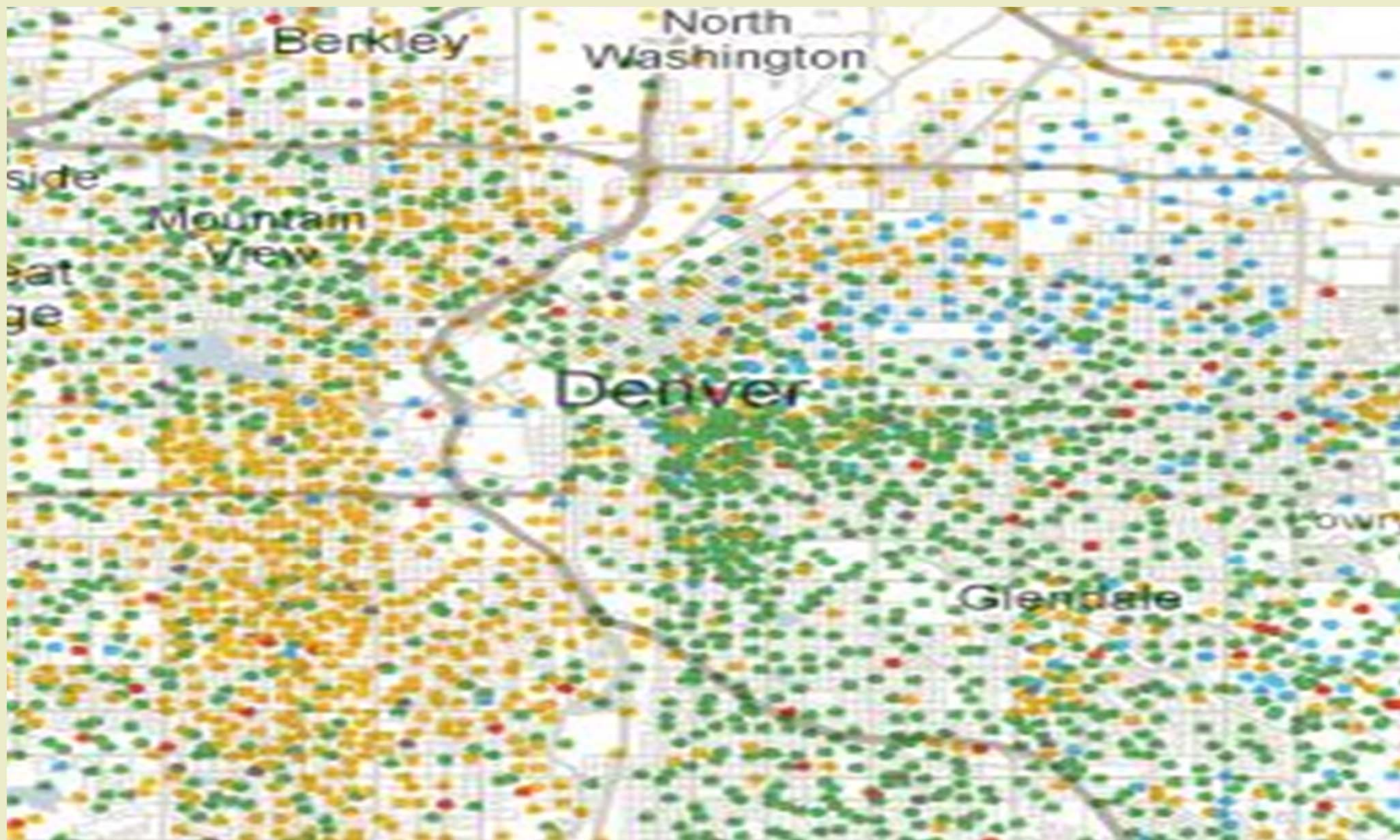
From Denver
Chamber of
Commerce

Anti-Defamation
League
Collection,
University of
Denver Archives
Box 17, FF 9

THE “BLUE” AND “BROWN” LINES TODAY



The Metropolitan Color Line: Revisited



Conclusion

- A need to pay close attention to the social and human dimensions of water development.
- Color-consciousness, rather than color-blindness in water planning.
- Understanding the relationship between racial segregation and social inequality to existing and emerging water infrastructure.

Resources

- Ben Marsh, et al., *Institutionalization of Racial Inequality in Local Political Geographies*, 31 URBAN GEOGRAPHY 691 (2010)
- Michelle Anderson Wilde, *Cities Inside Out: Race, Poverty, and Exclusion at the Urban Fringe*, U.C.L.A. L. REV. (2008)
- Tom I. Romero, II, Kelo, *Parents and the Spatialization of Color(blindness) in the Berman-Brown Metropolitan Heterotopia*, 2008 UTAH L. REV. 947 (2008)
- Thomas W. Sanchez, *An Inherent Bias? Geographic and Racial-Ethnic Patterns of Metropolitan Planning Organization Boards*, THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION (January 2006)
- ROBERT O. SELF, *AMERICAN BABYLON: RACE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR POSTWAR OAKLAND* (2003)
- Franklin J. James and Christopher B. Gerboth, *A Camp Divided: Annexation Battles, the Poundstone Amendment, and their Impact on Metropolitan Denver, 1941-1988*, 5 COLO. HISTORY 129 (2001)
- Audrey McFarlane, *Race, Space, and Place: The Geography of Economic Development*, 36 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 295 (1999)