

Jonathan T Pike, St. George, UT.
To Whom it May Concern:

I am the mayor of St. George, Utah, the largest community among the 13 that needs the water that will be delivered through the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP). Our city has the distinction of being one of the fastest growing communities in the nation for the last two decades, even surpassing Las Vegas in per capita growth. Washington County has averaged six percent growth annually from 1970-2015 and is now home to more than 160,000 residents.

The 2017 population forecast, prepared by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah in collaboration with the Utah Governor's Office of Management and Budget, projects Washington County to have the largest increase in population in Utah (229 percent); exceeding 500,000 people by 2065.

In addition to a growing population, we attract more than 6 million visitors to the region annually to enjoy our recreation amenities, warm weather and proximity to some of the nation's great parks. Sand Hollow State Park, just 13 miles from St. George, is one of the top visited parks in the state.

The City of St. George Water Services Department must be able to supply water to residents and visitors. Our mission is to effectively and efficiently manage and optimize the complete water cycle for the City of St. George. Our greatest concerns are providing water of high enough quality and quantity to enhance the health, environment and enjoyment of the community.

The LPP not only introduces a new source of high quality water into our portfolio, it stores it closer to our city. The LPP will transport 82,249 acre feet of water annually from Lake Powell to Sand Hollow Reservoir. Water stored in Sand Hollow and other local reservoirs augments St. George's municipal water supply. Without that supply, St. George would have inadequate water to meet current demands. Outdoor watering would need to be eliminated, which would have significant cost implications to our citizens and be damaging to the environment, property values and our quality of life. In the desert, trees and plants provide a multitude of environmental and ecological benefits, which contribute to air quality, storm water management and wildlife habitat.

Landscapes also shade and cool urban areas, reducing the heat island effect and cooling costs. A study done by Colorado State University shows that when there is limited vegetation in a community, buildings and paved surfaces absorb energy from the sun and cause the surface temperature of urban structures to be 18 to 38°F higher than the ambient air temperatures. Higher air temperatures lead to increased need for cooling systems, straining natural resources including water required to cool our homes and businesses since our city buys hydroelectric energy.

We must be able to provide water in the ongoing drought cycle our region experiences. Southern Utah has had 12 years of drought in the last two decades, leaving our sole source of water, the Virgin River basin, vulnerable and placing us at risk of running out of water.

We are working hard to reduce the amount of water we use. I am proud that St. George has made progress in water conservation. Washington County cut water use 1 billion gallons from 2010-2015. That's a profound savings, and it involved taking a lot of small and large steps. The Washington County Water Conservancy District, our wholesale water provider, St. George and other local cities invested \$60 million in proven activities to save water. But, conservation alone isn't always enough to meet demand.

Most of our remaining land will be large-scale master developments. We are working with developers to install water efficient landscapes and developing secondary systems for outdoor irrigation. We already use secondary water for golf courses, parks and schools. Additionally we have:

- Established two gardens with desert plants to educate families and businesses about the benefits and beauty of water-efficient landscapes.
- Paid people to put in low-flow toilets.
- Hosted hundreds of workshops to educate people on how to use less water.
- Changed the way people pay for water, to reward people who conserve.
- Launched a program to find and fix leaky pipes, which wastes water.

Each permanent resident in St. George today uses an average of approximately 150 gallons of water a day at their home to cook, bathe, wash dishes, do laundry, water landscapes and more. Ongoing conservation efforts and new technology will help each person in our community use even less water in the future.

The city has developed and is using its available water supply. We buy more than half of our water from the Washington County Water Conservancy District. As our community keeps growing, we will rely on the district's water even more. That's why the LPP is so important to us. We need this project to be online in the next decade. The City of St. George requests the FERC to complete the environmental assessment for the Lake Powell Pipeline as quickly as possible and issue the license for project.

Sincerely,

Jon Pike, Mayor
City of St. George
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Document Content(s)

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