

Zachary Renstrom, St. George, UT.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to advance the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) by completing the environmental assessment and issuing its license. I serve as a Washington County Commissioner and Board member for the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) and will assume the district's general manager position in 2020.

Recent census studies have recognized the St. George Metropolitan area as the nation's fastest growing. Natural growth and in-migration will not automatically cease. There is no convenient switch that can be flipped to stop growth. Instead we must responsibly plan for and manage what is currently happening to ensure a high quality of life for us and those who will follow.

One of the concerns we hear expressed by some is the ability of our county to pay for a large water infrastructure project. The WCWCD and Kane County Water Conservancy District are fully capable of building and paying for this project at the best value to our citizens. As an engineer, I know firsthand that competitive procurement processes will be used to guarantee the best value of engineering and construction services while maintaining the required performance, quality, reliability and safety.

The project anticipates using as many regional contractors and suppliers as possible to achieve cost-savings. As with most large water projects, value engineering will be used throughout each project's lifecycle to identify cost-savings and value-added opportunities. The project management team has committed to aggressively secure costs savings at every step of the process – from soliciting value-engineering ideas during the bid and design processes all the way through construction. The team will look for construction economies in every phase including planning, design, coordinated labor scheduling, advanced billing of materials solutions and ensuring that our experienced contractors provide in-field solutions to avoid project interferences.

But we're also dealing with unknowns because the project remains in the permitting phase and is several years before construction is scheduled to begin. For example, the cost of steel and

gasoline will impact the final cost estimates. That's why a final fiscal report isn't required by the agency until "not less than 90 days prior to the start of construction." According to current state law, the State of Utah will fund the initial development and construction cost of the LPP. The WCWCD will have the ability to contract for blocks of water, as needed, and will have decades to repay the acquisition cost of each acquired block. We expect that, given Washington County's population growth, project costs will be proportionally borne more by new water users than those residing in the region today.

As a county commissioner, I must look at the infrastructure we need to support our quality of life, health and safety, and economy for the residents in Washington County. It is our duty and responsibility to get prepared for the growth projected for our area. That's why the commissioners have taken a strong interest in this project. It's imperative that we plan in advance of needing this water. LPP is needed by the early 2030s. Given the timeframe needed for permitting, planning and construction we will probably be completing the project right when we need it. For these reasons, I encourage FERC to complete the environmental assessment for the Lake Powell Pipeline as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Zachary Renstrom
Washington County Commissioner
197 East Tabernacle St. St.

George,

