

July 28, 2020

Mr. Rick Baxter
Program Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
Provo Area Office
302 East Lakeview Parkway
Provo, UT 84606

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I am writing to express my support for the Lake Powell Pipeline and encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to sign a Record of Decision in favor of the Southern Alignment. I am the president of Dixie State University with a primary campus in St. George, Utah and an extension campus in Hurricane.

Founded in 1911, our institution has grown and evolved over the years. In 2013, the state legislature approved our university status. Today, we have close to 10,000 students. We offer more than 150 academic programs, providing an affordable education for students from Utah and beyond.

Our continued growth is dependent on a vibrant economy in southern Utah, which is equally dependent on an adequate water supply. Additionally, our campus requires water. The Trailblazers football and soccer teams play in Legend Solar Stadium, a turf stadium. We also have acres of open space that require water. The landscaped environment enhances the learning environment.

There are tremendous and often overlooked benefits of landscape to the environment. In the report titled, "The Hidden Value of Landscapes: Implications for Drought Planning," Colorado State University noted, "Significant health benefits, both physical and psychological, are realized by everyday interactions with urban landscapes. Landscapes improve property values, reduce heating and cooling requirements, improve air quality, provide wildlife habitat and sequester carbon. Some of our most prominent landscapes such as parks and cemeteries also offer significant cultural and historical value." I would add university campuses to that list.

LPP opponents often suggest that extreme conservation measures would replace the need for the project. There are many flaws with this assumption. The level of conservation that would be required has significant environmental, economic and social consequences. Extreme conservation measures would

July 28, 2020

Page 2

require severe indoor and outdoor water restrictions including the elimination of growing grass, trees and ornamental shrubs that currently comprise the landscaping in the area. It would prohibit shade trees and vegetable gardens and limit pools, golf courses, and other recreational amenities. It would require inspections, audits and issuance of fines to ensure compliance. and limit pools, golf courses, and other recreational amenities. It would require inspections, audits and issuance of fines to ensure compliance.

Extreme conservation does not meet the stated purpose and need of the LPP as outlined in the DEIS. The LPP project provides diversity and reliability by introducing a new and more secure water source to Southern Utah.

Conservation alone would require Washington County be solely dependent on the Virgin River watershed and fails to address the vulnerabilities in the face of prolonged drought and climate change that come with dependence on a single-source system. As a small desert tributary to the Colorado River, the Virgin River is even more susceptible to climate change and drought than the larger river.

I applaud Reclamation for eliminating a conservation only approach from further study. The LPP Southern Alignment is the only option that is economically and technically feasible and meets the needs and purpose of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Williams", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard B. Williams PhD, ATC
President, Dixie State University
225 S 700 E
St. George, UT 84770