



# St. George

THE BRIGHTER SIDE

July 23, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Securing a sustainable water infrastructure system is vital to providing St. George residents with clean and safe water, and to ensure the environmental, economic, and social health of our community. This is why I support the Lake Powell Pipeline Southern Alternative.

St. George has experienced economic growth at a tremendous pace over the past decade. Data reports that the St. George metro area added 3.6 million square feet of office, retail, and industrial buildings and 48,000 more people in the last decade. Looking toward 2030, we see no signs of slowing economic growth. In fact, it is estimated that more than 7.3 million square feet of office retail, and industrial construction may be needed in the coming decade. Land resources exist to sustain a very large regional population in Washington County.

St. George's economy is benefiting from an increase in tourism, in-migration and upper income retirees relocating to the area. The community's outdoor recreation amenities are world-class and many, including my family, consider it a blessing to live where we love to play.

These population trends have required city and county managers to consistently assess a range of alternatives that address our existing and future water needs. We are fortunate that city, county and state leaders are aligned in their support for the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) as the best option for balancing our collective water demands with reliable water resources. To summarize, the LPP project:

- Provides diversity and reliability by introducing a new and more secure water source;
- Guards against drought and climate change;
- Balances environmental water needs;
- Allows agricultural conversion to occur through free market trade;
- Pushes costly, technically-difficult water projects into the future;
- Contributes to the local and state economy and is the most cost-effective option for our community.

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For all of these reasons, please support the LPP Southern Alternative in Reclamation's Record of Decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Mortensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marc Mortensen  
Support Services Director

