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Mr. Rick Baxter, Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation
302 East Lakeview Parkway
Provo, UT 84606
(via email lpp@usbr.gov)

Re: Lake Powell Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Public Comment

Mr. Baxter:

I have lived in Southern Utah for 40 years and consider myself a native as I was born here but moved away for a portion of my growing up years. Many people before me developed water resources to service the area. There is no area or community that continues to grow without water. When I moved back to St. George there were two stop lights in town and I have watched as we grew from the culinary water source of the springs at the base of Pine Valley to wells developed in Snow Canyon and below the Gunlock Reservoir. The Quail Creek Reservoir was then constructed and, to provide additional redundancy, the Sand Hollow Reservoir was constructed as a surface source of water supply as well as a ground water recharge reservoir.

I am grateful for the foresight of our leaders in this area to develop water. However, I have been very disappointed in people who have moved here and portray fiction instead of facts concerning the need to develop additional water resources. If we had not developed our water resources, there would not have been resources available for them to be here now.

Most of our current water supply comes from the Virgin River which has a drainage area of 12,250 square miles. Lake Powell has a drainage area that is 108,335 square miles of which a portion originates in the State of Utah and we are entitled to use by allocated water rights. We have a much greater chance of having a reliable water supply by having multiple drainage areas contributing to our water supply verses the Virgin River drainage area which is approximately 11% of the larger Colorado River source provided from Lake Powell. If we sit by and do nothing, there will be serious consequences if we end up with a drought in the Virgin River drainage system.

I support the Lake Powell Pipeline project. Many communities (e.g. Las Vegas, Phoenix, etc....) use similar pipelines to distribute water to support their communities and the growth from people who migrate there. The water rights are available to us here in the State of Utah now to protect us from possible drought scenarios and assist in our growth in this beautiful part of the State we call home. It is no surprise to me that many want to take root here in this outstanding community and I believe it is not fair for us to decide, once we inherit this community as our home, to shut the door on those future residents by avoiding expansion resource projects. I honor those who made conscious decisions to develop our water resources to allow my family to live here and my hope is that we will continue that legacy to prepare for future generations.

I request the Bureau of Reclamation complete the EIS and issue a Record of Decision for the Lake Powell Pipeline Southern Alternative.

Sincerely,



Brent E. Gardner