

Lake Powell Pipeline

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Benefits Many Communities

Planned Components



**Approximately
140 miles of pipe**



**Five pump
stations**



**Six inline
hydroelectric
generation facilities**

Project Proponent

Agency leading the planning
and permitting:



Project Participant

Wholesale water provider:



Water for Today and Tomorrow

The Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) is a water infrastructure project that will bring water to several communities in southern Utah in a cost-effective, dependable and environmentally responsible way. When operating at full capacity, the LPP will deliver up to 83,756 acre feet of water annually from Lake Powell on the Colorado River through an underground pipeline to Washington County.

Studies estimate that new water supplies, including the LPP, will be needed to meet future demands in Washington County.¹ These new supplies are part of a comprehensive, longterm water supply plan that includes increased water conservation, local projects, agricultural conversion and new resource development. The plan will meet existing and future water demands and reduce supply risk.

Without the LPP, Washington County will need to pursue more expensive options that would not yield the same amount or quality of water. Potential options include:

- Reusing wastewater for residential indoor use
- Investing in expensive and environmentally challenging reverse osmosis treatment
- Accelerating the purchase of agricultural water rights and drying up farms
- Mandating extreme conservation that would severely restrict outdoor watering, which would impact the region's economy, environment, quality of life and tourism.

Together, these efforts would produce less water at a higher cost than the LPP.

LPP provides many benefits to current and future residents including:

Added Reliability

Most of southern Utah's rapidly growing region depends exclusively on a single river basin to supply water. If water quality or quantity problems arise with that one source, it places these communities at great risk. Climate change will only elevate the risks associated with reliance on a sole source. LPP introduces the Colorado River into the region, helping to ensure uninterrupted water delivery to homes and businesses now and in the future.

1. Water Needs Assessment, April 2016 and Water Needs Assessment: Demand and Supply Update, November 2018



Economic Vitality

Utah is consistently ranked as one of the best states for business.² The availability of a reliable water supply is critical to sustaining the economy and continuing to provide for a diverse base of employers in southern Utah. The LPP is expected to support more than 133,000 jobs and 11,700 Utah businesses.³

Drought Protection

Southern Utah has experienced 18 years of drought during the last 22 years. The LPP will provide additional water supplies and storage to protect against future droughts.

Water for Generations

We all benefit from the planning done by previous generations for the water we use today; future generations depend on us to plan wisely. The majority of future residents will be current residents' children and grandchildren who choose to remain in the area to raise their families. These residents will require water for economic vitality, jobs and to sustain their quality of life.

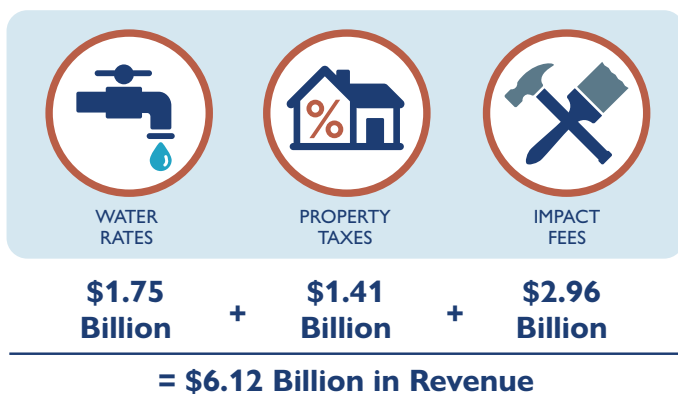
Projected Costs

Based on a preliminary design, LPP's projected cost ranges between \$1.3 billion and \$2.2 billion.⁴ An updated cost estimate will be available to the public after the project's alignment has been determined through the permitting process and the design has been finalized and approved.

The Lake Powell Pipeline Development Act passed by the Utah legislature in 2006 states the project will be funded by the state of Utah and repaid by the participating district. The state has funded thousands of regional water projects using the same financing mechanism—all of them have been repaid.

The Washington County Water Conservancy District has developed a general capital project funding strategy to phase-in water rates, impact fees and ad valorem (property) tax increases to produce sufficient revenue to repay the state. This strategy is projected to generate an additional \$6.12 billion in revenue through 2060 for infrastructure projects,

including the LPP. A 2019 independent audit performed by the Utah Office of the Legislative General and the Bureau of Reclamation's 2020 draft Environmental Impact Statement confirmed the LPP is economically feasible and affordable.



2. Forbes.com, The Best States for Business 2019

3. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

4. The January 2020 Lake Powell Pipeline construction cost estimate from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been updated to a January 2022 price level using the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Construction Cost Trends index, available at <https://www.usbr.gov/tsc/techreferences/mands/cct.html>.

Using Utah's Water

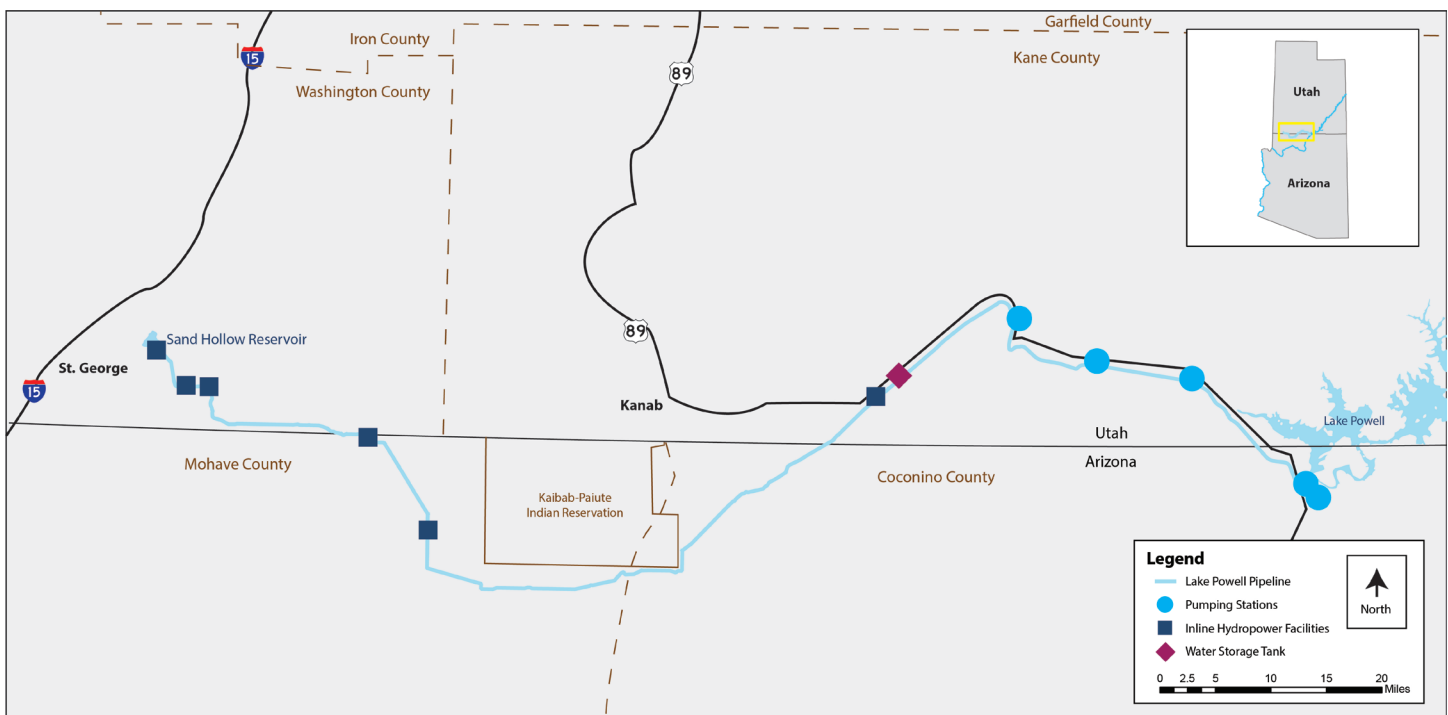
All Colorado River basin states have the right to develop and use their allocated water in accordance with the Colorado River Compact and other agreements that create the Law of the River. Utah and the other Upper Division States (Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico) have historically supplied and received credit for Colorado River flows to the Lower Basin in excess of their 1922 Compact obligations. For example, the Upper Basin states delivered more than 88 million acre feet of water to the Lower Basin states (Nevada, Arizona and California) from 2011 through 2020 – 13 million acre feet more than the Lower Basin's compact allocation.⁵

The 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact apportions to each Upper Division state a fixed percentage of the supply available to the Upper Basin in any given year. The 1948 Compact allocates Utah 23% of the Upper Basin available supply.

Utah has the right to develop and beneficially use its allocated percentage of the supply available to the Upper Basin. Utah's future water plans incorporate the impacts of climate change, extended drought and reduced natural flows in the Colorado River.

5. Colorado River at Lees Ferry, AZ. U.S. Geological Survey.

Proposed Action Map



Next Steps

Building an environmentally responsible project is a priority for the Utah Division of Water Resources and local water provider. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was issued by the Bureau of Reclamation in June 2020. Reclamation is currently preparing a Supplemental Draft EIS.

The public has had numerous opportunities to review documents and provide comments. Additional public comment opportunities will be available.

When a Record of Decision is issued, the pipeline route will be known and the design, budget and financing terms will be finalized before construction.

Anticipated Timeline

