

Central Iron County Water Conservancy District

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August 17, 2017



STATEMENT OF DIRECTION AND FOCUS FOR WATER RESOURCES IN CEDAR VALLEY

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This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District. The District was officially organized on March 21, 1997. During the first decade, the District spent most of its resources on analyzing and studying the water resources in and around the basin. Studies were conducted to establish groundwater flow models, the hydrology, water quality and aquifer protection, reservoir options and importing water from projects like the Lake Powell Pipeline.

The significant studies include two published reports from the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) entitled "Hydrology and Simulation of Ground-Water Flow in Cedar Valley, Iron County, Utah" (Lynette Brooks and James Mason) summary in appendix B and "Conceptual Model of the Great Basin Carbonate and Alluvial Aquifer System" (Victor Heilweil, and Lynette Brooks). The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) analyzed the hydrology and water quality of Cedar Valley listed in three reports: "Investigation of Land Subsidence and Earth Fissures in Cedar Valley Iron County, Utah" (Tyler Knudsen, Inkenbrandt, Lund, Lowe and Bowman); "The Geology of Cedar Valley, Iron County, Utah, and Its Relation to Ground-Water Conditions; 2002." (Hugh Hurlow) summary appendix A; and "Science-Based Land-Use Planning Tools to Help Protect Ground-Water Quality, Cedar Valley, Iron County" (Mike Lowe, Sabbah, Kneedy).

These scientific studies, used in conjunction with other state reports, detail the hydrology in Cedar Valley and have given the District stable direction to focus, plan, and manage the water resources in the Cedar Valley.

Water levels in Cedar Valley have been declining since the 1940's and the District has taken an active approach to mitigate the water decline. The District has implemented successful conservation and recharge projects which will continue to carve into the deficit. Additional conservation and plans to reuse wastewater will further our progress and hopefully help us reach an equilibrium. However, these projects alone will not provide a sustainable water resource for the future growing community.

In 2015, the District solicited and compiled water development ideas from the community and in-house. These projects were reviewed by an independent panel consisting of two Hydrologists, two Geologists, and three engineers one of whom worked for the Division of Water rights for 30 years. The consensus of the group prioritized the projects that would provide the most benefit to the valley. Until better science is recognized or provided, the District has elected to follow the panel's recommendation and pursue the following projects with its available resources in the following order:

1. West Desert Pipeline
2. Aquifer Recharge Projects
3. Aquifer Balance Project (including waste water reuse)
4. West Well
5. ARCo Three Peaks Well Re-Entry
6. Cretaceous Well #1 at Shepherders Cabin Road

A full analysis of these projects is available at cicwcd.org.

Sincerely,



Brent Hunter – Chairman