

WATER DISTRICT SECURES WATER FOR CEDAR VALLEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cedar City, Utah

The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) received an approved application of water rights from the State Engineer, in Pine and Wah Wah Valleys, for enough water to supply the citizens of Cedar Valley for the next 50-60 years.

Nearly a decade ago the District applied for water in Pine and Wah Wah Valleys within the West Desert and since have persistently been pursuing the process for an approved application. On May 13, 2014 the fruits of the labor paid off with the State Engineer approving a combined 21,525 acre feet (AC/FT) of water from Pine and Wah Wah Valleys. To put this into perspective all of the municipalities combined within Cedar Valley (Cedar, Enoch, Kanarraville and CICWCD) only use around 10,000 AC/FT annually.

The District initially applied for 12,000 AC/FT from Wah Wah Valley and 15,000 AC/FT from Pine Valley. The State Engineer approved the full 15,000 AC/FT in Pine and only 6,525 AC/FT in Wah Wah. To better understand the water resources in Wah Wah and Pine Valleys, in 2012, the District contracted with the USGS, Division of Water Rights and the BLM to conduct a new study. The data is still being gathered, but initial reports along with the previous USGS Technical Publication No. 47 provided the State Engineer with information to believe there was only 6,525 AC/FT available in Wah Wah Valley. We are happy with the results and happy for the future of Iron County.

The announcement of the added source of water to the Cedar Valley comes just two months after a special report was conducted by the Utah Geological Survey reporting that the Cedar Valley basin is using around 9,000 AC/FT per year more than what Mother Nature is providing. This is causing well levels to decline and pumping costs to increase as well as loss of storage capacity to our aquifer.

Since dropping out of the Lake Powell Pipeline the District has relied solely on variability of these applications. The West Desert water has been referred to as Cedar Valley's "last straw", or the ability to import water from another basin. The additional water from the West Desert will have the largest impact on restoring our aquifer levels, provide safe and reliable drinking water, and ensure there is a future for our children here in Iron County. Another large benefit to the

residents of Iron County is that water will cost roughly ¼ of what the Lake Powell Pipeline estimates reported.

The purpose of the District as set forth by a vote by Iron County residents nearly 20 years ago was to develop and deliver clean and reliable water for our residents. The District is charged to look 50 years into the future to meet the demands of growth and insure water will be available. The newly acquired 21,525 AC/FT of water is a result of the foresight of these citizens who were concerned for the future of Iron County. This water will have more of an impact on the future of Iron County than any single event that has happened in the past decade. No natural resource has a greater significance for the future of Iron County than water.

This has been the District's main priority for several years and we have spent a large amount of time and resources to accomplish our goal, but as with all waters in the west, the approval of this water has been full of challenges. We are pleased the State Engineer recognized potential future Wah Wah Valley needs, in a realistic manner. We have always been supportive of a cooperative relationship with Beaver County and its projects, and would like to congratulate SITLA and Utah Alunite on their recent approved application of 6,500 AC/FT in Wah Wah Valley. We hope this is the beginning of a renewed, ongoing, and productive relationship which exists between the communities involved.

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