

PRESS RELEASE

Central Iron County Water Conservancy District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER DISTRICT DIVERTS PREVIOUSLY WASTED WATER FROM QUICHIPA TO
FARMERS

CEDAR CITY, UT (May 26, 2020) - The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) has expanded the Quichipa aquifer recharge project to include supplying agriculture producers in the area with excess water from Coal Creek. Historically, runoff from high snowpack has been wasted once it enters Quichipa Lake, as it becomes contaminated with high salt contents in the lake. Additionally, by using the runoff water, it saves the groundwater that would have been pumped from the aquifer.

“We noticed a need to expand our system because of the significant runoff we’ve received the last two years. Last year we doubled the size our recharge basin and there were still millions of gallons of water that went to waste,” said Paul Monroe, CICWCD General Manager.

“The District approached us about installing a waterline (from the Quichipa Recharge Project) to our pivots, and needless to say, we were excited, enthused, and very supportive of the idea,” said Craig Jones, agricultural producer and owner of Jones Farm.

“It is important to save water, and agriculture uses much of the water in the valley. The project at Jones Farm is another way we can conserve water in our basin, and this is a much better option than allowing the water to be wasted by running into Quichipa,” said Brent Hunter, CICWCD Board Chairman and agricultural producer.

Jones estimates that they are receiving about 800 gallons per minute from the project, which is more than they receive when pumping from the groundwater. His son and agricultural producer, Scott Jones said, “We were drawing about 500 gallons per minute out of the ground (without the new water supply), which could really only water one of the two pivots. We always felt we were shorting one of the two pivots.”

“It is estimated that for every month we use water from this project we will save or keep approximately 75-acre feet of water from being pumped out of the groundwater,” said Craig Jones.

“The CICWCD was awarded \$450,000 from the Utah Dept of Agriculture Optimization Grant which will further expand this project to utilize the water in Quichipa,” said Monroe. “Water is a precious resource, and the CICWCD is committed to conserving and developing water today to provide water for tomorrow.”

“The Cedar Valley Basin has a water usage of 28,000 acre-feet per year, and agriculture uses approximately 21,400 acre-feet per year. That is 75.9% of the water being used in the basin,” said Kassie Neiwert, CICWCD Public Information Intern, “There are many conservation and efficiency efforts being made to help save this resource. The Jones’ Pivots are the newest way that the CICWCD is conserving groundwater in the Cedar Valley Basin,”

Kirk Jones’ originally started collaboration with the CICWCD when they allowed the Quichipa recharge project to be placed on their property for only one dollar a year. The CICWCD installed settling ponds to drop sediment before being pumped to a recharge pond. Since most sediment is removed during this process, this allows the water to seep deep into the aquifer and become clean enough to be pumped for irrigation use.

“This expansion to the existing recharge project will save water in a region of the Cedar Valley that has substantial water level declines,” said Jessica Staheli, CICWCD Conservation Manager.