



Central Iron County Water Conservancy District  
88 E Fiddlers Canyon Road  
Ste. 220  
Cedar City, UT 84721



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**November 12, 2021**

### **Water Supply Project, Drought Solutions to be Discussed at Community Meeting**

After the worst drought year on record, followed by drastic monsoon storms that resulted in damaging flooding throughout the Cedar Valley, water solutions are a top priority for community officials. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District is hosting a community meeting to provide factual information about water challenges and solutions, and its most critical project, the Pine Valley Water Supply Project.

Scheduled for Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m., the meeting welcomes all to the Southern Utah University Hunter Conference Center Great Hall. Topics discussed will include water rights, financial plans, and environmental studies.

The Pine Valley Water Supply Project is set to bring 15,000 acre-feet of water to the valley, and although it won't eliminate the need for aquifer recharge and other conservation and reuse projects, it will help to stabilize the underground aquifer.

The District has been working on acquiring water in Pine Valley, approximately 50 miles northwest of the Cedar Valley, since 2006. Water rights were secured in 2019, and the project is currently in the Environmental Impact Statement process with the Bureau of Land Management.

Paul Monroe, District General Manager, said the most recent study, completed by leading scientists and engineers and reviewed by the United States Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management, predicts the District should be able to use all 15,000 acre-feet of its water right without measurably affecting the Pine Valley area or surrounding areas. The project will also be unique in that it will be powered exclusively by on-site solar panels.

“We’ve used the best science available to make sure that the project won't have a negative impact on wildlife species, cultural areas, springs, or the environment in general,” Monroe said. “If there are unforeseen impacts, the project has mitigation plans in place to make water resources whole and/or provide a net benefit to the environment.”

The project will require a significant regional financial investment, but it is feasible, and it is important to invest in the region's future, said David Harris, District Board Member and Enoch City Council Member.

District Board Member Tyler Melling, who is also a Cedar City Council Member, said the PVWS Project is an important component of the valley's future, especially with the impending reduction of water rights. He said it is important to conserve, recharge excess runoff into the aquifer, and acquire more water.

"None of these options is enough to meet those goals on its own, but we do have a path forward when combining those options," Melling said.

The project is facing opposition from environmental activist groups that are located outside of Utah. According to a recent Salt Lake Tribune article these groups have created an organization and website called the "Iron County Water Conservatives." None of these entities, their partners, representatives or board members live in or are associated with Iron County.

The Dec. 7 community meeting is open to all. Comments or questions may be submitted prior to the meeting at <https://cicwcd.org/pvwsproject/> or in writing at the District Office, 88 E. Fiddlers Canyon Road, Ste. 220.

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*The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) is charged with conserving, developing and stabilizing the Cedar Valley water supply for the benefit of all current and future water users/consumers in the region. The Water District educates residents about conservation, reuse and water import strategies as it strives to meet the challenges of an overdrawn aquifer, climate changes, community growth and residential development. Efforts include sustaining and bolstering the declining aquifer with recharge projects, designing personalized home water use plans and managing the Pine Valley Water Supply Project for meeting Cedar Valley's water needs into the future.*

*To Get to Know Your H2O and learn more about how to conserve water, visit [www.cicwcd.org](http://www.cicwcd.org).*

**Photo Captions:** In 2015-2017, the District drilled monitoring wells and performed test pumping in Pine Valley. Those wells are monitored and used to help mitigate and prevent any negative impacts to the Pine Valley aquifer.

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