Iron County Water Stewards

Answering Community Questions

Get to Know Your H2O: Central Iron County Water Conservancy District appreciates questions submitted by community members about the Pine Valley Water Supply Project and local water needs. As part of its role as steward of water in Cedar Valley, the District is working with a group of experts, community members and elected officials to help prepare viable solutions for the future and to respond to community questions and concerns about emergent water issues.

This week’s question from the community is answered by David Harris, who serves on the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board and the Enoch City Council, and is a financial advisor by profession.

Question: What is the cost of the Pine Valley Water Supply Project? How will it be funded?

Answer: The projected cost of the Pine Valley Water Supply Project is $260 million and the District is working with local municipalities to create a feasible financial plan. The District is working to find all available funding methods in order to make the project as affordable as possible and have the smallest possible impact on residents.

It is expected to be funded through a combination of grants, loans, impact fees, user fees and property taxes. With the federal government’s recent commitment to infrastructure, I believe the project would be a very good candidate for assistance from other governmental organizations.

Additionally, the District has the opportunity for financing with extremely low interest rates, and I feel that with a collaborative effort between the District, municipalities, and other organizations, we will be able to minimize the project’s financial impact while delivering the needed water to our area.

I feel confident that we can manage this so we will still have some of the most affordable and best water in the west.

It is important though, to be prepared for the worst-case scenario. If the project was paid back exclusively by the current water users in the valley, users could expect to see approximately $45 to $60 added to their monthly water bill in 2030 (if paid back by the current resident’s user fees only).

Things that will lower that cost:
- Population growth
- Impact fees & taxes
- Grants or low interest rates

The cost of the PVWS:
- $260 million
- $930 per household
- $45.54 increase to your monthly water bill in 2020 (if paid back by the current resident’s user fees only)

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water bill. Population growth will also spread out the cost.

The cost estimates for the Pine Valley Water Supply Project average out to $17,333 per acre-foot. Other projects that have been discussed in the past include the Lake Powell Pipeline to Iron County, which would have cost $39,654 per acre-foot in today’s dollars, or a turf rebate program, which would cost between $18,933 and $56,800 per acre-foot, assuming the going rates in other areas of $1 to $3 per square foot of lawn.

The District and its partners are determined to make the Pine Valley Water Supply Project as affordable as possible and find the best way to do it. We feel it will be an important project to help secure Iron County’s water future.

Several special interest groups have recently moved their focus to the Cedar Valley, and have been spreading misinformation. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District was created by a vote of Cedar Valley residents more than two decades ago. It has consistently been dedicated to developing and stabilizing the valley’s water supply through conservation, recharge, reuse, and importing of water for the benefit of all current and future water users in the region. All the District’s efforts utilize scientists, experts and professionals to understand the valley’s underground aquifer and to determine responsible solutions for the community as it strives to meet local water challenges. For reliable information on the Pine Valley Water Supply Project specifically and the Cedar Valley’s water situation in general, please visit www.cicwcd.org.