

What is the process of creating the Pine Valley Water Supply Project?



**ANSWERED BY:
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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, Enoch City Council Member and Member of the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors.

Question: What is the process of creating the Pine Valley Water Supply Project?

Answer: The District is dedicated to its mission of ensuring water is available to our community for 50 years into the future. Each day that 50 years is further away and pushes the planning horizon. We do this through a variety of methods including optimizing local resources through conservation, recharge, and reuse, and also supplying water from other sources.

As we know, the idea of supplying water through new sources is not a new concept. History shows that Western States have continually extended their reach to supply water. To help further the District's mission of providing water for our future, the District Board of Directors went on a tour last week of a water supply system recently completed in Colorado.

The project is called the Southern Delivery System. It delivers water through a 50-mile pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs, Colorado. and was completed just recently in 2016. The Board also learned about the Willamette Water Supply Program, which is currently in progress in Oregon and is expected to be completed in 2026.

It was very interesting and informative to see the lengthy process that goes into planning and implementing these projects, which are similar to the District's proposed Pine Valley Water Supply (PVWS) Project. The proposed PVWS project will supply water from approximately 66 miles into Cedar Valley from Pine Valley, northwest of Cedar City.

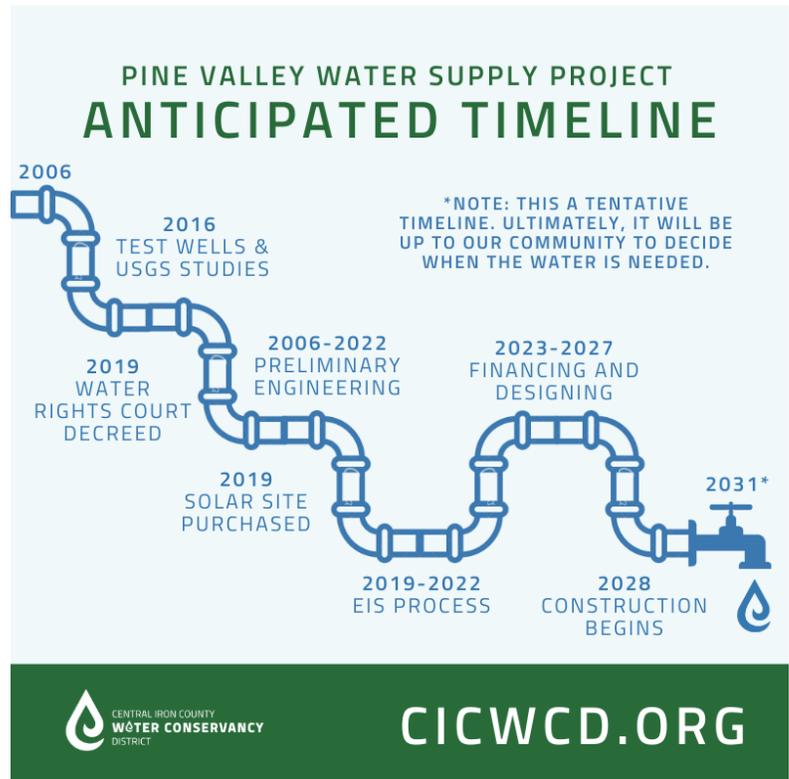
Several years ago, the District filed for water rights in Pine Valley, and after a settlement was agreed upon between the District, Beaver County, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, and the Division of Water Rights, the water rights were court decreed to the District. The District then started the Environmental

Impact Statement (EIS) process with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Draft EIS was published at the end of 2021. We are now awaiting a Record of Decision from the BLM that will allow us to move forward with the process of sourcing water from Pine Valley.

The District is also in the process of creating feasible financial plans for the project and is working to create agreements with local municipalities to determine project partners, funding options, how much water each entity needs, and more. Acquiring funding from state and federal entities is also an ongoing process during the planning of this sourcing project.

Additionally, there will be more public input and education opportunities, permitting and compliance management, real estate acquisitions, in-depth designing, and scheduling and budgeting. Best case scenario, water could be delivered to the valley within the next 10 years. Ultimately, it will be up to community leaders and the public to decide when that water is needed.

The process has been a long one, and there is much more to do. However, we are embracing that process, as this project is an important one for our valley, and the process ensures it is done fairly, feasibly, sustainably, and correctly.



Several special interest groups have recently moved their focus to Cedar Valley water 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. The District utilizes 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 <https://cicwcd.org/>. For more detailed information about the Pine Valley Water Supply Project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, please visit <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1503915/570>.

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