

# 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 Jessica*

*Staheli, Public Relations and Conservation Manager for the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District.*

### **Question: With continuing drought, what are the conservation efforts of the local government agencies?**

**Answer:** As of Friday, April 15, snowpack in Southwestern Utah was ranked at 48% of normal, and according to the United States Drought Monitor, a large portion of Iron County is in extreme drought. The drought is continuing, and drought in the southwest has been classified as a megadrought, as the southwest states are experiencing the driest period the region has seen in 500 years.

In the Cedar Valley, we all need to do our part to save water and make waterwise changes. All water users in the valley, including government organizations, schools, businesses and residents, should try to make water-wise choices and remain aware of the declining water supply.

The District provides many residential conservation programs for the public including: free summer Lawn Water Checks, Localscapes landscaping classes, and more. The District has also helped convert over 2,000 acres of agricultural irrigation systems to high efficiency LESA systems that have a potential savings of 20 percent, and is partnering with Southern Utah University Farm and Utah State University Extension on an irrigation and crop management trial to help optimize water supplies.

In recent years the District, with the help of local government agencies, has made aquifer recharge projects a high priority. Such projects are an opportunity to conserve thousands of acre-feet of water when available. In a drought year, that extra amount captured is a lower number, but we are continually working to expand projects, so that when there is water, we can put it to a better use.

Local cities are making efforts to reduce water use on public spaces, such as Enoch City's large turf removal project at the city offices that will convert 13,000 square-feet of lawn to water-wise landscaping this spring and the Rotary Club Project that removed approx. 20,000 square-feet of turf at the Cedar City Veterans Park last fall. Cedar City is also in the process of irrigation upgrades to the Cedar City Golf Course that are expected



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to reduce water use by 30 percent in updated areas. The cities are continuing to evaluate lawns on city properties to ensure they are only watering turf that is useful, and that useful turf is being watered efficiently.

Charging water rates that encourage conservation is also a useful tool. Cedar City has plans to increase and change rates as of July 1 this year, with costs for overuse of water gradually increasing over a four-year period. The District is also looking at some small water rate increases that promote conservation and Enoch is examining its rate structures.

Conservation is a very important step in ensuring our valley has water for its future. However, it must be coupled with other methods as well. The District is dedicated to providing water to our valley for 50 years into the future. Each day that 50 years is farther away, and the District provides water for the valley through a mixture of conservation, recharge, reuse, and sourcing. Many conservation resources are available. Learn more about responsible water use at <https://cicwcd.org/>.

**IN A DROUGHT,  
EVERY DROP COUNTS**

 X  = 

**REMOVING  
33,000  
SQ. FT. LAWN**  
(CEDAR CITY  
VETERANS PARK &  
ENOCH CITY OFFICES)

**30 GALLONS  
PER YEAR**  
(AVERAGE  
HOMEOWNER  
USAGE)

**POTENTIAL  
990,000 GAL  
PER YEAR  
SAVINGS\***

(\*NOTE: DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR WATER WISE PLANTS THAT WOULD REPLACE TURF)

CENTRAL IRON COUNTY  
**WATER CONSERVANCY**  
DISTRICT

**CICWCD.ORG**

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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>.

GET TO KNOW YOUR

