

CITIZENS FOR DIXIE'S FUTURE

The Lake Powell Pipeline: Bankrupting Our Legacy

The citizens of Washington County have a right to discuss the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline. This discussion must center on cost and actual need rather than scare tactics produced by the Washington County Water Conservancy District. Local citizens and future generations will bear the cost of this \$2 Billion government project. Initial project costs were estimated at \$250 Million and have now skyrocketed to over \$2 Billion. Can the citizens of Washington County afford this? Do we even need it?

Need for the Lake Powell Pipeline is based on a set of outdated assumptions of future population growth. These assumptions were formulated in 2008. The economic and growth picture has changed dramatically since that time.

Justification for the Pipeline also ignores the possibility of real water conservation. Washington County residents have some of the highest water use in the nation. If we reduced our water use to levels attained in similar climates, the need to bring in water from 140 miles away would disappear.

We live in a desert – a beautiful desert, but a dry place nonetheless. We can conserve our limited water resources and continue our tradition of stewardship in the desert by using our water and money wisely. As a citizen of Washington County you have a right to determine your future. Call state legislators to let them know you oppose the Lake Powell Pipeline. (See page 4 for phone numbers)

A Water Wise Washington County

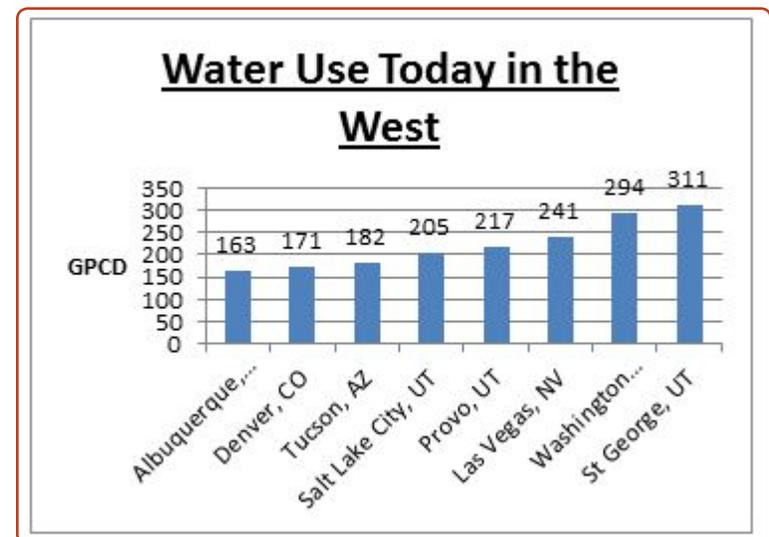
Washington County is one of the driest places in the West, yet it has one of the highest rates of water use. As Washington County's population continues to grow over the next several decades, water demands may exceed local water supplies. The Washington County Water Conservancy District has proposed one solution – to pump water from Lake Powell, 140 miles away, at a cost over one billion dollars which would be paid for by you, your children, and your children's children. Another solution - one that is cheaper, faster, and entirely local - is water conservation. Residents and businesses in Washington County can conserve water in cost-effective ways that won't sacrifice quality of life. Water conservation measures are reliable and well understood because hundreds of communities throughout

the West have already paved the way. Here we answer basic questions about water use and conservation, so that the residents of Washington County can create a future in which water is managed as much by them as it is by the water district.

How much water is Washington County using?

When you take all the water used in a community on an average day – in homes, businesses, and in public spaces – and divide it by the number of residents, you get the system-wide number of gallons of water used per capita per day (gpcd). Currently Washington County uses 294 gpcd. Compare that with the water used in by other arid cities, in the graph to the right:

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What does a Water Conservation Lifestyle Look Like?

Inside the home you can save water, and money, in places where you use the most water – the bathroom, kitchen, and laundry room. Water-efficient devices such as dishwashers, showerheads, faucet aerators, and clothes washers can replace your older models, and will perform the same or better. In the long run you'll save money by using these devices because the energy and water savings are so large they'll more than make up for the up-front costs. Your water utility may help you to identify the best water-efficient devices and offer rebates on those models. Several utilities in the West even give out efficient showerheads and faucet aerators for free.

Outside the home, in the yard and in other landscaped areas, drip irrigation systems and rain sensors can help prevent overwatering of the landscape. And, your plants will look their best when receiving the right amount of water. The most water-efficient landscaping option is also a beautiful one – xeriscaping. This means planting native, drought-resistant plants and colorful flowers that require very little water and thrive naturally in the arid southwestern climate – it's definitely not rocks and concrete! Xeriscaping can also reduce the amount of time and money spent on landscape maintenance.



While gpcd is not a perfect measurement for comparison, it still provides useful information. As can be seen from the graph, the cities outside Washington County have significantly lower water use rates. They have implemented common water conservation practices and achieved water savings of about 1% per year over the past decade or more. According to pipeline proponents, Washington County will only decrease its usage to 242 gpcd by 2060. This is more than many communities in the Southwest use today and reflects a modest reduction of only 0.5% per year. Greater water conservation is easily achievable for Washington County and will go a long way toward ensuring a sustainable future.

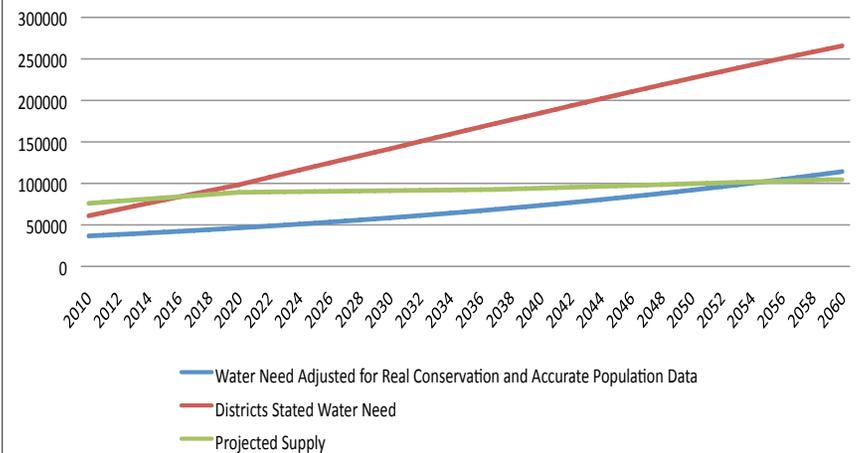
Can water conservation prevent the need for the pipeline?

The Lake Powell Pipeline proposes to deliver 69,000 acre-feet of water to Washington County by 2060. Based on the number of people projected to live in Washington County in 2060, this amount of water wouldn't be needed if water use were brought down to 170 gpcd. This level of water use represents about a 44% decrease from today's levels, over 49 years, which is a similar level of reduction to other western communities. In addition to conservation, Washington County has other local water supplies that can be developed, such as increased underground water storage during times of surplus, and increased sharing of water with agriculture. Increased conservation and development of local supplies would provide flexibility for Washington County to meet water needs as they arise, in step with population growth. In contrast, the Lake Powell Pipeline plans for a fixed volume that would burden today's residents with a high price, for residents who have not yet arrived. Regardless of whether the pipeline proponents' growth predictions are right or wrong, everyone will have to pay the price if it gets built.

What is Water Worth?

Why are rare stones so valuable? Why do people pay top dollar for Super bowl tickets? Its simple economics, the less there is of something the more expensive the price tag. This theory applies to all resources around us, but does not apply to water in Southern Utah. Though water is scarce in the desert, water rates in Washington County are some of cheapest in the state and the west. Therefore, as residents over use water there is no financial consequence, and there is no incentive to conserve. Until we price water to reflect its real value people are going to keep wasting it. For instance, one gallon of gas costs around \$3.50, yet, the price of 1000 gallons of water is about \$.75. As gas prices rise, people drive less. The same would hold true in water use. Utah water policy allows Water Districts to subsidize water use through property taxes. Since we all pay property taxes, no matter how much you conserve, you are still paying for someone else's wasteful use of water. Southern Utah's current policies of cheap water rates and subsidizing water through property taxes do not promote water efficiency. The simple step of having all water in one rate and asking residents who use more water to pay more could save our community billions of dollars.

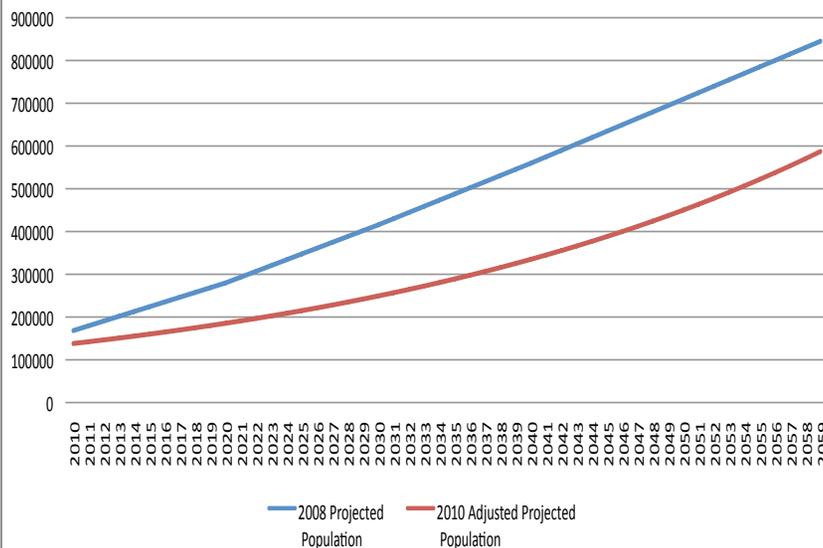
Future Water Demands are Much Lower than District Calculations



Water "Needs": A \$2 Billion Dollar Bet?

Outdated Population Projections

On Average, State Estimates Overstate Population By 35%



Forecasts of the "need" for Pipeline water are based on 2008 population projections. These 2008 projections overestimated the 2010 population base by 18%. With actual population numbers falling well below past projections, it would be wise to re-evaluate the need for the pipeline based on the most current and best data.

In addition to high baseline projections, the study projects that Washington County will grow at a rate of 5% for the next 10 years. Recent data shows that Washington County grew only ½% in 2010. This vast overstatement of future populations has been the justification for the urgent need for the pipeline. But what if projections were revised to reflect the current situation? To put it simply, Washington County is not running out of water. The pipeline study's use of outdated population numbers and unreasonably low estimates of future water conservation are attempts to sway taxpayers and legislators into biting off a massive amount of debt to fund a wasteful and unnecessary government project.



Citizens for Dixie's Future Who Are We?

Citizens for Dixie's Future (CDF) is a grassroots coalition of local citizens committed to protecting the natural resources and quality of life in Washington County through Smart Growth planning for the benefit of present and future generations. We aim to:

- Promote a vision of population growth that prioritizes conservation stewardship of land, air and water resources to benefit local communities.
- Support smart growth planning that results in quality economic development and fiscal responsibility while minimizing tax impacts and sprawl.
- Create a stronger, more effective local voice to support conservation-oriented public and private land-use planning to protect watershed, recreation, wildlife and scenic open space values.
- Educate citizens about crucial growth proposals and inform citizens of opportunities to help shape a better future to benefit local communities.

Our Board of Directors:

Mike Small – President

Jim McMahon, Karen Jorgensen, Greta Hyland

Our staff : Christi Nuffer – Administrator
christi@citizensfordixie.org



JOIN US TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!

The Washington County Water Conservancy District is seeking the support of the state legislature for funding the Lake Powell Pipeline. Call or email your legislator and tell them you don't want to pay for bonds, higher sales tax, higher property tax, or any other tax for water you don't need:

1. Stay informed. Visit www.citizensfordixie.org for up to date information.
 2. Contact your legislators and demand accountability and representation on this issue.
 - David Clark: 435-634-5123
 - Don Ipson: 435-674-6301
 - Brad Last: 435-635-7334
 - Stephen Urqhart: 435-668-7759
 3. If you care about Washington County's future join CDF or donate today.
- Contact Christi Nuffer for more information and volunteer opportunities. (435)215-8619



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www.powellpipelinefacts.org

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