

Water Conservation and The Lake Powell Pipeline Key Questions

1. Can we (the county, the cities and their citizens) have a say in the final decision to build the LPP?

Background: There appears to be no requirement for any local government input into the final decision. We would like this to be a formal option.

Proposal: **The county and cities:** request an amendment to the LPP Development Act, or other suitable instrument, with the support of the state Board of Water Resources.

2. Does the LPP have to be built soon, or can it be postponed, and if so, how long?

Background: We have heard several authorities state that if don't build it soon we will never be able to. If this is true, we'd like to know the basis. If it is built sooner than its needed (sooner than we choose to draw water), it cannot be left empty, and the payment scheme would then be confused.

Proposal: **The DWRe:** define the approval and construction timing requirements, restrictions, and decision-making process, and the basis for them.

3. How much can we afford to pay for our water and still retain the type of community we want, and how would the cost be shared?

Background: The answer to this question is fundamental to any go-ahead decision.

Proposal: **The county and cities:** determine what can be afforded, in what manner and under what conditions, to support what kind of community we envision for the future.

4. How secure is the LPP water right? By how much and under what conditions will its draw be reduced?

Background: There have been statements by authorities that the water right is the most secure in the state. Other studies indicate that the opposite may be true. The water right should be extremely secure (close to 100% probability under all conditions) to justify the cost.

Proposal: **The DWRe:** state in a legally binding document the conditions under which the LPP draw could be reduced and by how much, with an associated probability assessment and a definition of what financial terms and conditions are attached.

5. When can we create real water conservation plans for the county and its cities?

Background: The plans from the WCWCD and the cities follow an outline produced by the DWRe and are approved by them, however those plans don't seem to comply with state law and are not real executable plans. They are more a list of on-going optional and concepts for conservation. Real program and project plans are needed, with accountable commitments, task, schedules and budgets.

Proposal: **The DWRe:** adjust definition of plan requirements.
The WCWCD and the cities: create real plans, with active citizen participation, starting as soon as possible, with input to the next budget planning cycle.

And for the future: can we keep a dialog open in order to address other questions and concerns?

Background: There are many critical facts and data points that have unclear basis or veracity. Having clear facts and data and known reliability are critical to decision-making. This issue has been identified by the legislative audit and is supported by the governor.

Proposal: **All parties:** establish a mechanism to identify, prioritize and determine critical facts and data, and their basis, related to water supplies, usage, conservation, etc.

Conserve Southwest Utah's Position on Water: Conservation First

- We should first become very good stewards of our local water before we look for more elsewhere.
- The LPP is much higher cost and risk than conservation; we should conserve first.