Water for Washington County’s Future

For the past 12 years Conserve Southwest Utah has worked with water authorities, local citizens and officials to understand the pros and cons of the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline project. We will continue to seek objective, factual information on all aspects of this project so that citizens and their representatives can reach a common understanding and make the best decisions for the future of our community.

Washington County has Enough Affordable Local Water to Support Projected Growth

More detailed analysis of currently available water resources that provide affordable, reliable, consistent supply is needed. The twin goals of protecting against drought vulnerability at a reasonable cost should be maximized. A study of cheaper, less risky alternatives should be required before moving forward.

Significant Uncertainty Exists for Colorado River Water Rights

The 1956 Lake Powell Pipeline water right is “junior” to other large water rights holders including the Central Utah Project, the Lower Basin states, the Ute and Navajo tribes, and other Federal Reserved water rights. Since Colorado River flows are predicted to continue to diminish over time, the LPP water right will be outranked by senior water right holders. The state has over-allocated its Colorado River water rights; their resolution should be required before moving forward.

Lack of Detail on Current and Future Water Supply Prevents Full Understanding of Financial Risk

Project analyses, projections and estimates have changed over time and continue to evolve even now. These include claims of project cost, water availability, water supply and desirability of conservation measures to name but a few. It is of upmost concern that current data be made available to those who want a detailed and thorough understanding of this project.