

WaterSMART  
Drought Contingency Planning  
Washington County  
**Drought Contingency Planning**  
**2021-2023**  
FOA:  
BOR-DO-20-F003



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# TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION CRITERIA

## Executive Summary

**Date:** January 6, 2021

**Applicant Name:** Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD)

**Project/Planning Location:** St. George, Washington, Utah (Southwest Utah)

## Project Summary

*A one paragraph project summary that specifies the work proposed, and briefly identifies how the proposed project contributes to accomplishing the goals of this FOA.*

Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) will prepare a Drought Contingency Plan for the Virgin River Watershed which it manages. According to US Drought Monitor, Washington County is currently in a moderate drought. Over the past 20 years, the region has experienced some level of drought on a regular basis. The Virgin River and its tributaries, including the Santa Clara River, are the sole source of surface water for Washington County, and because of the arid climate that makes up southwest Utah, the Virgin River Watershed is especially sensitive to water scarcity caused by a prolonged drought. The Drought Contingency Plan will help in providing an action plan when a drought does occur and provide local stakeholders with a proactive approach to managing the scarce water resources. This will help the WCWCD in becoming more resilient to drought and helping its available resources go farther. The WCWCD will initially solicit information from stakeholders regarding how drought may potentially affect their interests. The taskforce will be comprised of local communities that are part of its Regional Water Supply Agreement.

## Schedule

*State the length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project.*

WCWCD is ready to move forward quickly on a Drought Contingency Plan project. Upon receiving award of a grant, the WCWCD will and organize the Drought Planning Task Force within 60 days to work toward the completion a detailed work plan satisfying Phase 1 component of the project. Once approval of the detailed work plan is given from the Bureau of Reclamation consultant, a plan will be developed. This process will be completed within the required two-year time frame and will allow for the 30-day review by Reclamation before the final approval of the completed plan.

## Reclamation Project Location

*Project located within the geographic area of a Reclamation project, facility or activity.*

The area's watershed is located in the lower Colorado River basin and a tributary to Lake Mead.

## Project Location

*Provide specific information on the proposed planning area.*

Washington County is in the southwest corner of Utah. It is approximately 300 miles south of Salt Lake City and approximately 122 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The elevation varies from 2,178 to 10,365 feet. Washington County is made up of three major geographic areas; the Colorado Plateau in the east-northeast, the Great Basin in the northwest and the Mojave Desert in the south-southwest. Although the annual average rainfall for the county is 12-inches, the heavily populated area only receives 8-inches annually. A map of the area's location is found in Exhibit E.

*Provide a general description of the area to be addressed in the proposed Drought Contingency Plan.*

WCWCD's jurisdiction covers all of Washington County. According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and 2015 US Census, this is one of the fastest going community in the west. The county's population increased 13 percent from 2010 to 2015. The 2018 population of the county was 170,000.

WCWCD's reliable annual water supply is 32,047 AF and its sole water source is from the Virgin River Basin. WCWCD manages and operates 6 reservoirs (2 for culinary use), 111 miles of culinary pipelines, 80 miles of secondary pipelines, two hydroelectric plants, 4 pump stations, 23 wells, 6 tanks and a 60 million gallon per day (mgd) culinary water treatment plant. Broken down into percentage of potable water use by class, 76 percent is residential customer sector and the remaining 24 percent is used by the commercial, industrial and institutional customer base. WCWCD is a local government entity with a property tax base and revenues from hydroelectric power, and wholesale water sales. The drought contingency plan will provide better resilience for this area's diverse water users.

**Water Users and Usage Types**

WCWCD provides nearly all the M&I water for the plan area in partnership with its 8 Regional Supply Agreement participants. WCWCD infrastructure is critical in providing irrigation water for several canal companies. The WCWCD also manages and operates 6 reservoirs which provide a variety of recreational activities and provide critical environmental benefits.

***Municipal and Industrial (M&I):***

Broken down the potable water use by class into percentage, 76 percent is residential customer sector and the remaining 24 percent is used by the commercial, industrial and institutional customer base. In addition to the permanent Washington County population, WCWCD also provides water to the high number of second homeowners. The amount of these homes is estimated to be about 20 percent of all homes in Washington County. WCWCD also provides water to the large number of tourists that visit the region for the beautiful outdoor recreation opportunities and National Parks.

***Agricultural:***

Various canal companies distribute water to meet the needs of local farmers and ranchers. According to USDA's census of agriculture, there are more than 537 farms in Washington County covering 155,047 total acres with the most common crop being hay. Many of the oldest water rights in the county are held by the agricultural sector and canal companies. WCWCD

works with these organizations to make sure their water needs are met and to use their winter water rights to provide water storage for the county.

***Environmental:***

Maintaining a substantial flow in the Virgin River is vital to maintaining the habitat of several threatened or endangered species. The woundfin, Virgin spinedace and Virgin River chub are all unique to this section of the Virgin River and are dependent on constant flows to be able to continue to thrive as a species. Along with the threatened or endangered fish, birds such as the Golden Eagle and the Southwest Willow Flycatcher are also dependent on having enough water in the river to provide boggy or swampy conditions for nesting and feeding.

***Recreational:***

Quail Creek and Sand Hollow Reservoirs provide residents and tourists access to opportunities for boating and fishing as well as camping and beach play. There is also a trail system that spans most of the river providing opportunities for biking and walking. Every year, approximately 5.6 million tourists visit the region annually to visit some the local National Parks and to experience the beautiful outdoor scenery. WCWCD provides the water to maintain the local tourism industry which is an essential part of the local economy.

**Prior projects with Bureau of Reclamation**

In the past, WCWCD has had many opportunities of working with Bureau of Reclamation through their various grant programs.

| Year | Agreement # | Program   |
|------|-------------|---|
| 2003 | WCFSP       | Built southern Utah's first demonstration garden                              |
| 2005 | 05FC300021  | River Telemetry Project   |
| 2011 | R11AP30016  | Study on arsenic occurrence and mobilization in the Navajo Sandstone Aquifer. |
| 2011 | R11AP30009  | Water Audit & Loss Control Program & Water Conservation Rebate Programs       |
| 2012 | R12AP30012  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |
| 2013 | R13AP30007  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |
| 2014 | R14AP00012  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |
| 2016 | R16AP00047  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |
| 2016 | R16AP00110  | AMI Metering on Secondary System in Toquerville                               |
| 2017 | R17AP00049  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |
| 2018 | R18AP00223  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |
| 2019 | R19AP00211  | Water Conservation Rebate Programs  |

These grant opportunities help to extend limited funding to offer water saving programs and implement changes to facilities and structures to further save and manage water resources and reduce the environmental impacts of water needs and delivery.

## TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Task A: Develop a drought contingency plan for Washington County

This proposal will address **Task A** develop a drought contingency plan for Washington County.

*The project description should describe the work in detail, including specific activities that will be accomplished.*

1. Define the drought monitoring process.

Being able to monitor and anticipate drought is a critical portion of the drought contingency plan (DCP). WCWCD must be able to monitor runoff forecasts far enough in advance to be able to plan operating techniques that will ensure the greatest likelihood to meet the water needs of the county. On a routine basis, WCWCD will review information such as, snowpack, river flows, soil moisture content, anticipated demand, and spring production. This task will be considered complete when this information is in a location that is easily retrievable and reviewable by WCWCD personnel to be able make informed decisions.

2. Perform a vulnerability assessment.

Because many of WCWCD's water rights are junior to other water rights in the watershed, the WCWCD's water resources are vulnerable to shortages during droughts. A vulnerability assessment will examine how the Virgin River watershed may be affected by a drought event. The assessment will look at the existing water supply as well as current and future demands and will describe the reliability and vulnerability of the supply to seasonal or climatic shortage and will help the WCWCD to better understand the vulnerabilities, ways to build long-term resiliency, and response activities that can be implemented quickly during a drought. Specific items that the vulnerability assessment will investigate are climate change, and how increased wildfire risk and lower reservoir levels may affect water quality.

3. Identify mitigation actions.

In this task, the WCWCD will identify, evaluate, and prioritize actions and activities that will build long-term resilience to drought. This will be accomplished by identifying potential mitigation measures and using a decision matrix to determine which mitigation measures will have the most effect and then prioritize the implementation of the chosen mitigation measures. Conservation will be examined to determine the most effective conservation measures and the effect that they would have. The mitigation plan will also look specifically at how to maximize the utilization of the Navajo aquifer and will identify potential projects that provide additional water availability.

4. Identify response actions.

WCWCD will categorize drought events into increasing stages based on severity and define the conditions that will trigger advancement to the next stage. It will define the response actions to be taken by the WCWCD and local municipalities at each stage. Potential response actions may include: restrictions on outdoor watering, such as lawn watering or car washing. secondary water users, lawn watering reduction/prohibition, and car wash prohibition. WCWCD will also examine possible incentive and enforcement practices to ensure response actions are followed.

5. Develop the operational and administrative framework.

During this task, WCWCD will work with all stakeholders to develop a framework that will be used to identify who is responsible for putting into motion the mitigation and response actions identified in the previous 2 steps.

6. Document the plan development and update process.

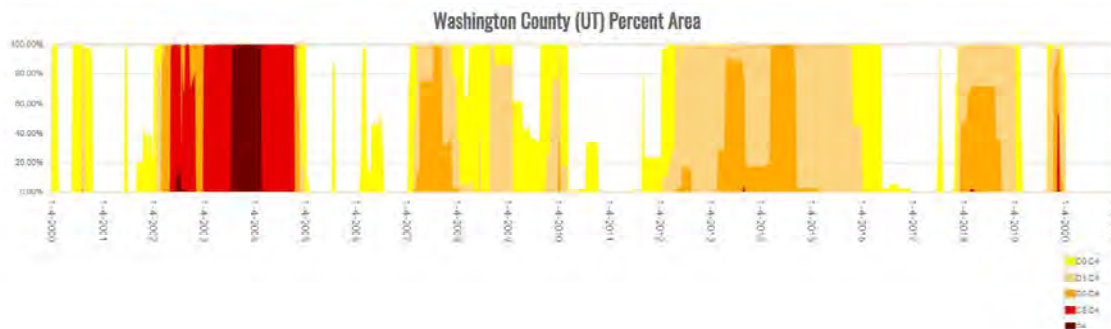
WCWCD will define the process for developing and updating DCPs.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### **Evaluation Criteria A—Need for a Drought Contingency Plan**

*Describe the severity of the risks to water supplies that will be addressed in the Drought Contingency Plan.*

Washington County experiences drought on a common basis. According to United States Drought Monitor, since the year 2000, Washington county has had 588 weeks of Moderate Drought, 376 weeks of Severe Drought, 151 Weeks of Extreme Drought, and 44 weeks of Exceptional Drought. Because of its extensive history with drought, it can be easily inferred that common and prolonged drought events will continue to be an area of great concern for the area.



The Virgin River and its tributaries are the only source of surface water for the region and makes up over 80 percent of WCWCD's total culinary water supply. Any drought event that would limit the flow of the Virgin River would severely affect the WCWCD's ability to provide water to its regional customers.

MWH/Stantec was commissioned to perform a Water Needs Assessment in 2016 for Washington and Kane counties. Some of this information was updated in the Water Needs Assessment: Demand and Supply Update. The following information is derived from these two reports and the district's website.

### **Climate Change**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation conducted a statistical analysis of climate change projections of future streamflow at the Virgin River at Littlefield USGS streamflow gauge. Median streamflow is projected to decline between 10 and 35 percent relative to historical streamflow during the months of May through July.

Climate change is anticipated to cause the runoff season to shift one month earlier in the year. Furthermore, warmer temperatures are anticipated to cause winter precipitation to shift from snow to rain. The impacts of these changes may reduce the ability to capture water in WCWCD storage. WCWCD's off-stream storage system is highly dependent upon stream

discharge rates, the season of that water, and the rate at which the water occurs in the river. The water rights in the system dictate that water is stored in the winter and spring, when agriculture water is not being used for irrigating. Winter and spring water discharged is based on snowmelt in the mountains. If snow precipitation is limited, then the potential for storage is limited. Rain precipitation often causes intense, abrupt storm events. If river flow exceeds the Quail Creek diversion pipeline capacity, water cannot be stored and is lost.

*Describe existing or potential drought conditions to be addressed in the Drought Contingency Plan.*

### **Economic Impacts**

Washington County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, and Utah is one of the fastest growing states in the country. According to Kem C. Gardner population projections, Washington Counties permanent population will grow from 186,618 in year 2020 to 468,830 in the year 2060 with the WCWCD being responsible to supply over 85 percent of the water required to serve the additional growth. The total M&I demand for WCWCD is expected to increase from 50,380 acre-foot per year in 2010 to 152,296 acre-foot per year in 2060. Although the WCWCD has plans in place to encourage and incentivize conservation, and develop additional water to meet demands, the reality is that facing a drought without a mitigation plan would place the county in a dire situation.

Because of its unique climate and its proximity to National Parks and other scenic sites, Washington County is a popular tourist destination. The Washington County Convention and Tourism Office estimates that 5.6 million tourists visit Washington County each year. Additionally, Second-home owners make up approximately 30 percent of Washington County's total parcels, and most second-homes are within major city limits and are served by WCWCD. If the WCWCD were unable to supply water due to a drought event, the effects would be crippling to local businesses.

### **Environmental Concerns**

The Virgin River and its related flood plain are a critical component of riparian ecosystems within Washington County. The river flood plain is habitat for a host of birds including the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, Southwest willow flycatcher, ducks, gulls, hawks, hummingbirds, owls, sandpipers, sparrows, etc. Other wildlife in the area include beaver, bobcats, cotton tails, deer, fox, marmot, raccoon, bighorn sheep, squirrels, lizards, snakes and six native fish including the woundfin minnow, the Virgin River chub, the Virgin spinedace, the speckled dace, and the desert sucker. Some of these species have been listed under the Endangered Species Act. The river also hosts several plant species including cottonwood, willow, sedges, reeds, grasses and shrubs.

### **Public Health Concerns**

Of an additional concern to the environment is the potential effect that low river flows combined with high salinity from the La Verkin Hot Springs may have on downstream users. La Verkin Hot Springs are located a few miles downstream of where the WCWCD diverts its water from the Virgin River. These hot springs discharge large volumes of hot water that has extremely high concentrations of dissolved solids such as chloride, sodium, calcium, magnesium

and sulfate. On low flow years the heightened concentration of dissolved solids and higher temperatures threaten crops that are irrigated using water below the warm springs as well as wildlife who live in and around the river.

Lower reservoir levels have also been linked to an increase in algal blooms. The lower volume of water provides cyanobacteria or algae a higher concentration of nutrients on which to feed. Cyanobacteria may produce compounds that give water a musty, earthy odor. In some Utah water bodies, cyanobacteria have been known to produce cyanotoxins and which has resulted in reservoir closures. Treatment of the cyanobacteria can be very expensive and not always effective.

*Describe the status of any existing planning efforts.*

The WCWCD has several plans in place (i.e., The Virgin River Management Plan, The Virgin River Watershed Management Plan, The Long-term Framework for Water Resources Management Development and Protection). Although these plans address various threats to water supply, they lack definition and documentation of a comprehensive drought mitigation and a response plan.

**Evaluation Criteria B—Inclusion of Stakeholders**

*Describe the stakeholders to be involved in the planning process. Please address the following:*

- *Committed Stakeholders who have committed to be involved in the planning process*

The WCWCD provides water to 8 municipalities in Washington County that make up approximately 85 percent of the population. The WCWCD also provides secondary water to several canal companies and works with environmental interests to provide water for native wildlife in the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers.

The following table summarizes the anticipated stakeholders and their role on the DCP team and indicate their commitment to be involved in the process of developing the DCP. Letters of support in this process have been provided from the stakeholders as indicated in Table 1.

Task Force Member: The task force group are a part of the Advisory Committee to our Regional Water Supply Agreement agencies. This committee is comprised of the municipalities' mayor and its water manager. Members of the task force will: Attend the initial meeting and provide perspective of what they would like to see in the DCP. Attend monthly meetings to develop and create DCP. Review and submit comments of draft DCP copies.

Advisory Member: This group includes all other stakeholders in the list. This group will be invited to the initial meeting to provide their perspective of what they would like to see in the DCP. The advisory member will review and submit comments on draft DCP copies.

*Table 1: List of Stakeholders*

| Stakeholder                     | Level of Commitment | Interest                        | Letter of Commitment Received |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| City of St. George              | Task Force          | Municipal & Secondary Supply    |                               |
| Division of Water Resources     | Advisory            | Statewide Water Supply Planning | ✓                             |
| Division of Wildlife Resources  | Advisory            | Environmental                   | ✓                             |
| Gunlock Irrigation Company      | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply |                               |
| Hurricane City                  | Task Force          | Municipal & Secondary Supply    |                               |
| Ivins City                      | Task Force          | Municipal & Secondary Supply    |                               |
| Ivins Irrigation Co             | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply | ✓                             |
| La Verkin City                  | Task Force          | Municipal & Secondary Supply    | ✓                             |
| Leeds Town                      | Task Force          | Municipal Supply                |                               |
| New Santa Clara Field Canal Co  | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply |                               |
| Pinto Irrigation Co             | Advisory            | Agricultural Supply             |                               |
| Rocky Mountain Power/Pacificorp | Advisory            | Utility Provider                | ✓                             |
| Santa Clara City                | Task Force          | Municipal Supply                | ✓                             |
| St. George Chamber of Commerce  | Advisory            | Represents Businesses           | ✓                             |
| St. George Clara Field Canal Co | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply | ✓                             |
| St. George Washington Canal Co  | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply | ✓                             |
| The Nature Conservancy          | Advisory            | Environmental                   | ✓                             |
| Toquerville Secondary Water     | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply | ✓                             |
| Town of Springdale              | Advisory            | Municipal Supply                |                               |
| Town of Toquerville             | Task Force          | Municipal Supply                | ✓                             |
| Town of Virgin                  | Advisory            | Municipal Supply                | ✓                             |
| Veyo Irrigation Co              | Advisory            | Secondary & Agricultural Supply | ✓                             |
| Virgin River Program            | Advisory            | Environmental –Aquatic Species  | ✓                             |
| Washington City                 | Task Force          | Municipal & Secondary Supply    | ✓                             |
| Washington County Commissioner  | Advisory            | County in District              | ✓                             |

*Describe what efforts that you will undertake to ensure participation by a diverse array of stakeholders in the development of a plan*

Upon receipt of funding and the selection of an engineering consultant, WCWCD will organize a kickoff meeting with all stakeholders that have expressed interest in and support of the DCP. During this meeting the WCWCD will request input from the stakeholders on priorities and areas of concern. This meeting will also review and identify any other sectors that are not represented in the group and should be.

WCWCD meets monthly with the municipalities that are part of the Regional Water Supply Agreement. These municipalities will be part of the Drought Contingency Plan Task Force. During these monthly meetings the WCWCD will communicate the status of the Drought Contingency Plan as well as seek feedback from the task force members.

Upon completion of the DCP report, the draft version will be distributed to the each of the identified stakeholders with a request for feedback. The feedback will then be evaluated and implemented into the final version of the DCP and again presented to all stakeholders for acceptance of the final plan.

**Evaluation Criterion C—Project Implementation**

*Describe the approach for addressing the six required elements of a Drought Contingency Plan within the two-year timeframe.*

| STEP | TASK                                      | SUBTASKS   | START      | COMPLETE   |
|------|---|--|------------|------------|
| 1    | Contract with consultants                 | Prepare an RFQ to hire a consultant to work with WCWCD to complete the tasks required to develop the drought contingency plan  | 7/1/2021   | 7/30/2021  |
| 2    | Develop a detailed work plan              | Work with consultants to outline the tasks and subtasks required to complete the DCP in the required 2-year time frame. Include information on how task force members will be involved in the process and what responsibilities will be given out. | 8/1/2021   | 8/31/2021  |
| 3    | Collect and examine existing related data | Review archived data that could be used as a knowledge foundation that can be incorporated into the DCP. Evaluate the existing operation and water supplies that are affected by drought.  | 9/1/2021   | 10/31/2021 |
| 4    | Define the drought monitoring process     | Work with chosen consultants to provide options for accurate and timely drought monitoring and prediction.   | 11/1/2021  | 2/28/2022  |
| 5    | Perform a vulnerability assessment        | Work with consultants to identify areas in which WCWCD is vulnerable to drought. Look at existing facilities, capabilities, and practices to determine areas of highest risk.  | 3/1/2022   | 7/31/2022  |
| 6    | Identify mitigation actions               | Based on information received from the vulnerability assessment, determine what can be done to alleviate some of that risk. Evaluate different actions on how effective they would be at decreasing risk.  | 8/1/2022   | 11/15/2022 |
| 7    | Identify response actions                 | The consultant will work with the District to evaluate the cost and effectivity of potential response actions as well as well as determine specific triggers for each response.  | 11/15/2022 | 12/31/2022 |

|    |  |  |          |           |
|----|--|--|----------|-----------|
| 8  | Develop the operational and administrative framework | Using the plan, responsibilities will be assigned to put the plan in motion.                     | 1/2/2023 | 4/1/2023  |
| 9  | Document the plan development and update process     | Define the process and triggers for future updates to the DCP.                                   | 4/1/2023 | 5/31/2023 |
| 10 | Finalize the plan                                    | Get approvals for the DCP from board, stakeholders and submit the finalized plan to Reclamation. | 6/1/2023 | 6/30/2023 |

*Describe the availability and quality of existing data and models applicable to the proposed plan or plan update.*

The following Reports/Memorandums may be used in addition to any investigations performed by the consulting engineers to develop the Drought Contingency Plan.

**Lake Powell Pipeline Project-Water Needs Assessment**—Developed by MWH Global, Inc. for the Utah Division of Water Resources. This report covers the current and future water demands for South-Western Utah. It also examines in detail current source capacities as well as capacities to be provided by future projects.

**Virgin River Model including Climate change 50 percentile**—Developed by Nathan Kennard, of Utah Division of Water Resources. The memo evaluates the potential changes to water inflow resulting from a range of climate change scenarios.

**Study Plan 19: Water Supply and Climate Change**—Developed by MWH Global, Inc for the Utah Division of Water Resources. The document was prepared to further the understanding of climate change and its potential effects on LPP water supply and resources and environmental effects.

*Identify staff with appropriate technical expertise and describe their qualifications.*

The following is a list of staff who will be a part of the drought contingency plan.

**Brie Thompson** is the associate general manager, operations and planning, for Washington County Water Conservancy District. In this capacity, she manages the operations at the WCWCD's water treatment plant, reservoirs, hydropower plants, pipelines, dams and wells. Thompson joined the WCWCD in 2006. She's a licensed professional engineer and certified grade IV water treatment operator in the State of Utah. She has a master's in business administration from Southern Utah University and a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Utah.

**Dave Jessop** is the Operations Manager for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. He is over the operation and management of the Water District's reservoirs, pipelines, pump stations, hydropower plants, and the water treatment plant. He is responsible for day-to-day decisions affecting water diversions, pumping of water, and management of reservoir storage. Dave has been the Virgin River Water Commissioner for the past 8 years. David is a level IV

Water Treatment Plant Operator and Water Distribution System. He has been with the Water District for 9 years.

**Julie Gillins** has been with the Washington County Water Conservancy District since 1995 and currently serves as the WCWCD's water conservation manager. In this capacity, she collaborates with other agencies to implement conservation programs and special events throughout the county. Julie has written and managed many grants, including many programs from the Bureau of Reclamation. She has a master's degree in professional communication from Southern Utah University.

**Whit Bundy** is an engineer for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. He provides technical input and administrative assistance to the associate general manager, operations and planning. Whit is a level IV Water Treatment Plant Operator and Water Distribution System. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Utah State University.

#### **Evaluation Criterion D—Nexus to Reclamation**

##### *Is there a Reclamation project, facility, or activity within the planning area?*

Washington County's main river is in the lower Colorado River basin and a tributary to Lake Mead, Hoover Dam project.

##### *Is the planning area in the same basin as a Reclamation project, facility, or activity?*

The planning area is in the Lower Colorado River Basin and participated in the 2012 Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.

##### *In what way will the proposed project benefit a basin where a Reclamation project, facility, or activity is located?*

The key component of Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) management mission is to develop partnerships with local agencies "to address the competing needs of our limited water resources". Over 80 percent of the county's water resource comes from the Virgin River, a tributary to the Colorado River. Developing a drought contingency plan for the Virgin River basin can have a far-reaching effect to all basins touched by the Virgin River when mitigating drought in this basin.

##### *Does the proposed project support implementation of a relevant Department of the Interior initiative?*

The Reclamation's drought response program supports a proactive approach to help water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans. Over 80 percent of the county's water resource comes from the Virgin River, a tributary to the Colorado River. This has direct association with several BOR projects. Development of a drought contingency plan helps to "to address the competing needs of our limited water resources". This proposal will help us identify vulnerabilities in an extended period of drought and identify projects to mitigate these weaknesses and implement projects to build long-term resiliency to drought. BOR supports a proactive approach to drought by Drought Response Program.

In the recent study published by the BOR: Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, it identifies this area as one to experience a nine percent decrease in the Colorado River

**Case Study 4****Water Conservation Easement**

Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah

**Program Overview**

Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) assesses impact fees for new development based on meter and lot size. If the lot is more than 10,000 square feet, the applicant can qualify for a minimum impact fee by signing a water conservation easement. This easement generally restricts the lot to 5,000 square feet of irrigated landscape. By assessing impact fees and requiring users to pay based on irrigated landscape area, incentives are provided for water conservation. Impact fees and water conservation easements apply to all culinary (potable) water users in the District's wholesale and retail systems, including residential and commercial users, so the incentives to reduce outdoor water use by limiting irrigated landscape are widespread.

The water conservation easement program is part of WCWCD's Regional Water Supply Agreement with its seven major municipal customers. This Agreement also encourages conservation by eliminating the "take-or-pay" contract incentive for municipal customers to sell water because they must pay for it whether or not it is used. Municipal customers pay only for water as it is delivered from the WCWCD system, allowing them to actively promote conservation without creating budget issues. Additional provisions call for water conservation rate structures, time of day water use and landscape ordinances, and maximum use of secondary irrigation and water reuse systems.

**Main Program Elements****Costs**

The Agreement provides that impact fees will be paid at the time of platting or building permit issuance. Impact fees are paid by developers or lot owners and must be segregated to pay for system costs as set forth in WCWCD's Regional Water Capital Facilities Plan and Impact Fee Analysis. Accordingly, WCWCD does not budget separately for this program, but rather absorbs the costs of its operation into general staffing allocations.

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Agency</b>                   | Washington County Water Conservancy District  |
| <b>Project Status</b>           | 2006 – Ongoing  |
| <b>Targeted Use Sector</b>      | Residential/Commercial, Industrial irrigated landscape  |
| <b>Estimated Annual Savings</b> | 2,000 acres-feet per year   |
| <b>Estimated Annual Cost</b>    | Budget included in general staffing allocations   |
| <b>Key Program Elements</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased awareness of developers and lot owners of the costs of irrigated landscape</li> <li>Limits outdoor watering with every new connection</li> <li>Financial incentives to reduce irrigated landscape and consequently outdoor water use</li> <li>WCWCD and municipal customers partner under terms of the Regional Water Supply Agreement with its seven municipal customers to eliminate the "take or pay" contract</li> </ul> |



Impact Fees in New Developments  
Source: Washington County Water Conservancy District

**Implementation Resources**

The water conservation easement, which limits landscape area, is a benefit offered to avoid additional impact fee charges. This option is part of the processing of impact fees and is explained in published materials and on WCWCD's website (wcwcd.org). Because many unique circumstances are presented at the time impact fees are processed, WCWCD staff works with developers and lot owners to find ways to make the water conservation easement work in varying

basin flows in the next 50 years due to climate change. This report considers four options to resolve the imbalance of water supply and demand. One of those options is to reduce demand in water and energy.

WCWCD has been innovative in water management and is featured as part of the Case Study 4 located in Appendix 3B of the Innovative M&I Water Conservation and Reuse Programs Case Studies found in the final report of the Colorado River Basin Study. (Case study is found on page 135 of the 452-page report.)

<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy/MovingForward/Phase1Report/fullreport>.

**Evaluation Criterion E—Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities**

As identified in DOI priorities, this proposal supports these in the following:

1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt. Developing a drought contingency plan will address balancing the competing needs of our limited water resources among human and environmental necessities.
2. Utilizing our natural resources. Water is the lifeblood of a community. Implementing best management practices such as drought contingency planning ensures a healthy, sustainable water resource for this area.
3. Restoring trust with local communities. The WCWCD has partnered with the local municipalities to pool our water resources together to manage our needs collectively.

4. Striking a regulatory balance. The area is home to 6 native fish. Two species are endangered, and the others are sensitive. The county's major river, Virgin River, is home to some of the rarest fish species on earth. The community has entered into the Virgin Spinedace Agreement (Found here: <https://www.wcwcd.org/wp-content/themes/wcwcd/pdf/enviornmental/Virgin-Spinedace-Agreement.pdf>) and partners with the Virgin River Program to protect the native fish and its habitat. Within our county, the reservation of the Shivwits Band of the Paiute tribe resides. Drought response planning will address these competing needs of our limited water resources in this county.
5. Modernizing our infrastructure. The WCWCD has made many advances in keeping up with technology in managing their facilities and distribution systems. The DCP will identify projects that may mitigate the effects of drought.

### ***Bureau of Reclamation Priorities***

1. Increase Water Supplies, Storage, and Reliability under WIIN and other Authorities  
WCWCD provides nearly all the M&I water for the plan area in partnership with its 8 Regional Supply Agreement participants. WCWCD infrastructure is critical in providing irrigation water for several canal companies. The WCWCD also manages and operates 6 reservoirs which provide a variety of recreational activities and provide critical environmental benefits.
2. Streamline Regulatory Processes and Remove Unnecessary Burdens to Provide More Water and Power Supply Reliability
3. Leverage Science and Technology to Improve Water Supply Reliability to Communities  
The WCWCD has made many advances in keeping up with technology in managing their facilities and distribution systems. The DCP will identify projects that may mitigate the effects of drought.
4. Address Ongoing Drought  
This Drought Contingency Plan will address ongoing drought in this area. The Reclamation's drought response program supports a proactive approach to help water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans. Over 80 percent of the county's water resource comes from the Virgin River, a tributary to the Colorado River. This has direct association with several BOR projects. Development of a drought contingency plan helps to "to address the competing needs of our limited water resources". This proposal will help us identify vulnerabilities in an extended period of drought and identify projects to mitigate these weaknesses and implement projects to build long-term resiliency to drought. BOR supports a proactive approach to drought by Drought Response Program.
5. Improve the Value of Hydropower to Reclamation Power Customers
6. Improve Water Supplies for Tribal and Rural Communities
7. Implementation of new Title Transfer authority pursuant to P.L. 116-9

## TECHNICAL PROJECT BUDGET

*Describe how the non-Federal share of project costs will be obtained.*

Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment.

Exhibit A provides the General Fund Budget to show the revenues anticipated for 2020. Exhibit B includes a letter explaining the financial sovereignty of WCWCD. The funds the WCWCD will use towards its contribution of this grant will not come from any federal partners.

### **Budget Proposal.** *Summary of non-Federal and Federal funding sources.*

| Funding sources                      | Percent of Total Project Cost | Funding amount |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Non-federal entities:</b>         | 50%                           |                |
| WCWCD – Direct                       |                               | \$53,456       |
| WCWCD – In-kind                      |                               | \$69,460       |
|                                      |                               | \$122,913      |
| <b>Other federal entities:</b>       |                               | \$0.00         |
| <b>Requested Reclamation funding</b> | 50%                           | \$122,913      |
| <b>Total project funding</b>         | 100%                          | \$245,829      |

|  |            |            |            |            |             |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1.0 Contract with consultants                            | 20         | 23         | 80         | 60         | 183         |
| 2.0 Develop a detailed work plan                         | 6          | 30         | 53         | 30         | 119         |
| 3.0 Collect and examine existing related data            | 20         | 30         | 80         | 30         | 160         |
| 4.0 Define the drought monitoring process                | 24         | 32         | 80         | 27         | 163         |
| 5.0 Perform a vulnerability assessment                   | 8          | 26         | 32         | 24         | 90          |
| 6.0 Identify mitigation actions                          | 21         | 20         | 38         | 24         | 103         |
| 7.0 Identify response actions                            | 2          | 20         | 9          | 24         | 55          |
| 8.0 Develop the operational and administrative framework | 6          | 20         | 28         | 48         | 102         |
| 9.0 Document the plan development and update process     | 8          | 20         | 16         | 48         | 92          |
| 10.0 Finalize the plan                                   | 6          | 20         | 68         | 48         | 142         |
| <b>Total Hours</b>                                       | <b>121</b> | <b>241</b> | <b>484</b> | <b>363</b> | <b>1209</b> |

| 2021-2023 BUDGET WORKSHEET                |                             |                 |                   |             |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Drought Contingency Plan                  | Computation                 |                 | Recipient Funding | Reclamation |
|   | <i>\$/Unit<br/>and Unit</i> | <i>Quantity</i> |                   |             |
| SALARIES AND WAGES                        |                             |                 |                   |             |
| Water Conservation Manager (WCM)          | \$33.59                     | 363             | \$12,194          |             |
| Engineer (E)                              | \$32.98                     | 484             | \$15,963          |             |
| Operations & Maintenance Supervisor (OMS) | \$43.52                     | 241             | \$10,489          |             |
| Associate GM – Field Operations (AGM-O)   | \$64.11                     | 121             | \$7,758           |             |
|   |                             | 1209            | \$46,404          | s           |
| FRINGE BENEFITS                           |                             |                 |                   |             |
| Total Fringe Benefits                     |                             |                 | \$23,055          |             |
|   |                             |                 | \$23,055          |             |
|   |                             |                 |                   |             |
| TRAVEL                                    |                             |                 |                   |             |
|   | Not Applicable              |                 |                   |             |
|   |                             |                 | \$0.00            |             |
| EQUIPMENT                                 |                             |                 |                   |             |
|   | Not Applicable              |                 |                   |             |
|   |                             |                 | \$0.00            |             |
| SUPPLIES/MATERIALS                        |                             |                 |                   |             |
|   | Not Applicable              |                 |                   |             |
|   |                             |                 | \$0.00            |             |
| OTHER COSTS                               |                             |                 |                   |             |
|   | Not Applicable              |                 |                   |             |
|   |                             |                 | \$0.00            |             |
| CONTRACTUAL/CONSTRUCTION                  |                             |                 |                   |             |

January 4, 2021

BOR-DO-20-F003

|            |           |   |           |                 |
|------------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Consultant | \$176,366 | 1 | \$53,454  |                 |
|            |           |   | \$122.913 |                 |
|            |           |   |           | Total           |
|            |           |   |           | In              |
|            |           |   |           | Total Estimated |

## Budget Narrative

WCWCD administration will include an allocation of up to 4 staff members with some level of responsibility in each of the tasks 1 through 10 WCWCD will take the lead on the following tasks:

- A. SALARIES AND WAGES/PERSONNEL** — *Lead for Task Activity Identified*
- a. Contract with consultant— E, AGM-O, WCM
  - b. Develop a detailed work plan—E, AGM-O, WCM
  - c. Collect and examine existing related data—E, WCM
  - d. Define the drought monitoring process—AGM-O
  - e. Perform a vulnerability assessment— E, AGM-O
  - f. Identify mitigation actions— OMS, AGM-O
  - g. Identify response actions— E, WCM
  - h. Develop the operational and administrative framework—OMS
  - i. Document the plan development and update process— OMS, AGM-O, WCM
  - j. Finalize the plan— E, AGM-O, WCM

**B. FRINGE BENEFITS.**

Overhead costs such as fringe benefits are included in the salaries and wages amount.

**C. TRAVEL.** No travel will be paid for by this grant.

**D. EQUIPMENT.** No Equipment will be paid by this grant.

**E. SUPPLIES/MATERIALS.** No Supplies/Materials will be funded by this grant.

**F. CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTS.** A consultant will be used in this planning process.

**G. ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE COSTS.** Based on the nature of the drought contingency planning, there is no need to include Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs. These costs will not be incurred implementing these two programs. Therefore, no costs are listed in the budget worksheet.

**H. OTHER COSTS.** No other costs included in budget.

**I. INDIRECT COSTS.** No indirect costs will be funded by this grant.

## REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

*Applicants must state in the application whether any permits or approvals are required and explain the plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.*

No permits or approvals are needed for this DCP.

## Existing Drought Contingency Plan

*If there is an existing DCP addressing the relevant geographic area, please attach a copy of the existing plan.*

There is not a DCP currently in place specific to WCWCD jurisdiction.

# Exhibit B: Letter of Commitment



December 3, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
Attn: Ms. Irene Hoiby  
Mail Code: 84-27814  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

This letter explains the financial ability of Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD). WCWCD was established to conserve, develop, manage and stabilize water supplies within the county. WCWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Utah organized and existing under the Water Conservancy District Act.

WCWCD is a local government entity with a property tax base and revenues from hydroelectric power and water sales. This provides adequate monies for the cost share of the grant proposal. Therefore, WCWCD is able to fulfill the obligation of the costs identified in this funding request in this proposal.

WCWCD is committed to conserving the limited and unpredictable water resources of this county. Grant opportunities like these allow projects, such as these, to be implemented in this area. The partnership with Bureau of Reclamation has proved beneficial to this local community in the past and WCWCD looks forward to future opportunities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Renstrom".

Zachary Renstrom  
General Manager



GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAEL D. FOWLKS  
*Division Director*

November 19, 2020

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Washington County Field Office  
451 N. SR-318  
Hurricane, UT 84737

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee Members

Subject: Letter of Support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's Regional Drought Contingency Plan

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is pleased to write this letter in support of the Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has worked closely with the Washington County Water Conservancy District on many long term cooperative planning efforts including the Virgin River Fishes Recovery Plan, the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement, and the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program. These largescale collaborative programs have allowed the Washington County Water Conservancy District to successfully manage thoughtful water development over the last thirty years in Utah's fastest growing county while maintaining and enhancing sensitive aquatic species and habitat conservation.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water limited Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within the basin and are confident that drought contingency planning is instrumental in continuing to find solutions to circumvent potential conflicts between aquatic species conservation and water delivery in the Virgin River Basin.

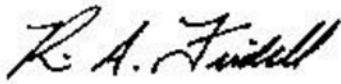


Page 2

November 19, 2020

We look forward to the Washington County Water Conservancy District being awarded this critical funding. Developing a collaborative drought contingency plan and implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for the Virgin River Basin. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources looks forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in developing the Regional Drought Contingency Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. A. Fridell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "F".

Rick Fridell

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Washington County Field Office Manager

[richardfridell@utah.gov](mailto:richardfridell@utah.gov)

435-879-8694



GARY R. HERBERT

Governor

SPENCER J. COX

Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED

Executive Director

### Division of Water Resources

Todd D. Adams

Division Director

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee members

October 20, 2020

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD)  
Regional Drought Contingency Plan

The Utah Division of Water Resources is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. The Division has worked with WCWCD on numerous occasions over many years to help secure and develop a reliable water supply for residents of Southwest Utah and is very aware of the vulnerability of this area to drought.

The Division recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in the often water-short area of the Virgin River Basin and surrounding areas. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing a drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We fully support WCWCD in its effort to create this drought contingency plan, as it will help bring drought resiliency to the people of Washington County. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Haskell (our drought coordinator) at 801-538-7267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Todd D. Adams".

Todd D. Adams, Director  
Utah Division of Water Resources



**Ivins Irrigation Company**  
**PO Box 380181**  
**Ivins Utah 84738**

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee Members

Subject: Letter of Support for Washington County Water Conservancy Districts' (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan

Ivins Irrigation Company is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Droughty Response Program. Ivins Irrigation Company worked with the WCWCD and other local irrigation companies in collaborations with WCWCD.

Ivins Irrigation Company recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. Extreme costs of water purchases to secure needed water in shortage years is prohibitive and when there exists no water to secure, is devastating to our farmers ranchers and stockholders who depend on irrigation water.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this are. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County



Robert K. Ence  
Ivins Irrigation Company  
President



# City of La Verkin

435 North Main Street  
La Verkin, Utah 84745  
(435) 635-2581 (435) 635-2104 Fax

Micah Gubler  
Chuck Hardy  
Ray Justice  
Kelly Wilson  
Patricia Wise

Kyle Gubler

Richard M. Hirschi

City Administrator

Mayor

Council Members

October 29, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee Members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan

La Verkin City is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. La Verkin City has worked with Washington County Water Conservancy District in other collaborations over the years.

La Verkin City recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of the Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. Drought affects La Verkin City in many ways and being proactive in drought preparation is always in the best interest of La Verkin City.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical to this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Mayor Richard M. Hirschi



2217 Kittyhawk Drive  
Cedar City, Utah 84721

*Let's turn the answers on.*

November 17, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2021  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan

Rocky Mountain Power is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. Rocky Mountain Power works with the Washington County Water Conservancy District on an ongoing basis, on infrastructure projects and other related issues that promote and support Washington County's growth and prosperity.

Rocky Mountain Power recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. Continued drought in Southwest Utah provide for heightened wildfire conditions that have significant impact, not only on our facilities, but on our ability to provide safe and reliable service to our Customers.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Heaton", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Heaton  
Regional Business Manager  
Ph. 435-865-3304  
[tom.heaton@rockymountainpower.net](mailto:tom.heaton@rockymountainpower.net)

Mayor  
Rick Rosenberg

City Manager  
Brock Jacobsen



City Council  
Dennis Drake  
Wendell Gubler  
Leina Mathis  
Ben Shakespeare  
Jarett Waite

October 27, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee Members

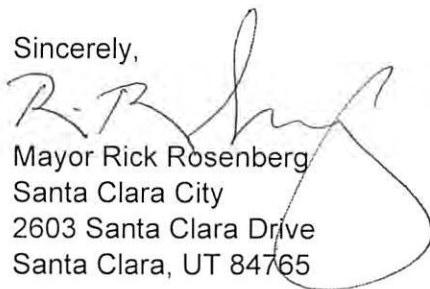
Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD)  
Regional Drought Contingency Plan

Santa Clara City is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. Santa Clara City has worked with Washington County Water Conservancy District in providing them with our culinary water master plan needs and demands for future growth in our community. This plan is very important as we basically only have two sources of water, the Virgin River and two wells out of Snow Canyon.

Santa Clara City recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of the Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Mayor Rick Rosenberg  
Santa Clara City  
2603 Santa Clara Drive  
Santa Clara, UT 84765

November 15, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2021  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD)  
Regional Drought Contingency Plan

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program.

The St. George Area Chamber of Commerce has worked with the Washington County Water Conservancy District on many projects in our community. As we continue to grow, we will work hand in hand to support both our resident and our businesses. We recognize the critical importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of the Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. As the voice for over 1000 businesses in the St. George Area, our Chamber of Commerce takes water issues very seriously as it directly impacts our economic opportunity and the quality of life for both our residents and visitors.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Don Willie

*St. George Clara Field Canal Company*  
*533 East Waterworks Drive*  
*St. George, UT 84770*  
*(435) 673-3617*

President:  
Jeff Lance

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Roberta McMullin

October 15, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan

St. George Clara Field Canal Company is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. St. George Clara Field Canal Company works with the Washington County Water Conservancy District and other irrigation and canal companies to provide secondary irrigation water to the shareholders and customers.

The St. George Clara Field Canal Company recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. We live in a very arid desert climate where we are often affected by drought conditions which, in turn, affects the shareholders of the canal company in their ability to use their water.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lance  
President





Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2021  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan

Toquerville Secondary Water System is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. TSWs is a partnership with WCWCD and Toquerville City to create and manage this secondary water system.

TSWS recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Respectfully,

  
Lynn Chamberlain  
TSWS Board Chair



The Nature Conservancy in Utah  
559 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

tel [801] 531-0999  
fax [801] 531-1003  
[nature.org/utah](http://nature.org/utah)

October 26, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2020  
Application Review Committee Members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy's (WCWCD)  
Regional Drought Contingency Plan

To whom it may concern:

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to write this letter in support of the WCWCD's grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. The Nature Conservancy in Utah has worked with the WCWCD for many years as members of the Virgin River Program Administrative Committee and on collaborative projects such as Virgin River flow modelling and habitat creation.

The Nature Conservancy recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-limited area of the Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response.

We highly recommend the WCWCD for this funding as a water district that is very competent and foresighted. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating the drought contingency plan to bring drought resiliency within the boundary of this basin and Washington County, Utah.

Best regards,

*Elaine York*

Elaine York  
West Desert Regional Director



November 16, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2021  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD)  
Regional Drought Contingency Plan

Toquerville Secondary Water System (TSWS) is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. TSWS is a partnership with WCWCD and Toquerville City to create and manage this secondary water system.

TSWS recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. [add how drought affects your agency].

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Respectfully,

Lynn Chamberlain  
TSWS Board Chair



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November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee members

Letter of support for Washington county Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) Regional Drought contingency Plan

The Town of Virgin is please to write this letter in support of the Washington County Water conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. The Town of Virgin worked with Washington County Water Conservancy District according to our agreement with WCWCD water source for The Town of Virgin.

The Town of Virgin recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. During a drought, The Town of Virgin is at risk for high fire danger, less irrigation water and more culinary water is used.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Mayor, Matthew Spendlove

---

114 S. Mill Street

P.O. Box 790008, Virgin, UT 84779

Phone (435) 635-4695

email: [clerk@virgin.utah.gov](mailto:clerk@virgin.utah.gov) website: [virgin.utah.org](http://virgin.utah.org)

Fax (435) 635-0265

Christopher Keleher  
Program Director

1594 W. North Temple Ste 3310  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-5510  
Phone: 801-538-7420  
christopherkeleher@utah.gov



Steve Meisner  
Local Coordinator

533 E Waterworks Drive  
St. George, Utah 84770  
Phone: 435-673-3617  
steve@wcwcd.org

17 November 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2021  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan

The Virgin River Program (Program) is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. The Program worked with Washington County Water Conservancy District to recover, enhance, protect and conserve native species in the Virgin River basin since 2002.

We recognize the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of the Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. Since we work with endangered fish and bird species, the impacts of drought on those populations is certainly of concern.

We look forward to the WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Meisner".

Steve Meisner  
Local Coordinator

**Virgin River Program Partners**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Utah Department of Natural Resources - Washington County Water Conservancy District - Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Forest Service - National Park Service - The Nature Conservancy - Dixie Conservation District - Washington County Farm Bureau



October 29, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee members

Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD)  
Regional Drought Contingency Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

Washington City is pleased to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency plan under the Drought Response Program. Washington City worked with the Washington County Water Conservancy District.

Washington City recognizes the importance of a drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and are confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resilience within the boundary of Washington County.

Respectfully,

Kenneth F. Neilson  
Mayor



DEAN COX, COMMISSIONER | VICTOR IVERSON, COMMISSION, CHAIR | GIL ALMQUIST, COMMISSIONER

October 19, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation  
Drought Contingency Planning Grants FY 2020  
Application Review Committee members

**Subject: Letter of support for Washington County Water Conservancy District's (WCWCD) Regional Drought Contingency Plan**

Washington County is please to write this letter in support of Washington County Water Conservancy District's grant application to Bureau of Reclamation to develop a Drought Contingency Plan under the Drought Response Program. Washington County has worked with Washington County Water Conservancy District in various projects throughout the County.

Washington County recognizes the importance of drought contingency plan in our often water-short area of Kane/Virgin River Basin. We are pleased to see drought planning take place within this basin and area confident that planning for drought, in advance of a crisis, is more effective than an emergency response. This is something that is critical to Washington County as we are always looking for the best interests of the citizens that live and work in our beautiful County.

We look forward to WCWCD being awarded this critical funding. Developing the drought contingency plan and, in turn, implementing solutions that protect and enhance our increasingly valuable water resources is critical for this area. We look forward to being an active participant as a stakeholder in creating this drought contingency plan. This will bring drought resiliency within the boundary of Washington County.

Washington County Commission

Dean Cox  
Commissioner

Victor Iverson  
Chairman

Gil Almquist  
Commissioner

# **Exhibit D: WCWCD Board Resolution**

## **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A WATERSMART GRANT PROPOSAL TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH RECLAMATION AND GRANT MATCH FUNDS**

WHEREAS, a primary purpose and goal of the Washington County Water Conservancy District (District) is to efficiently manage and conserve the use of the available water resources of the county.

WHEREAS, the District desires to develop a drought contingency plan for the Washington County area.

WHEREAS, a WaterSMART grant for drought contingency planning is available through the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for entities that will provide matching funds and that will work with Reclamation to meet the established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement.

WHEREAS, the attached grant proposal, entitled WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Funding for developing a Drought Contingency Plan, must be submitted to Reclamation in order to be considered for selection of the WaterSMART grant.

WHEREAS, the attached grant proposal provides that the District will match grant funds up to \$200,000 for the grant period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

WHEREAS, the District is authorized by law, including but not limited to the Utah Interlocal Cooperation Act (Utah Code Sections 11-13-101 *et seq.*), to enter into a cooperative agreement with Reclamation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Water District Board of Trustees that:

- A. If selected for the WaterSMART grant, the District is authorized to enter into an agreement with Reclamation regarding the attached grant proposal.
- B. The attached grant proposal that will be submitted to Reclamation has been reviewed and is approved.
- C. If selected for the WaterSMART grant, the District will provide the amount of match funding specified in the grant proposal up to the amount of \$200,000; and
- D. If selected for the WaterSMART grant, the District will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement to provide progress reports on expenditures and key milestones completed.

DATED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Bowler, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roberta Mullin, Secretary/Treasurer

VOTING:

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| Ed Bowler      | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Howard Bracken | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Chris Hart     | Yea <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Victor Iverson | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Ken Neilson    | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Jon Pike       | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Kevin Tervort  | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |

