Lake Powell Pipeline

Project description
The Lake Powell Pipeline, a project of the state of Utah, is a 138-mile underground pipeline from Lake Powell to Sand Hollow Reservoir in Hurricane, Utah. It will deliver 86,249 acre feet of water a year to serve the growing populations and economies of Washington and Kane counties.

Primary benefits
Provides a needed resource to serve Utah’s future population
Allows Utah to use a portion of its allocation of the Colorado River
Delivers a more reliable, stable water supply to Washington and Kane counties
Diversifies water resources in Washington and Kane counties
One of the most cost effective options to procure additional water resources in Southern Utah
Supports economic vitality

Population growth
Washington County’s population is expected to grow from the 2010 census population of 138,115 to 581,731 by 2060
Kane County’s population is expected to grow from the 2010 census population of 7,125 residents to 18,583 by 2060

Legislation
Passed in the 2006 Utah General Legislative Session with a 25 aye, 0 nay vote in the Senate and a 71 aye, 1 nay vote in the House of Representatives

Municipal support
All regional municipal customers served by the Washington County Water Conservancy District have formally approved the project

Estimated timeline
2006 act passed in the Utah General Legislative Session
2007 preliminary design and environmental work
2008 environmental studies
2016 NEPA record of decision and permits
2018 final design
2020 start construction
2026 water delivery

Estimated cost
$1 billion

Cost per acre foot
Approximately $11,500

(more)
Financing

Financed through the state of Utah, as outlined in the 2006 Lake Powell Pipeline Development Act, under which:

- the districts will repay the state gradually as growth occurs and water is used
- the districts’ obligation to the state is not a traditional bond financing with a level repayment
- 70-percent of the project cost would need to be repaid within 50-59 years after completion; the remaining 30-percent repaid 90 years after completion

District revenues

Washington and Kane County Water Conservancy Districts have three essential, legislatively-approved sources of capital and operating funds that will be used to repay the state: water rates, property taxes and impact fees

Economic benefits

$1 billion in capital investment would produce a preliminary, one-time construction impact of approximately 10,000 jobs, $425 million in wages and $1.5 billion in economic output.

86,000 acre feet of water would support annually:

- Population 292,547
- Households 99,506
- Employment 97,240
- Businesses 8,944
- Total personal income $7.8 billion
- Wages and salaries $3 billion
- Gross metropolitan product $7.3 billion

Proposed alignment

---

1 Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, Subcounty Population Projections, 2013
2 Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, Subcounty Population Projections, 2013