



WASHINGTON COUNTY
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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DROUGHT, GROWTH AND WATER

Ongoing drought, higher than average temperatures and continued population and economic growth place added demands on our limited water resources underscoring the need to use our water wisely and develop more, according to Ron Thompson, general manager of Washington County Water Conservancy District.

“Fortunately we have reservoirs, wells and other resources to buffer the consequences of drought today,” said Thompson. “But continued efforts to sustain and expand our water supply to stay ahead of a growing demand can’t be underestimated.”

Current district efforts include the implementation and funding of dozens of conservation programs and rebates; drilling of additional wells near Sand Hollow Reservoir; and starting the construction of Ash Creek Pipeline and Toquer Reservoir, which will capture and store approximately 3,000 acre feet of water annually. Other long-term projects, such as the Lake Powell Pipeline, will diversify and double the county’s current water resources.

Doubling the county’s water resources is needed given the county is projected to double its population by 2030, according to the latest estimate prepared by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget. The county has experienced unprecedented growth during the last 40 years and is primed to maintain its position as one of Utah’s fastest-growing counties.

“We can debate the pros and cons of growth but the simple fact is that it’s happening and we must prepare for it,” said Thompson. “And we need to do it today. The development of water takes decades of planning, environmental regulation, design and construction – that’s why water managers plan 50 years in advance. What we do today will impact generations of Southern Utah residents for years to come.”

About Washington County Water Conservancy District

Washington County Water Conservancy District, a not-for-profit public agency, was established in 1962 to manage Southern Utah’s regional water needs. The district oversees the development, stabilization, management, acquisition and conservation of water resources in Washington County in an ongoing effort to provide a safe, sustainable water supply for current and future generations. Visit www.wcwcd.org for more information.

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Pop out box #1:

Current Water Conditions for Southwest Utah

Seasonal precipitation	52% average
Reservoir storage	46% capacity
Virgin River water availability index	21%

Pop out box #2:

What can YOU do to use water wisely?

- Adjust your sprinkler system seasonally. You should currently be watering once a week.
- Use turf grass sparingly
- Adjust sprinkler heads so they don't spray walls, driveways or sidewalks
- Water in cycles to avoid run-off
- Core-aerate your soil annually
- Hand water dry spots
- Water trees and shrubs with a drip system
- Use mulch
- Cover pools
- Repair leaking fixtures
- Turn off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth
- Take showers instead of baths
- Use a plugged sink if washing the dishes by hand
- Purchase high efficiency appliances

See more water-saving tips at wcwcd.org.

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CHART CAPTION: The Governor’s Office of Management and Budget estimates Washington County will remain Utah’s fastest growing county with a population projected to quadruple by 2060.

