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WATER RIGHTS
CEDAR CITY

Ground and surface water plan comments.

Being a surface and ground water user in Cedar Valley for generations the Sherratt family has watched and assisted through active participation in the use, and management of water flowing from Cedar Canyon. My Grandfather , Father, and Brother have all served on the board of water companies and have been Water Masters tasked in the equitable delivery of water coming out of the Cedar Canyon and being pumped from the ground in area 73. During that time several projects have been proposed and some have been tried, the most successful being reservoirs and enclosed water transfer from them in Parowan, Paragonah, New Castle, Enterprise. The reservoir project installed in Cedar Canyon was ill conceived and failed miserably. The larger project proposal to Dam Ashdown Gorge met with aggressive resistance from Cedar City Corp and was not pursued.

In the not to distant past the widening and deepening of the coal creek channel after it passed under main street was performed without enough focus to insure the diversion head gates could be controlled and operated safely and still perform its job of controlling the amount of water that was turned to Old Fort, Old Field, Union Field,, water company users. The widening an deepening of the channel that runs to Quichapa Lake, the ALKALI lake west of Cedar City which has never allowed water to percolate back into the aquifer because of the clay layer that has so successfully held water above it for Centuries and longer, has also ignored the same diversion needs of the Coal Creek, Hamilton Fort Water Companies. Each of these so called improvements have resulted in the inability to safely turn or divert during unusually low or unusually high flows water in the correct proportions to the water share holders who have purchased shares of ownership in each of the above Companies, Each of which has reduced the water available to the historic users of Coal Creek.

The water settling ponds at the end of Airport road were install years ago to help increase the amount of usable water, and allow percolation because of the rock and sand in that area, at the behest of the Federal Aviation Administration, who is worried, and has warned that the standing water will attract Migrating birds and as such create a very real safety hazard for airplanes and

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people in them, to ignore those facts and to renovate and reactivate those ponds is irresponsible at best, if not negligent.

The plan to dump water into the ground in the hope that it can then be reclaimed doesn't sound very realistic, and at best should take decades or centuries to see the results across area 73,

If water percolation is pursued, it should be done as far from Quichapa Lake as possible.

The professional Study, Information and suggestions made by Mr.H. Roice Nelson Jr. and Mr. Gary F. Player are the best information and hope I have encountered in all the years of living here, and being involved. It is obvious that there is, "Water in them Hills", that has not been utilized. The flowing water at the blow out pit has always been verification of this, since it has never dried up even though our wells have.

A proposal to build and maintain water storage/settling ponds, lakes, much the same as is being done by the Washington County Water District could be done in Cedar Canyon by diverting the water into the upper Fiddlers Canyon Basin into MANAGEABLE ponds and then pipeline the water to users below could be a positive system, it would reduce demand on the aquifer, create usable, sustainable water not already claimed by any other source and generate recreation and some income stream for the cleaning and managing of the ponds. It would spread the cost of removing the mud and debris over the life of the use and share the burden over time with those consuming the water. It would acknowledge, and alleviate the safety concerns at the airport and the possible forced closure of those ponds by the FFA. Taking water to Quichapa Lake should be off the table, there are no positives there.

What ever plan we follow it needs to include the reimbursement of water rights costs to those who may forfeit them or loose them because of PHASING

It needs to include removing the mandate "USE IT OR LOOSE IT" Which is very wasteful and has caused decades of unnecessary pumping required to keep our Water Rights.

It needs to be inclusive of those holding Water Rights and keeping them informed of the meetings, times and places that decisions are to be made. (I was not notified of the meeting in October and had it not been for contact from other fellow users I would not have even know this was going on)

It needs to address the indirect method of stealing water through infrastructure

improvements done to a sub standard that effect historical water users and companies and the delivery of water to them.

I also agree with the other respondents that this should not be another rushed, hurried, unrealistic plan that will end in failure and create an atmosphere of distrust and contention with those affected by this change including the citizens of and the water companies and users of our area. Lets do our best to get this right.

Submitted by MICHAEL SHERRATT
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