

To: Town of Alta Council
From: Laura Briefer
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2024

Little Cottonwood Creek is a significant source of drinking water for the Salt Lake Valley's inhabitants and visitors. The drinking water that originates in local canyons is of the highest quality, a direct result of deliberate watershed stewardship and investment taken by Salt Lake City for more than 120 years. The proposed Little Cottonwood Canyon transportation projects pose a significant risk to these protected watershed areas, ultimately impacting the quality and reliability of our communities' most important water supply. Salt Lake City recently filed a complaint in federal court challenging the LCC EIS NEPA process. The purpose of the lawsuit is to require that water and environmental impacts be identified and studied appropriately.

In this situation, everyone who depends on the water resources from the Little Cottonwood watershed and the Central Wasatch Mountains benefits from a comprehensive process that appropriately considers the impact to water supply and quality. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and federal Record of Decision do not adequately consider this project's impacts to the water resources that our community relies upon.

NEPA requires agencies to identify and take a hard look at the environmental impacts of proposed actions. The NEPA process in this case is insufficient. Salt Lake City contends that water resources were inadequately evaluated in the EIS and ROD, in addition to visual and noise effects on the Twin Peaks and Lone Peak Wilderness Area; the relationship of the project to Utah's changing climate; and the indirect effects this project will have on neighboring resources, such as Big Cottonwood Canyon (another key component in the Valley's high-quality drinking water supply).

Thank you,
Laura



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