



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
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August 21st, 2024

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ISSUE A SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this public notice is to declare the State of Utah's intention to issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification with Conditions under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341), and consistent with the Utah Water Quality Act, Title 19, Chapter 5, Utah Code and Utah Administrative Code R317-15.

PERMIT INFORMATION

PERMITTEE NAME: The City of St. George

MAILING ADDRESS: 175 East 200 North St. George, Utah 84770

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Santa Clara adjacent to Old highway 91 in Washington County, Utah. The approximate project location is at Latitude 37.14013 degrees, Longitude -113.67082 degrees.

DWQ CERTIFICATION NO.: DWQ-2024-04002

WATERCOURSES: This project will permanently impact Graveyard Wash, Emergent Wetlands and an unnamed ephemeral channel that connects with the Santa Clara River located within the Lower Colorado Watershed.

BACKGROUND

The City of St. George (Project Proponent) proposes constructing a 75-foot tall earth-fill embankment dam at the eastern edge of Graveyard Wash (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project will also include construction of access roads, a filter station, a spillway, a pipeline, and structures to support the Dam. The Dam will store approximately 2,000 acres-feet of reuse water from the St. George Water Treatment Plant. The Proposed Project will act as one of the water storage reservoirs for the City of St. George's Water Reuse Project. The Project Proponent indicated that the proposed Project is necessary to meet the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Agreement. In accordance of the agreement the City of St. George is required to provide the Shivwits Band with 2,000 acre-feet of water from their resources annually.

Water from the dam will be pumped into and out of the St. George Reuse Pipeline located along Old Highway 91.

The Proposed Project will fill approximately 0.57 acres of wetlands, 0.53 acres of perennial channel (Graveyard Wash), and 0.18 acres of ephemeral channel with sand, gravel drain, rip rap bedding, and rock rip rap. The Project will also convert aquatic features into open water, indirectly losing approximately 0.65 acres of wetlands, 0.74 acres of perennial channel (Graveyard Wash), and 1.11 acres of ephemeral channel for construction of the dam. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted in 2024 for the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project was selected based on the evaluated alternatives during the EA. The Project Proponent proposes that Best Management Practices be used during construction to reduce sedimentation and erosion. During construction, fill material will only be placed within the footprint of the project site to prevent discharge. Rock rip rap will stabilize the finalized embankment to prevent fill from discharging downstream after construction. The Project Proponent is finalizing the Compensatory Mitigation Plans with the U.S. Army Corp. The Project Proponent proposed a conceptual compensatory mitigation plan to improve/increase wetland and riparian functions adjacent to the project area near the confluence of Graveyard Wash and the Santa Clara River.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to the deadline of the close of business on **September 20th, 2024**. Written public comments can be submitted to: Linsey Shafer, General Permitting Section, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: wqcomments@utah.gov. After considering public comments the Utah Division of Water Quality may execute the Certification issuance, revise it or abandon it. The Certification is available for public review under <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-public-notice>. A copy may be obtained by contacting Linsey Shafer (385) 405-4158.