

North Fork Pipeline and Siphon Replacement Project

Scoping Newsletter

Spring 2017

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District (District), Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission), and the United States Department of the Interior - Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCA Office), as Joint Lead Agencies (JLAs), are proposing to replace the North Fork pipeline and siphon. These facilities are located in the canyon of the North Fork of the Duchesne River. As part of the proposed project, the JLAs have initiated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of the NEPA process, the JLAs are soliciting comments on the proposed project. This scoping packet provides information regarding the proposed project, contact information, and how to submit comments.

Project Background

Central Utah Project

The North Fork Pipeline and Siphon is part of the Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System (SACS) constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the District (SACS is circled in orange on the map shown on page 2). SACS is part of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project (CUP). It collects and transports Colorado River basin water from the southwestern slopes of the Uinta Mountains into Strawberry Reservoir. SACS spans approximately 37 miles and consists of tunnels, pipelines, diversions, siphons, open channels, and three dams and reservoirs (Upper Stillwater, Current Creek, and Strawberry). The North Fork Pipeline and Siphon was constructed between 1984 and 1987 and is located within the Ashley National Forest boundaries on withdrawn lands approximately 40 miles northwest of the city of Duchesne.

North Fork Pipeline

The pipeline is a 90-inch diameter steel pipe that extends from the Stillwater Tunnel outlet portal to the North Fork Siphon. It is about 1,545 feet in length with a 90-degree elbow and pipe reduction from 90 to 72-inches transitioning to the North Fork Siphon. The pipeline is buried within an access road on the east side of the canyon more than 700 feet above the valley floor and the North Fork of the Duchesne River.

The North Fork Siphon

The siphon is a 72-inch diameter Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) connecting the North Fork Pipeline with the Hades Tunnel. It is buried on steep grades originating on the east side of the canyon where it connects with the North Fork Pipeline and terminates on the west side connecting to the Hades Tunnel. The low point of the siphon is its crossing under the North Fork of the Duchesne River. The siphon is approximately 4,712 feet long. The Hades Feeder Pipeline is a 24-30-inch concrete pipe that diverts water from Hades Creek (located about 2 ½ miles north) into the North Fork Siphon near the canyon floor (see figure on page 4 for location).

North Fork Siphon Concerns

The type of pipe used for the Siphon, Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe, has a long history of failing and causing a great deal of damage when it does fail. A report dated in 2008 stated that since 1955 there have been nearly 600 independent failures or loss of service resulting from PCCP. The proposed project addresses this concern. In addition, the District has conducted multiple inspections and reports on the siphon and have determined that the North Fork Siphon needs to be replaced. These inspections identified cracks (joint, spigot, circumferential, multiple, longitudinal), spalling areas, and hollow areas in the PCCP.

You're Invited

What: [Public Information Meeting](#)
Open House Format

When: Wednesday, May 10th
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Where: Tabiona School
10 North Main, Tabiona, Utah



Construction of the North Fork Siphon looking west.

Contact Information

Project Manager

Sarah Sutherland
email: sarah@cuwcd.com
Phone: 801.226.7100

Project Website

northfork.cuwcd.com

Mailing Address

Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Attn: Sarah Sutherland
355 W. University Parkway
Orem, Utah 84058-7303



Project Background continued

Withdrawn Lands

The North Fork Pipeline and Siphon Replacement project is located within the boundaries of the Ashley National Forest. The proposed project would be constructed on lands that have been withdrawn for the CUP (see figure on page 4). Withdrawn lands are removed from public domain by the Secretary of the Interior and are exclusively reserved for the construction, operation, maintenance, inspection, and protection of the CUP. They are not available for other uses absent the express approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Project Need

The proposed action is needed to address the operation, maintenance, and replacement needs of the Strawberry Aqueduct Collection System to maintain its integrity, safety, efficiency, and reliability in order to continue to meet the objectives of the Bonneville Unit of the CUP.

Project Purpose

The purposes of the proposed project are to:

- Maintain SACS delivery to Strawberry Reservoir
- Meet water delivery obligations
- Replace an aging infrastructure/facility
- Reduce risk of property damage due to failure
- Reduce maintenance
- Minimize environmental impacts during construction
- Continue to safely operate SACS
- Avoid environmental impacts due to failure
- Reduce operation and maintenance costs

Proposed Action

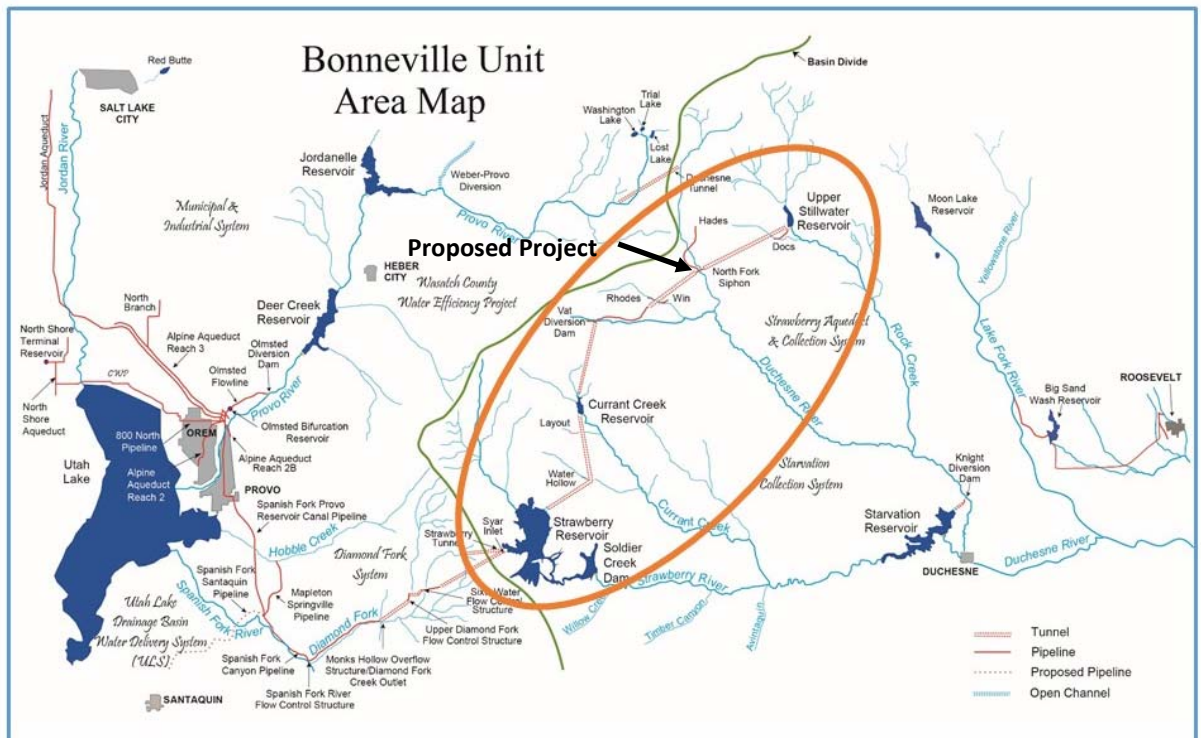
Replace North Fork Pipeline

The EA will evaluate the environmental impacts of replacing the existing 90-inch North Fork Pipeline. The pipeline is buried under an unimproved access road between the Stillwater outlet portal and the beginning of the North Fork Siphon. The unimproved access road is roughly 15-25 feet wide and is not

designed for regular vehicle traffic. The JLAs anticipate that the pipeline segment of the proposed project would be replaced within the same footprint of the existing pipeline and within the unimproved access. The reconstructed North Fork Pipeline would retain its current 90-inch diameter.



Contractor laying a 40-foot section of the North Fork Pipeline.



Proposed Action *continued*

Replace North Fork Siphon

The EA will evaluate the environmental impacts of replacing the existing North Fork Siphon with another one that is adjacent and parallel to the existing siphon. This parallel placement will be necessary in order to deliver water through the existing siphon during construction. Upon completion of the new siphon, the existing siphon would remain and not be removed. The EA will evaluate the construction of a new North Fork Siphon having a diameter of up to 90 inches.

Access to Hades Tunnel Inlet Portal

The EA will evaluate the construction or reconstruction of access road to Hades side of the North Fork of the Duchesne River. Access to the Hades side is currently limited and difficult. An access road was built for the construction of the North Fork Siphon. However, it has been not maintained and has overgrown with vegetation. The EA will evaluate the impacts of re-establishing this access road for construction and its continual use and maintenance by the District after construction.

Access Across the North Fork of the Duchesne River

Currently, access to the west side of the canyon is from Forest Service road 144 and requires a crossing over the North Fork of the Duchesne River. This access is located just north of the buried siphon and is a concrete slab embedded with five culverts. Currently, the District is required to obtain necessary permits and clearances to clean out behind these culverts. During high runoff, the existing crossing can be difficult due to high water and swift currents. The EA will evaluate the possibility of adding a bridge or some other improved crossing in the same general location as the existing crossing to be used during and after construction.

NEPA Process

Scoping

The NEPA process begins by gathering information and receiving input from the public and agencies, referred to as scoping. The scoping comment period for this project extends through **May 19, 2017**. Comments may be submitted by mail, email, via the project website, or at the Public Information Meeting. For ways to submit comments, see *How to Submit Comments* box at the right. Following the scoping period, the Joint Lead Agencies will review all comments received and will consider them during the preparation of the EA document. The evaluation of potential impacts will include: trenching for the pipeline and siphon, reconstruction of the Hades inlet portal access road, an improved river crossing, temporary construction staging and storage areas, and temporary construction accesses.

Once completed, the EA will be made available to agencies and the public for a 30-day review and comment period. If during the EA process, there are no significant impacts identified, then a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be issued by the CUCPA Office and Mitigation Commission and distributed to interested agencies and the public. During the EA process, if the Joint Lead Agencies determine that there is (or may be) a significant impact to the human environment, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement would be initiated.

Schedule

The JLAs anticipate the EA process would require one year with completion by April 2018. The JLAs expect that construction of the proposed project would occur over a three-year span because of the short construction season in the canyon. Construction may begin as soon as the summer 2018 depending on the outcome of the NEPA process and design schedules.



Contractor laying bedding material for the North Fork Siphon on the west slope.



Construction of siphon on east slope.

How to Submit Comments

Comments Due By
May 19, 2017

Comment Form on Project Website
northfork.cuwcd.com

Through Email
sarah@cuwcd.com

Through Mail
Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Attn: Sarah Sutherland
355 W. University Parkway
Orem, Utah 84057-7303

**Comments may be submitted
at the Public Information
Meeting May 10, 2017**

North Fork Pipeline & Siphon Project Site

