



Finding of No Significant Impact for the Nebo Regional Water Project

August 2026



U.S. Department of the Interior – CUPCA Office
Bureau of Reclamation
Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission
Central Utah Water Conservancy District



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
NEBO REGIONAL WATER PROJECT
AUGUST 2026

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— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Section 1. Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, and the U.S. Department of the Interior regulations for implementation of NEPA (43 *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] Part 46), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (Interior), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission), and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (District) (the Joint Lead Agencies, or JLAs) find that the Preferred Alternative analyzed in the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) for the Nebo Regional Water Project (Proposed Project) will not significantly affect the quality of the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the Proposed Project.

Section 2. Project Area and Description

The Proposed Project is located in southern Utah County and eastern Juab County, generally between Spanish Fork Canyon and the city of Nephi. The Proposed Project will develop an integrated raw (or untreated) water and finished (or treated) water delivery system that is reliable, resilient, and able to serve current and future municipal and industrial (M&I) and agricultural water demands in southern Utah County and eastern Juab County.

Section 3. Alternatives

The following sections describe the two alternatives carried forward for detailed analysis: the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative includes multiple options that may be implemented in full or in part, or in combination with other options and alternatives.

3.1 No Action Alternative

With the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Project would not be implemented. With the No Action Alternative, the JLAs would be unable to modernize their water supply and delivery system to meet future raw and finished water demands. The existing infrastructure and water restrictions would remain the same. The existing Strawberry High Line Canal would remain in place and would continue to provide raw water to the Strawberry High Line Canal Company contract holders. The 1991 Contract Water (as defined in Section 1.5.3, *1991 Agreement and 1991 Contract Water*, of the Final EA) would still be subject to existing restrictions regarding the

time of use in the existing service area. The Strawberry High Line Canal Company and Reclamation would face growing risks involving public safety due to the aging infrastructure associated with the canal. The canal would continue to lose water due to seepage and evaporation. No changes would be made to the Central Utah Project–Bonneville Unit’s (CUP-BU) current operations or water uses.

3.2 Preferred Alternative

The following is an abbreviated summary of the proposed actions included with the Preferred Alternative. For more details, see Section 2.2.2.3, *Preferred Alternative Proposed Actions*, of the Final EA.

- The existing Strawberry High Line Canal will be enclosed with a medium-pressure water pipeline measuring up to 84 inches in diameter. This pipeline will be called the Strawberry High Line Pipeline.
- A high-pressure water pipeline measuring up to 72 inches in diameter will be connected to the Spanish Fork Canyon Pipeline, the Spanish Fork Santaquin Pipeline, the Strawberry High Line Pipeline, and the South Utah Valley Regional Water Treatment Plant. This pipeline will be called the Loafer Pipeline.
- The District intends to construct a water treatment plant in phases and has started the process to do so near 800 South 1700 East in Salem. This will be a District-owned facility on District property. The total site acreage will be about 255 acres.
- A new pipeline, the Nebo Finished Water Pipeline, which will be a District-owned pipeline (up to 78 inches in diameter), will be installed in the Strawberry High Line Canal right-of-way under a license agreement with the United States.
- A federal or District pipeline (up to 36 inches in diameter) will be constructed between Santaquin and Nephi. This pipeline will be called the Santaquin-Nephi Pipeline.
- Utah County will provide funding to the District to construct an approximately 20-mile multi-use trail on the federally owned Strawberry High Line Pipeline and Power Canal rights-of-way, beginning at the Spanish Fork River Diversion. The trail and associated facilities will be installed and maintained under a license agreement with the United States.
- The 1991 Contract Water will be allowed to be used at any time of year for any M&I use (subject to compliance with state water right administration).
- CUP-BU water will be allowed to be delivered to eastern Juab County in the Utah Lake drainage basin.

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- The 1991 Contract Water will be allowed to be delivered within the Utah Lake drainage basin extending as far north as the northern boundary of Springville, subject to the limitations on place of delivery identified in delivery contracts. This is considered the “Nebo Regional Water Project Service Area.”
 - Strawberry Valley Project (SVP) Legal, Administrative, and Contractual Changes
 - The District, with the approval of Interior, will prepare a supplement to the 2004 *Supplement to the 1988 Bonneville Unit Definite Plan Report* (2004 Definite Plan Report) and submit the supplement to Congress. This supplement will update the 2004 Definite Plan Report to be consistent with the outcome of this current NEPA analysis and will identify the following:
 - The Strawberry High Line Pipeline will be a feature of the CUP-BU (administered by Interior) and will fulfill the water delivery operations of the Strawberry High Line Canal. The District will assume operation, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) responsibility for the Strawberry High Line Pipeline.
 - SVP features currently operated and maintained by the Strawberry Water Users Association will become CUP-BU features (administered by Interior). The District will assume OM&R responsibility for these features.
 - Reclamation will transfer title of the Strawberry High Line Canal laterals from Reclamation to the Strawberry High Line Canal Company pursuant to 43 *United States Code* (USC) § 2901, *et seq.*
 - Reclamation will transfer title to the three SVP power-generation facilities (Payson Hydroelectric Facility and Upper and Lower Spanish Fork Hydroelectric Facilities) from Reclamation to the qualified entity pursuant to 43 USC § 2901, *et seq.*
 - All pertinent parties will enter into necessary contracts and agreements to facilitate the implemented alternative.

3.2.1 Strawberry High Line Pipeline Straightening Options

The proposed Strawberry High Line Pipeline will be located in the existing Power Canal and Strawberry High Line Canal rights-of-way, with the exception of six areas in which the Preferred Alternative might remove curves in the Strawberry High Line Pipeline alignment. These straightening options might be implemented in full or in part, or in combination with the Preferred Alternative.

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- In Salem northeast of the South Utah Valley Regional Water Treatment Plant (Option 1 and Option 2)
 - In Salem west of the South Utah Valley Regional Water Treatment Plant (Option 3)
 - In Salem at the Woodland Hills Drive crossing (Option 4)
 - In Salem between 100 East and 250 East (Option 5)
 - In Payson, across P Mountain (also called Little Mountain) at the same location where the Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System (ULS) Spanish Fork Santaquin Pipeline crosses P Mountain (Option 6)

Section 4. Need for the Nebo Regional Water Project

The Proposed Project is needed because the current water supply system is not efficient, is not integrated and redundant, cannot meet the needs of anticipated increased population levels and increasing M&I water demand in southern Utah County and eastern Juab County, and portions of the system pose growing safety risks due to aging infrastructure.

The following needs are identified as “Federal Needs” and/or “District Needs.” Federal Needs include specific needs identified by Reclamation, Interior, and the Mitigation Commission. District Needs include needs specific to the District. Although the first three needs are listed as federal needs related to the existing infrastructure, addressing the first three needs would allow the District to meet the fourth need.

4.1 Federal Need: Interior

The Proposed Project is needed to implement water conservation measures, to maximize efficiency of water supplies associated with the CUP-BU, to complete construction of the CUP-BU consistent with current and projected M&I uses of the water supply as authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA), and to restructure administrative responsibilities to increase efficiency.

4.2 Federal Need: Reclamation

Pursuant to the authorization of the SVP under the Reclamation Act of 1902, the Proposed Project is needed to ensure the safe delivery of water to users currently served by the aging Strawberry High Line Canal, to improve operational inefficiencies of existing SVP facilities, to respond to SVP water users’ request for additional flexibility for use of 1991 Contract Water to

meet their current and future needs, to respond to a request from SVP water users for a partial title transfer of SVP facilities, and to restructure administrative responsibilities to increase efficiency. Reclamation needs to respond to a request from the Strawberry High Line Canal Company and Salem City to enter into Warren Act contracts for non-federal water in federal facilities.

4.3 Federal Need: Mitigation Commission

The Proposed Project is needed to ensure mitigation of environmental impacts associated with completion of or modifications to CUP facilities, as provided for in the CUPCA, and to ensure that fish, wildlife, and recreation commitments authorized under the CUPCA are carried out.

4.4 District Need

The Proposed Project is needed to meet the forecasted regional water supply needs, which include an increasing demand for M&I water, including indoor and year-round use, while continuing to meet existing agricultural and M&I uses in various communities in southern Utah County and eastern Juab County.

Section 5. Purpose of the Proposed Project

The purposes of the Proposed Project below address the needs listed and summarized above:

- Implement water conservation measures authorized under the CUPCA to eliminate seepage and evaporation losses in the Strawberry High Line Canal, while improving operational efficiency and water quality.
- Improve public safety by reducing flooding risk and other risks associated with the aging open-channel Strawberry High Line Canal.
- Complete construction and modification of CUP-BU features consistent with the CUPCA and current and forecasted future water supply needs.
- Provide safe and reliable water delivery by replacing or modifying aging canal facilities.
- Provide flexibility in the administration and use of 1991 Contract Water to better meet the needs of water users.
- Restructure federal and non-federal administrative responsibilities for CUP-BU and SVP facilities to improve efficiency.
- Provide an integrated, efficient, redundant, and flexible water delivery system that meets current and future demands for agricultural use while also facilitating the transition to

future demand requirements for indoor year-round and outdoor M&I use in southern Utah County and eastern Juab County.

- Ensure mitigation of environmental impacts and meet fish, wildlife, and recreation commitments consistent with the CUPCA.

Section 6. Findings

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on the analysis presented in the Final EA. Based on that analysis, the JLAs have determined that an environmental impact statement is not needed for this Proposed Project. The Preferred Alternative and all options analyzed under the Preferred Alternative will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment as defined in NEPA. This determination has been made by considering factors in *516 Departmental Manual (DM) 1 – U.S. Department of the Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures*. These factors include both short- and long-term effects, both beneficial and adverse effects, effects on public health and safety, economic effects, and effects on the quality of life of the American people (516 DM 1, Appendix 1 Section 6). Table 1 below provides the resources evaluated in Chapter 3, *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences*, of the Final EA and a summary of impacts.

Table 1
Summary of Impacts

EA Section	Resource	Impacts Resulting from the Preferred Alternative
3.2	Hydrology	Although the quantity of water will be reduced in the Spanish Fork River between April and September from removing Strawberry Reservoir import water from Spanish Fork River, with the environmental commitments, the Preferred Alternative's impacts to the Spanish Fork River's hydrology will not be significant. Additionally, the Preferred Alternative will be more representative of natural hydrologic conditions before the SVP was implemented. For more than 100 years, the Spanish Fork River below the Diamond Fork Creek confluence has been artificially supplemented with 1991 Contract Water and import instream flow water from Strawberry Reservoir being discharged to and conveyed in the Spanish Fork River. The water volumes under the Preferred Alternative will still be greater than the natural flows.
		Under the Preferred Alternative, flows in the Spanish Fork River below the Upper and Lower Spanish Fork Hydroelectric Facilities will be reduced during non-irrigation season by an average of 26 cubic feet per second (cfs), which will be about a 20% to 33% decrease in non-irrigation flows compared to the No Action Alternative. All natural flows during the non-irrigation season will continue to be discharged and conveyed in the Spanish Fork River and will continue to Utah Lake. The Preferred Alternative will maintain all natural hydrology for the Spanish Fork River below the Spanish Fork City Dam during non-irrigation season, and these impacts will not be significant.
		Water storage and elevations in Strawberry Reservoir will be increased under the Preferred Alternative. This is considered a beneficial impact.
		Under the Preferred Alternative, return flows to Utah Lake will increase as higher consumptive agricultural use is converted to lower consumptive M&I indoor uses. This is considered a beneficial impact.
		Flood risk to adjacent development will be reduced under the Preferred Alternative. This is considered a beneficial impact.

EA Section	Resource	Impacts Resulting from the Preferred Alternative
3.3	Groundwater	Although the shallow groundwater levels near the Strawberry High Line Canal could be reduced, the Preferred Alternative's impacts will not be significant. Further, the Preferred Alternative will be more representative of natural groundwater conditions for the area around the canal. For more than 100 years, seepage from the Strawberry High Line Canal has artificially elevated groundwater levels near the canal. Utah law does not require a canal or appropriator to continue operating in an inefficient manner to preserve incidental seepage or return flows that could affect groundwater levels.
3.4	Water Quality	With the environmental commitments, which include water quality monitoring on the Spanish Fork River between Diamond Fork Canyon and the Spanish Fork River Diversion, the Preferred Alternative's impacts to the Spanish Fork River's water quality will not be significant. The Preferred Alternative will not add any new sources of pollutants to the Spanish Fork River, and the water quality of the Spanish Fork River between Diamond Fork Canyon and the Spanish Fork River Diversion will be more representative of the natural water quality due to removal of some of the import water from Strawberry Reservoir.
3.5	Wetlands and Other Waters of the United States	The Preferred Alternative's impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States will not be significant. Impacts to jurisdictional wetlands will be minor (0.03 acre of direct permanent impacts and 1.30 acres of temporary impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources), and potential indirect impacts to wetlands upstream of the Spanish Fork River Diversion are uncertain and will be mitigated with the environmental commitments.
3.6	Riparian Areas, Vegetation, and Noxious Weeds	The Preferred Alternative's impacts to riparian areas, existing vegetation, and noxious weeds will not be significant. The Preferred Alternative's impacts to riparian areas will be minor (0.37 acre of permanent impact along the Strawberry High Line Canal and below Peteetneet Creek, and temporary impacts to 0.43 acre along the Spanish Fork River where the Loafer Pipeline will be installed). Removing existing vegetation will be a temporary impact, and noxious weeds will be controlled with best management practices (BMPs) during construction.
3.7	Threatened and Endangered Species	The Preferred Alternative's impacts to threatened and endangered species will not be significant. Potential indirect impacts to Ute ladies'-tresses or yellow-billed cuckoo habitat from reduced summer stream flows in the Spanish Fork River between Diamond Fork Creek and the Spanish Fork River Diversion are uncertain and will be mitigated with the environmental commitments. The Preferred Alternative may affect, but would not adversely affect, potentially suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos and Ute ladies'-tresses.

EA Section	Resource	Impacts Resulting from the Preferred Alternative
3.8	Wildlife Resources	The Preferred Alternative's impacts to wildlife resources will not be significant. The Preferred Alternative's directly impacted areas are already being used for water infrastructure and are low-quality wildlife habitat. Potential indirect impacts to wildlife resources upstream of the Spanish Fork River Diversion are uncertain and will be mitigated with the environmental commitments.
3.9	Cultural Resources	The Preferred Alternative's impacts to cultural resources will not be significant. The only cultural resources that would experience an adverse effect either need to be replaced (Strawberry High Line Canal) or are being transferred out of federal ownership and protection and will not be directly impacted (Strawberry High Line Canal laterals and Upper and Lower Spanish Fork and Payson Hydroelectric Facilities).
3.10	Recreation	The Preferred Alternative's impacts to recreation will not be significant. The addition of the multi-use trail is considered a beneficial impact, and potential indirect impacts to fishing upstream of the Spanish Fork River Diversion are uncertain and will be mitigated with the environmental commitments.
3.11	Land Use, Right-of-Way, and Impacts to Private Property	Under the Preferred Alternative, 48 parcels will require a combination of fee title acquisition, perpetual easements, and temporary construction easements to construct project facilities. The Preferred Alternative's impacts to land use, right-of-way, and private property will not be significant. Impacts will be minor and will be fairly compensated pursuant to federal land acquisition laws and regulations.
3.12	Construction	The Preferred Alternative's construction impacts will not be significant. Construction impacts will be temporary and will be mitigated with BMPs and the environmental commitments.

Section 7. Decisions

The following sections summarize the decisions to be made by federal agencies acting as JLAs for the Proposed Project. The JLAs will implement the Preferred Alternative and may implement some or all the options under the Preferred Alternative as determined through subsequent engineering analysis. The proposed actions are described in more detail in Section 2.2.2, *Preferred Alternative*, of the Final EA.

7.1 Bureau of Reclamation

With the selection of the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation will implement the following actions. Some actions may be subject to additional negotiation, agency approval, and legal review.

- Approve a change of the timing of water deliveries and season of use (year-round) for the 1991 Contract Water.
- Mutually cancel the 1921 Contract in cooperation with the Strawberry High Line Canal Company, relinquishing the associated return flows to Interior for CUP-BU purposes.
- Decide whether to support the assignment of the Strawberry High Line Pipeline facilities from the SVP (administered by Reclamation) to the CUP-BU (administered by Interior), based on approval of the supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report. The District will be assigned OM&R and other contractual responsibilities associated with these facilities, and Interior will assume the federal contract responsibilities.
- Decide whether to support the assignment of those facilities currently managed by the Strawberry Water Users Association from the SVP (administered by Reclamation) to the CUP-BU (administered by Interior), based on approval of the supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report. The District will be assigned OM&R and other contractual responsibilities associated with these facilities, and Interior will assume the federal contract responsibilities.
- Transfer the title for the Strawberry High Line Canal laterals from Reclamation to the Strawberry High Line Canal Company.
- Execute a title transfer for the SVP power-generation facilities from Reclamation to the qualified entity.
- Enter into Warren Act contracts with any entities with non-federal water seeking to use federal facilities for storage and/or conveyance of non-federal water.
- Acquire lands and interest in lands in the name of the United States for construction of pipelines and associated facilities.
- Issue license agreements to authorize the construction, operation and maintenance of water delivery infrastructure within the federal right-of-way corridor

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- Issue a license agreement to Utah County to authorize the construction, operation, and maintenance of a trail within the federal right-of-way corridor.
 - Authorize construction of a right-of-way or boundary fence on either or both sides of the federal right-of-way as needed for Proposed Project purposes.

These decisions would be the same for any of the options for the Preferred Alternative. These actions will be made pursuant to the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Statutes at Large [Stat.] 388), and the acts that amend or supplement the Reclamation Act, including but not limited to the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (53 Stat. 1187) and Section 1 of the Warren Act of February 21, 1911 (Public Law [P.L.] 61-406; 43 USC § 523).

7.2 U.S. Department of the Interior – Central Utah Project Completion Act Office

With the selection of the Preferred Alternative, Interior will implement the following actions. Some actions may be subject to additional negotiation, agency approval, and legal review.

- Approve submittal to Congress of a supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report to be consistent with the outcome of this current NEPA analysis.
- Approve a change of the timing of water deliveries and season of use (year-round) for the 1991 Contract Water.
- Approve changes to the water timing and use for CUP-BU water contracted under the ULS.
- Approve changes to the ULS pipelines, turnouts, and easements, including the Santaquin-Nephi Pipeline if it is constructed as a federal pipeline.
- Approve construction of pipelines to replace the Strawberry High Line Canal as a water conservation project under the authority of Section 207 of the CUPCA and include these facilities as a feature of the CUP-BU with OM&R and other associated contract responsibility assigned to the District. Interior will assume the federal contract responsibilities.
- Subject to approval of a supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report, include those facilities currently managed by the Strawberry Water Users Association as features of the CUP-BU with OM&R and other associated contract responsibilities assigned to the District. Interior will assume the federal contract responsibilities.
- Acquire lands and interest in lands in the name of the United States for construction of pipelines and associated facilities.

These decisions would be the same for any of the options for the Preferred Alternative. These actions will be made pursuant to the statutes that authorize the Central Utah Project (CUP; 43 USC § 620); the CUPCA (P.L. 102-575, Titles II through VI); the Reclamation Act of

June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388); the acts that amend or supplement the Reclamation Act, including but not limited to the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, Section 14 (43 USC § 389); and Section 1 of the Warren Act of February 21, 1911 (P.L. 61-406; 43 USC § 523).

7.3 Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission

The Mitigation Commission was created under the CUPCA to ensure that the fish, wildlife, and recreation impacts of the CUP are mitigated. With the selection of the Preferred Alternative, the decision made by the Mitigation Commission is:

- Approve the environmental commitments described in this Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment; approval of the Preferred Alternative will result in a supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report.

The Mitigation Commission will cooperate with the other JLAs to execute the necessary contracts and agreements to construct and operate the selected alternative in accordance with the statutory and environmental commitments in the Final EA and will reiterate the JLAs' previous binding environmental commitments included in the *Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System Environmental Impact Statement* (2004) and Record of Decision and the 2004 Definite Plan Report. Some actions may be subject to further negotiation, agency approval, and legal review.

These decisions would be the same for any of the options for the Preferred Alternative. These actions will be made pursuant to the statutes that authorize the CUP (43 USC § 620) and the CUPCA (P.L. 102-575, Titles II through VI).

7.4 Central Utah Water Conservancy District

With the selection of the Preferred Alternative, the District, subject to Board of Trustee approval, will:

- Approve construction of pipelines to replace the Strawberry High Line Canal as a water-conservation project under the authority of Section 207 of the CUPCA and include these facilities as a feature of the CUP-BU with OM&R and other associated contract responsibility assigned to the District.
- Accept the OM&R and other contractual responsibilities for the Strawberry High Line Pipeline facilities.
- Accept the OM&R and other contractual responsibilities associated with the SVP facilities currently managed by the Strawberry Water Users Association.

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- Accept a title transfer for the SVP power-generation facilities from Reclamation to the District.
 - Approve changes to the water timing and use for CUP-BU water contracted under the ULS.
 - Approve changes to the ULS pipelines, turnouts, and easements, including the Santaquin-Nephi Pipeline if it is constructed as a federal pipeline.
 - Approve submittal to Congress of a supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report to be consistent with the outcome of this current NEPA analysis.
 - Fund the portions of the Proposed Project that would be the responsibility of the District.
 - Cooperate with the other JLAs to execute the necessary contracts and agreements to construct and operate the selected alternative in accordance with the statutory and environmental commitments in the Final EA.

These decisions would be the same for any of the options for the Preferred Alternative. These actions will be made pursuant to the statutes that authorize the CUP (43 USC § 620) and the CUPCA (P.L. 102-575, Titles II through VI).

Section 8. Environmental Commitments, Permits, and Approvals

The Preferred Alternative includes the following environmental commitments:

- Project-specific Environmental Commitments
 - To mitigate the reduced quantity of water in the section of the Spanish Fork River between the confluence with Diamond Fork Creek and the Spanish Fork River Diversion, the JLAs will conduct up to 3 years of monitoring before and up to 3 years of monitoring after construction to assess the existing and postconstruction conditions of water quality, the riparian vegetation, Ute ladies'-tresses, yellow-billed cuckoo, and fishery habitat in this section of the Spanish Fork River.
 - Before and through the monitoring period, the JLAs will organize a Spanish Fork River working group with county, state, and federal agency representatives to review monitoring parameters, monitoring results, and restoration opportunities.
 - The JLAs will reinitiate Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if impacts to Ute ladies'-tresses or yellow-billed cuckoo are identified through monitoring efforts or anticipated as a result of the Preferred Alternative.

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- Based on the monitoring data and changes observed with the reduced water volumes, the JLAs, in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Trout Unlimited, the Spanish Fork River Working Group, and other interested parties, will identify and implement mitigation activities that could improve water quality and aquatic habitat in the Spanish Fork River. If mitigation activities are proposed that would occur outside the study area, additional surveys and environmental review may be required. Potential mitigation activities could include:
 - Conduct a stream restoration study on the Spanish Fork River beginning at the Spanish Fork River Diversion and moving upstream to include the lower portions of Thistle and Soldier Creeks. The study would assess conditions and evaluate potential restoration actions by river reach.
 - Construct stream restoration activities such as improving stream banks and enhancing pools and riffles to improve fish habitat and aeration.
 - Plant and maintain water-friendly plants along the riverbanks to provide shade, reduce solar radiation, and reduce sediment loads from bank erosion.
 - Implement stream restoration and/or water quality improvement projects on sections of the Spanish Fork River or tributaries above the Diamond Fork Creek confluence to assist with efforts to reduce sediment and nutrient loads in the upper watershed drainages of the Spanish Fork River.
 - The High Line Canal Trail will be subject to temporary closures to protect public health in locations where agricultural producers are spraying various chemicals on their orchards. These temporary closures will be coordinated through Utah County.
 - The JLAs coordinated with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Strawberry High Line Canal Company, and other consulting parties to develop specific mitigation measures for the archaeological resources that will have adverse effects from the Proposed Project. SHPO concurred with Reclamation's proposed mitigation efforts that use the *2020 Programmatic Agreement Between Reclamation and the Utah SHPO Regarding NHPA Mitigation for Adverse Effects to Irrigation Infrastructure* on August 12, 2026. Under the provisions of the programmatic agreement, for each of the adverse effects, the JLAs will make a contribution to Utah State University for additional research into historic irrigation systems.
 - Best Management Practices
 - The JLAs will follow standard BMPs to mitigate the impacts during construction. These BMPs address construction impacts related to air quality, noise and vibration, water resources and wetlands, hazardous materials, transportation, stormwater,

wildlife, cultural resources, agricultural properties, soils, vegetation and invasive species, and public health and safety. See Appendix 3.D-8, *Construction Best Management Practices*, of the Final EA for a copy of the BMPs.

- Laws and Regulations Related to Private Property
 - The JLAs will provide just compensation for impacted private properties pursuant to the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act of 1970 (as amended July 2008) and the Utah Relocation Assistance Act.
- Permits and Approvals (Table 2)

Table 2
Summary of Permits and Approvals for the Proposed Project

Agency and Jurisdiction	Permit, Approval, or Clearance	Relevance
Interior and U.S. Congress	Approval of supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report	The supplement to the 2004 Definite Plan Report will be consistent with the outcome of this NEPA analysis
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Clean Water Act	Section 404 permit	Permanent or temporary placement and/or removal of material in waters of the United States or the state, including wetlands
Utah Division of Water Quality	Section 401 Certification (if needed)	Needed to address water quality impacts if a Section 404 individual permit is required
Utah Division of Water Rights	Stream Alteration Permit	Construction activities that occur in waters of the state and for all stream crossings
Utah Department of Environmental Quality	Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater General Permit, Air Quality Permit	Land disturbance exceeding thresholds; point source or fugitive emissions permitting
Payson City / Spanish Fork City / Utah County Floodplain / Federal Emergency Management Agency	Floodplain Development Permit, Conditional Letter of Map Revision, Letter of Map Revision	Development or fill placed in regulatory floodplains and the Spanish Fork River

Agency and Jurisdiction	Permit, Approval, or Clearance	Relevance
Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)	Permits and/or Easement Agreement	Crossings under U.S. Highway 6, State Route 52, State Route 54, and Interstate 15
Union Pacific Railroad (UP)	Permit or Easement Agreement	Pipeline crossings under UP right-of-way
Cities of Spanish Fork, Salem, Payson, Spring Lake, Santaquin, Mona, and Nephi; the Towns of Genola and Rocky Ridge; and Utah and Juab Counties	Local road closure permits	JLAs and contractors will coordinate with the cities to get permits for any lane closures that are needed on local roads during construction. In addition, the Santaquin to Nephi Pipeline will be located mainly within Old Highway 91 right-of-way, which is owned by Utah County or Juab County.
Utah Division of Water Rights	Water Right Change Applications	Change in water use and operations as needed

Section 9. Public Scoping and Draft EA Public Comments

9.1 Public Scoping

Scoping was conducted by the JLAs to provide the general public, organizations, state and local governments, and affected federal agencies an opportunity to identify issues and concerns that should be analyzed when preparing the EA. The public scoping period began on May 23, 2025, and ended on June 27, 2025.

To provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the Proposed Project, alternatives, and purpose and needs, the JLAs held two open houses in June 2025. These open houses also provided the public with an opportunity to ask the JLAs questions and provide a public comment. All of the materials provided at the open houses were made available for review on the project website.

For more information regarding scoping materials, the EA process, and comments received, see Appendix 4-A, *Scoping Summary Report*, of the Final EA.

9.2 Public Review and Comments on the Draft EA

The JLAs released the Draft EA on Monday, June 8, 2026, for public and agency review. The review and comment period ended Friday, July 10, 2026. Activities used to notify the public and agencies consisted of the following:

- Postcards were mailed to owners of adjacent properties with information about the open houses, information about the project website, and directions on how to provide a comment on the Draft EA.
- Letters were mailed to local, state, and federal agencies with information about the open houses, information about the project website, and directions on how to comment on the Draft EA.
- Notifications about the Draft EA’s availability and comment period were published in city newsletters and social media posts.
- The project website was updated and included a copy of the Draft EA along with a way to provide comments.
- Public open house meetings were held on June 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Payson City Hall in Payson and on June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Juab High School in Nephi.

A total of 17 comments were received on the Draft EA; these are provided in Appendix 4-B.1, *Draft EA Public Involvement*, of the Final EA. The JLAs also provided a response to each of the comments; these responses are provided in the same appendix. Comments were received from the State of Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Mona City, and members of the public.

The comments received were carefully reviewed by the JLAs and considered together with the information in the Draft EA in determining whether to issue a FONSI. Responses to comments are provided in Appendix 4-B.1 of the Final EA.

9.3 Tribal Consultation

Interior sent letters notifying Native American tribes about the public scoping period in May 2025. Additionally, in compliance with 36 CFR Sections 800.3–800.5, a consultation letter and copy of the Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report was sent to the list of Native American tribes on July 7, 2026. Through this effort, the tribes were given a reasonable opportunity to identify any concerns about historic properties; to advise on the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance; to express their views on the effects of the Proposed Project on such properties; and to participate in the resolution of adverse effects. No responses have been received from the tribes.

9.4 Availability of the Final EA and FONSI

The Final EA and FONSI are available on the project website (<https://nebowaterproject.cuwcd.gov>). Copies of the Final EA and FONSI are available on request by contacting:

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