

#### Applicant:

Tooele County 47 South Main Street Tooele, UT 84074

#### **Project Manager:**

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Applicant NameTooele CountyCity, County, StateIbapah, Tooele County, UtahTask AreaDEligibilityTooele County meets applicant eligibility requirements because the applicant is responsible for water delivery in the Ibapah area. It will provide domestic water to a disadvantaged population with no current reliable access to domestic water supplies. This project will benefit the Goshute Tribe.Project SummaryThe unincorporated community of Ibapah in Tooele County, Utah, is embarking on a vital project: the creation of a primary water well system. This system aims to serve the disadvantaged local tribal community, which has previously lacked access to a primary water source in the area. This project, led by the Road Department, Facilities Department, and the County Manager of Tooele County, addresses longstanding water scarcity issues that have been exacerbated by recent drought conditions in the region. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor's website, eastern Tooele County is currently in the D2 drought stage or severe drought category, while western Tooele County faces the more severe D3 drought stage or extreme drought category. The project will be executed through partnerships with contracted companies in Tooele and Deep Creek Valley. It involves drilling a well, installing a pump, and constructing a housing unit and fence for well maintenance. By establishing a dependable water source capable of providing 1,000,000 gallons annually, this project aims to alleviate the impacts of drought, enhance firefighting capabilities, improve public health, and stimulate economic development in the Ibapah community.Project LengthStart Date: 11/2024 Project length: 2 yearsEstimated Completion Date10/2026Project Occurs Partially o	Executive Summary	
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#### **Executive Summary**

#### Background

Tooele County serves a population of 79,934 people, according to the 2022 Census Information, which is a 10% increase from the 2020 Census of 72,697 people. Tooele County's primary city, Ibapah, Utah, is roughly 165.9 miles away from Tooele. Home to the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, the community has a population of 144 and a tribal membership of 409.



Ibapah is renowned for its cultural heritage and accommodates tribal and non-tribal residents. The services available in Ibapah include education, religious services at a local Christian church, and fire services currently under reconstruction, which also serves as a storage facility for heavy machinery. The community relies on individual property wells, with occasional support from Tooele County during water contamination or system failures. The proposed domestic water supply project aims to provide a reliable water source, crucial for various needs like familyowned gardens, ultimately improving residents' quality of life in Ibapah, Utah. Water Supplies A study conducted by the US Geological Service (USGS) reveals that a significant portion of the water supply for Tooele Valley's residents is sourced from groundwater. Annually, approximately 70,000 to 75,000 acre-feet of water flows through the aquifers in Tooele Valley. This water primarily stems from precipitation in the nearby mountains, rainfall within Tooele Valley, as well as the seepage of unutilized irrigation water and seepage from Rush Valley. Ibapah will rely solely on the proposed project's water supply as there are no other primary water sources available. In an unconstrained year, the project will provide 10 acre-feet of water, which is consistent with the 10-year average annual water supply. This demonstrates the critical need for the project to alleviate the existing water scarcity challenges regarding the inadequate supplies for community members and emergency response in Ibapah.

#### **Project Location**

Ibapah Water well will be located in Tooele County, UT approximately 59 miles south of Wendover. The project location is 31 W Felt Drive, Ibapah, Utah. The project latitude is 40.03653208711423 'N, -113.98649137678862 'W.

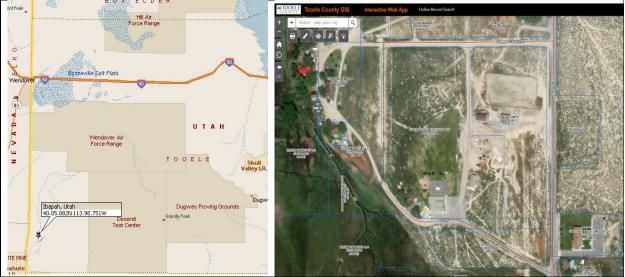


Figure 1: Project Location

# **Project Description**

The proposed project addresses the critical need for a reliable domestic water supply system in the disadvantaged and tribal land area of Ibapah in Tooele County, Utah, serving the community and its essential facilities, including the fire station. The primary goal is to establish a reliable and consistent water source to alleviate water scarcity challenges, enhance



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emergency response capabilities, and ensure clean water access for residents and facilities. This description outlines the technical aspects of the project:

Goals and Objectives:

- Water Supply Establishment: The core objective is to drill and construct a water well that taps into groundwater sources, providing a dependable and primary water supply for the community.
- Enhanced Firefighting Capabilities: The project aims to construct a fire riser, enabling the fire department access to dedicated water for firefighting, addressing the current lack of water reserves.
- **Community Resilience:** The project enhances the community's climate change resiliency by providing a consistent water source and addressing water scarcity challenges exacerbated by changing climate conditions.

Work to Be Accomplished:

- Permitting and Compliance: Tooele County has received the necessary water rights permits to move forward with the project and, post-award, will move forward with getting the proper cultural surveys and state inspections throughout the project.
- Well Drilling and Construction: The project will be initiated with the drilling of a water well. This includes site preparation, drilling operations, and the installation of casing to protect the wellbore.
- Pump Installation: A submersible pump system will be installed within the well to lift ground water to the surface. This phase includes selecting the appropriate pump capacity to meet water demand.
- Distribution System: Design and installation of a distribution system to convey water from the well to the community and essential facilities. This includes laying pipelines, valves, meters, and associated infrastructure.
- Fire Riser Construction: As part of the distribution system, a fire riser will be constructed, serving as critical infrastructure to facilitate firefighting efforts.
- Water Quality and Testing: Rigorous water quality assessments and testing protocols will be implemented to ensure a safe and clean water supply, meeting regulatory standards.

Approach to Complete the Work:

- **Planning and Design:** Engage engineering and design professionals to plan the well construction, distribution system layout, and fire riser construction. Secure the necessary permits and approvals to meet permitting and regulatory standards.
- Well Drilling: Contract with a qualified drilling company to execute the well drilling. operation, ensuring the well reaches an optimal depth to access groundwater.
- **Pump Installation:** Select and install a submersible pump system with capacity tailored to the community's water demand and with sufficient coverage to allow for community growth.



- **Distribution System Installation:** Installation of the distribution system, including pipelines, valves, meters, and associated infrastructure to convey water.
- **Fire Riser Construction:** Construct the fire riser to provide dedicated firefighting water supply to the fire department.
- **Quality Control:** Implement water quality monitoring and testing protocols to ensure a safe and clean water supply.
- **Community Engagement:** Maintain open communication with the community to ensure awareness of project progress and potential impacts during construction.
- **Compliance:** Continuously monitor project activities to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements and standards.

This comprehensive approach ensures the successful establishment of a primary domestic water supply system, addressing longstanding water scarcity challenges, and enhancing the community's resilience and well-being.

#### **Technical Aspects**

- 1. Well Drilling and Construction: The core of the project involves drilling a water well to access groundwater sources. This entails site preparation, drilling operations, and the installation of casing to safeguard the wellbore.
- **2. Pump Installation:** A submersible pump system will be installed within the well to elevate water to the surface. The selection of the appropriate pump capacity is crucial to meet water demand effectively.
- **3. Distribution System:** Design and installation of a distribution system to transport water from the well to the community and vital facilities. This includes the laying of pipelines, valves, meters, and associated infrastructure.
- **4.** Fire Riser Construction: Simultaneously, a fire riser will be constructed to serve as critical infrastructure, facilitating firefighting efforts and road drainage during floods.
- 5. Water Quality and Testing: Stringent water quality assessments and testing protocols will be in place to ensure a safe and clean water supply, adhering to regulatory standards.
- **6. Permitting and Compliance:** The project will navigate permitting and regulatory requirements to ensure full compliance with environmental and safety standards.

This comprehensive approach ensures the successful establishment of a sustainable domestic water supply system, addressing longstanding water scarcity challenges and enhancing the community's resilience and well-being, with a primary focus on technical aspects of the project.

# D.2.2.2.1. Performance Measures

The key project goal is reducing water-related challenges in Ibapah. Baseline measurements will be set for comparison. Key assessment areas include clean water access, firefighting capabilities, economic impact, health, hygiene, and community empowerment.

• Tracking clean water access for community members will gauge the well's effectiveness, promoting positive hygiene habits and overall community health.



- Access to clean water is crucial for machinery operators, reducing maintenance needs and costs. Reliable water for the fire station improves emergency response.
- Measuring firefighting response times will indicate safety improvements and reduced property damage.
- Surveys before and after the project will assess quality of life improvements, reflecting positive economic development, enhanced emergency response, and cost reduction.

Through these measures, the project will effectively address Ibapah's challenges, fostering a stronger, safer, and more self-sufficient community.

#### D.2.2.2.2. Evaluation Criteria

#### E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A—Project Benefits

#### **Domestic Water Supply Projects Task D**

This project takes place in rural Tooele County, within all or portions of Sections 16 & 21, T9S, R19W, SLB&M and additionally includes the Goshute Reservation. The table below is a

representation of the tract demographics for rural Tooele County. The map to the right shows the tract area mentioned. Ibapah is in the furthest southwest corner of this tract demographic. The total population of this tract is 1,871 people, with 553 people residing in Ibapah, both in the community and on the reservation. According to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, climate change emerges as a pressing concern, with a building loss rate reaching the 91st percentile in economic losses incurred annually due to natural hazards. The issue of housing presents its own set of obstacles, as the lack of indoor plumbing



Figure 2: CEJST Demographic Area

affects homes at the 90th percentile. Additionally, the problem of legacy pollution looms large, evident in the presence of abandoned mine lands and formerly used defense sites within the tracts. Furthermore, the specter of low income affects this community on a large scale, with the 77th percentile reflecting households where income falls below twice the federal poverty level, excluding students enrolled in higher education. These statistics underscore the multifaceted challenges faced by communities, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

Table 1. Tract Demographics							
Tract 49045130600 Tooele County, Utah. Population Total: 1,871							
Race/Ethnicity	Percentage						
White	38%						



Black	1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	3%
Asian	1%
Other	36%
2 or More Races	3%
Hispanic or Latino	51%

#### Domestic Water Supply Need

The Ibapah community grapples with dire challenges related to water scarcity, facing severe limitations in accessing clean and safe drinking water. The residents rely on personal wells, distant grocery stores and, in the past, have had to depend on donated bottled water provided by Tooele County. This scarcity not only poses significant public health concerns but also jeopardizes firefighting efforts. The community's inadequate water supply leads to poor hygiene, spreading sickness, especially among vulnerable groups like children and the elderly. Additionally, the lack of a reliable water source severely hampers the local fire station's emergency response, causing delays and increased property damage. This situation endangers lives and properties, evidence of the urgent need for comprehensive solutions and support in the community.

The challenges stemming from the lack of water access in the Ibapah community extend beyond individual households, significantly impacting various sectors. The community's economic development suffers due to this scarcity. Residents, including those who own farms, ranches, and those cultivating personal gardens, find it difficult to prosper without a consistent and sufficient water supply for irrigation and daily operations. This scarcity not only affects individual livelihoods but also undermines economic stability within the community. Additionally, the reliance on bottled water exacerbates environmental concerns. In the absence of a proper water supply, the excessive use of plastic bottles leads to environmental pollution and waste, aggravating landfill issues and harming the local ecosystem. These challenges provide proof of the urgent need for a solution addressing water access, safety, economic development, and environmental sustainability in this community.

The prominent public health and safety concerns in the community of Ibapah, Utah, stem from limited access to clean water, firefighting limitations, safety hazards for road machinery operators, economic hardships, and environmental challenges.

#### Increased Reliable access.

In an unconstrained year, the project will provide an estimated 10 acre-feet of water per year on average. This annual benefit is calculated based on the sustainable yield of the proposed well and the water distribution infrastructure to be established.

The estimated population reached is based on the current demographic data and the number of households in the project area. The specific population served is 553 residents.

The project will have a transformative impact on the community by providing a reliable and readily available source of clean water. Residents currently rely on bringing in bottled water or expensive and large quantities of shipped water. They will no longer need to rely on bottled



water or expensive water shipments, especially during emergencies like well contamination or well failures. Additionally, the increased water supply will significantly benefit the local fire department's ability to contain and combat structure fires effectively.

#### **Continued Benefits**

With regular maintenance provided by Tooele County apart from this grant, this project will benefit the community in all the continuous years to come. Based on the average operating life of other wells in the surrounding areas, it is estimated that this project will provide continuous benefits over the next 50 years at minimum and will be a steppingstone in integrating and delivering services to this disadvantaged community and surrounding tribal lands.

#### Sub-Criterion A1.a: Adds to Available Water Supplies

#### Long Term Drought Resilience and Benefits

The project will manage the entire water supply for the area, addressing existing scarcity challenges. It aims to be the primary and only water source, serving community needs, firefighting, and emergencies. It represents 100% of the area's water supply, eliminating reliance on temporary sources (see pages 27-31 for details).

The project will provide an estimated 10 acre-feet of water yearly, aligning with a 10-year average benefit.

This estimate is based on the proposed well's expected groundwater yield. Groundwater wells offer stable and consistent yields, ensuring a reliable, sustainable water supply for the community's needs, including emergencies and droughts (refer to page 5 for more information).

#### Sub-Criterion A1.b: Water Better Managed

Per the NOFO pages 35-36, we are not subject to this criterion because we fall under Sub-Criterion A1.a, see above.

#### **Saltwater Barriers**

Per the NOFO on page 38, we are not subject to this section as the project does not include saltwater barriers.

#### Wells

The new well's estimated capacity is 3,000,000 gallons, accounting for factors like climate change, drought, and diverse project area needs. Ibapah's municipal facilities currently use 10,000 gallons, which will rise to 100,000 with the well.

This water supply plan caters to various needs, including dust control, rodeo arena, and fire department support. Currently, the fire department travels 15 miles to obtain water. The 3,000,000-gallon capacity, with an estimated annual use of 1,000,000 gallons, ensures a buffer of 2,000,000 for community needs and improved firefighting capabilities in Ibapah, gallons used per year, provides a buffer of 2,000,000 to meet the community's needs and enhance firefighting capabilities in the Ibapah project area.

#### Water Extraction

The proposed well intends to extract around 1,000,000 gallons annually during regular years through this well. The request for 10 acre-feet of area has been ensured to not drain any



aquifers by regulatory processes. This extraction is in full compliance with state and local laws, as determined through a rigorous compliance process that occurred prior to the issuance of the water right permit by the state. Various agencies and groups in Utah overseeing this process adhere to strict regulations and follow specific steps to ensure that the project meets all necessary requirements before it can commence.

#### Primary or Supplemental Supply

The well to be constructed in Ibapah, Utah, will serve as the primary water supply for the community. It will provide a consistent and reliable source of clean water to meet the daily domestic needs of the residents, the fire station, and other critical facilities. This primary supply ensures that the community has access to clean water on a regular basis, reducing its reliance on surface supplies and providing a reliable solution to address water scarcity issues.

#### Active recharge program contributing to groundwater sustainability?

The applicant does not currently participate in an active recharge program contributing to groundwater sustainability and has no plans for any aquifer recharge facilities currently. As a sparsely populated and disadvantaged community, there have been insufficient resources to participate in these programs. However, with the implementation of the proposed domestic water supply project, there will be an opportunity to consider and explore groundwater recharge programs to enhance the sustainability of the groundwater resources in the future.

#### Impact to the Aquifer

The well is strategically located in the thick deposits of mostly late Cenozoic basin fill of the Basin and Range alluvial carbonate aquifer (Fig. 5) within the state of Utah, drawing water from the abundant snowmelt originating from the Wasatch Front mountains that comes down into the surfaces water sources, such as Middle Deep Creek, East Deep Creek and Deep Creek Reservoir. The well will be situated at 30 W Felt Drive in Ibapah, Utah, as indicated on the map aside (Fig. 3). Notably, the nearby school district replaced the only operational well in early 2023. The proposed well, which will be like the well that was designed and built by the school district as described in detail below (Fig. 4), has received state approval (Fig.6). This endorsement signifies the



Figure 3: Map of proposed well location.

state's confidence that the well will not adversely impact the aquifer, assuring its positive contribution to the local water supply.



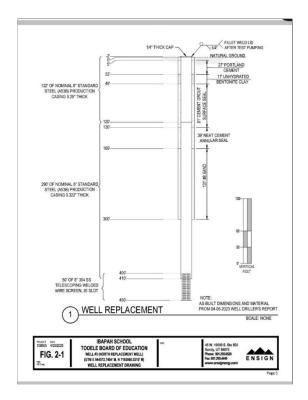


Figure 4: Example of well that was built by school district and the proposed project will be built similarly to this.

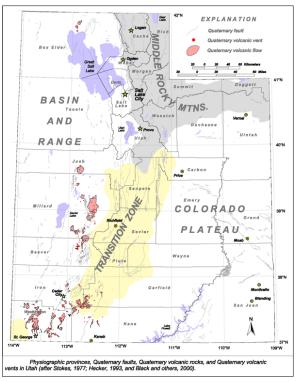
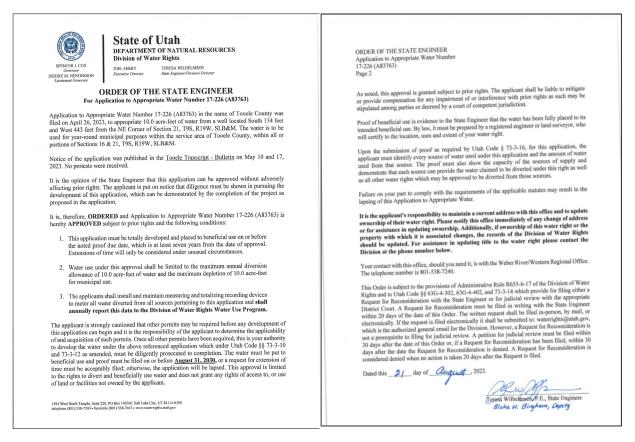


Figure 5: Photo of three main aquifers in Utah. Well will be built using Basin and Range aquifer.





#### Fig. 6: State of Utah Water Rights Permit

#### Groundwater Monitoring Plan

The well installation necessitates ongoing monitoring through a meter, which will regularly report the quantity of exported groundwater to the state authorities. The groundwater monitoring plan will be developed by aligning with state of Utah regulations. This rigorous monitoring approach ensures that the well construction and groundwater extraction activities will not yield any adverse effects.

#### New Water Marketing Tool or Program

Per page 38 of the NOFO, the project does not include any of the following therefore, information does not need to be provided.

#### **Metering/Water Measurement Projects**

Per page 38 of the NOFO, the project does not include any of the following therefore, information does not need to be provided.

#### E.1.1.2. Sub-criterion A2: Environmental & Other Benefits

#### Sub-Criterion A2.a: Climate Change

#### Natural Hazard Risk Reduction

The proposed project encompasses strategies aimed at mitigating natural hazard risks, with a specific focus on wildfires and floods. A central element of this initiative involves the



establishment of a fire riser system. This critical infrastructure will grant the fire department the capacity to access a dedicated water source exclusively for firefighting purposes. This plays a pivotal role in diminishing the vulnerability to wildfire incidents.

Furthermore, the construction of the fire riser system also serves a dual purpose by facilitating efficient road drainage during flood events. This functionality assumes a significant role in managing flood-related risks. In cases of flooding, the fire riser system aids in the regulation of water flow, thus mitigating the adverse effects of floods on roadways and the community. They enhance both firefighting and flood management capabilities, thereby effectively reducing the risks associated with wildfires and floods in the proposed project area.

#### Renewable Energy Source

The proposed project does not involve the establishment or use of renewable energy sources, it does have many other positive aspects and objectives that contribute to its overall goals and benefits to the community. Although the project will rely on traditional energy sources, the main objective of the project is to ensure a consistent and reliable water supply to the community and essential facilities, thereby creating a community that is more accessible and one that provides opportunity, growth and engagement.

#### Greenhouse gas emissions

The proposed project is not expected to reduce greenhouse gas emission by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation. However, it is important to consider the positive benefits and objectives of the project as set forth. The project's primary focus is to address water scarcity challenges and provide a reliable domestic water supply to the community. The project's core objective is ensuring reliable access to clean water for residents and essential facilities. When appropriate, the community is interested in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in any form.

#### Green or Sustainable Infrastructure

Improved community access to water sources and the inclusion of fire-fighting infrastructure plays a significant role in enhancing community climate resilience and the ability to build sustainable infrastructure. Reliable water access ensures stable water supply during times of drought or extreme weather events, helping communities withstand these climate-related challenges. That same access to water is crucial for economic growth and the development of sustainable industries, enhancing the community's resilience. Additionally, a robust fire-fighting infrastructure is vital to any community and its resilience. In the face of climate-related challenges like increased frequency and intensity of wildfires, having adequate resources and infrastructure in place will allow a community to protect lives and property, preserve ecosystems, and prevent secondary disasters.

#### Reduce or Mitigate Climate Pollution

The proposed project seeks to reduce or mitigate water pollution by providing a reliable source of clean water to the community. With the establishment of a domestic water supply system, residents and essential facilities will have access to clean and safe drinking water. This reduces the reliance on alternative water sources, such as bottled water or water transportation methods, which can contribute to pollution through the production and disposal of containers



and transportation emissions. Some climatic benefits of reducing wildfire pollution that occurs through runoff, carbon release from burning material and air pollution from smoke will be eliminated with a primary water source. By addressing water scarcity and providing clean water locally, the project indirectly contributes to mitigating potential sources of pollution associated with alternative water supply methods.

#### **Conservation or Management Component**

The proposed project includes a conservation and management component aimed at promoting healthy lands and soils while protecting water supplies within the community. The project is providing the Ibapah community with access to clean direct water supply. The project will also support sustainable water management practices through proper irrigation and erosion control. These management practices will aid in reducing stress on soils, preserving fertile topsoil, preventing sediment runoff, and promoting healthier crops for the residents of Ibapah. The project also incorporates protection of water supply including responsible water use practices, community education on water conservation, and infrastructure resilience.

#### Climate Change Resiliency

The proposed project contributes to climate change resiliency primarily by addressing water scarcity and enhancing the community's access to a reliable domestic water supply without causing negative repercussions towards any part of the climate. Having a dependable water source is a fundamental aspect of climate change resiliency.

Climate change can lead to more frequent and severe droughts and extreme weather events, which can exacerbate water scarcity challenges. By providing a consistent water supply, the project helps the community better cope with and adapt to these climate-related challenges, ensuring residents have access to clean water for their daily needs, firefighting, and emergency response. In this way, the project indirectly enhances the community's climate change resiliency by addressing a critical aspect of adaptation for water security.

# Sub-Criterion A2.b: Environmental Benefits

#### **Ecological Climate Change**

The proposed project has been designed to have no impact whatsoever on wildlife, fisheries, or their natural habitats. Extensive environmental assessments and research have been conducted to ensure that the project remains entirely neutral in relation to any categories of species. There will be no disturbance to local wildlife, no disruption to fisheries, and no alteration to any natural habitats. The project neither poses a threat nor provides support to any wildlife species, ensuring the preservation of the existing ecological balance. Measures like intentional area selection & wildlife research in the area have been put in place to guarantee the environment and its inhabitants are left undisturbed, aligning the project with the highest standards of environmental responsibility.

#### **Environmental Benefits**

In evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, it is important to note that no specific types or quantities of environmental benefits are anticipated because of its implementation. Consequently, there exists no basis for calculating any environmental benefits within the scope of this proposal. As such, the absence of measurable environmental



benefits eliminates the need for calculating any such figures in this proposal. Instead, the focus of this project lies in maintaining the status quo and ensuring that no harm is done to the environment, but most importantly, providing a water source to the surrounding communities and municipal facilities that need the access to a reliable water source.

#### **Species Listing**

This project aims to protect biodiversity by following strict conservation rules, reducing the risk of species becoming endangered. It plans to avoid harming vulnerable species and their habitats. The project will adhere to environmental laws and will be fenced to keep wildlife away. It won't be near streams, preventing water pollution. This effort sets an example for responsible environmental care, balancing human activities and nature while supporting local communities.

#### Sub-Criterion A2.c: Other Benefits

#### Water Users

The project's primary objective is to establish a reliable domestic water supply system for the community in Ibapah, Utah, addressing water scarcity challenges, enhancing firefighting capabilities, and ensuring clean water access. While this project focuses on providing a local water supply and community resilience, its direct impact on assisting states in complying with interstate compacts may be limited. Compliance with interstate compacts typically involves managing and allocating water resources across state boundaries, which may fall under the purview of larger-scale water management initiatives.

However, ensuring a sustainable domestic water supply can indirectly contribute to broader water management efforts by alleviating the community's reliance on alternative water sources and potentially reducing pressure on shared water resources. Compliance with interstate compacts is generally a broader policy and regulatory issue that may involve multiple stakeholders and initiatives beyond the scope of this specific project and therefore, this project will not affect any states that the Basin and Range aquifer resides in.

#### **Associated Sector Benefits**

Building a water well brings many benefits to the community. It provides a reliable water supply for public facilities, reducing dependency on external sources like the school district. This accessibility also helps create green parks and recreational areas, offering serene spaces for leisure and social activities. For rodeo and fair events, it ensures proper care for animals, enhancing safety. Tribal communities can use the water for agriculture, promoting selfsufficiency. Overall, the well guarantees clean water for everyone, improving the community's quality of life and supporting sustainable development and cultural cohesion.

# Sustainability

Building the Ibapah water well is a crucial part of a bigger effort to meet the community's water needs. Currently lacking a backup system, the community faces water scarcity problems. The well establishes a reliable water source, aligning with the 2022 Utah Water Conservation and Reclamation Plan and the approved Tooele County Natural Resources Conservation Strategy. This secure source ensures Ibapah residents' well-being and sets the foundation for a



connected network serving the whole region. This approach tackles current challenges and promotes community-driven solutions, fostering growth, health, and prosperity in the area.

#### Water-related Crisis or Conflict

This project is essential for preventing a water crisis in the region. The community currently lacks water access and a backup system, making it vulnerable to severe scarcity. The project ensures a new, secure water source without causing conflicts over water rights. To ensure transparency, the county published the well permit application, allowing residents to voice concerns. This open approach led to no disputes, demonstrating effective communication. By providing a reliable water supply without infringing on existing rights, the project promotes cooperation, harmony, and stability in the region.

#### E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B—Planning and Preparedness

# Domestic Water Supply Projects Task D

#### **Pre-planning Efforts**

The following planning efforts have taken place to ensure a smooth implementation of the Ibapah water well project:

This first step being the acquisition of Well Permit. The process of acquiring the well permit involved extensive coordination with local regulatory authorities and agencies responsible for water resource management. This effort was initiated to ensure full compliance with all relevant laws and regulations governing water well construction and operation. A comprehensive permit application was prepared, detailing the project's technical specifications, environmental impact assessments, and safety measures. This application was submitted to the appropriate regulatory bodies for review and approval.

The second was selecting the optimal well location. Identifying the best location for the well involved a thorough assessment of geological and hydrological factors. Geological surveys were conducted to determine the suitability of potential drilling sites. Hydrological studies were performed to assess groundwater availability, depth, and quality in the project area. These studies considered factors such as aquifer capacity and recharge rates to ensure the well's sustainability. Environmental impact assessments were conducted to minimize any potential ecological consequences of drilling and well operation. Extensive consultations were held with the local community to gather input and consider their preferences in selecting the well's location. This community engagement process helped ensure that the chosen location aligned with the needs and concerns of residents. The final well location was determined through a combination of technical assessments, regulatory approvals, and community input, considering factors like proximity to the fire station, road infrastructure, and accessibility for maintenance and repair.

These prior planning efforts demonstrate a commitment to responsible and sustainable project development. Acquiring the well permit and selecting the optimal location were conducted with a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory, technical, environmental, and community-related considerations necessary for the successful implementation of the domestic water supply project in Ibapah, Utah.



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#### **Collaborative Process**

Yes, the plan for the domestic water supply project in Ibapah, Utah, was developed through a collaborative process involving key stakeholders. The Road Department, Fire Department, Facilities Department, County Manger, and City Council actively participated in the planning process, collectively determining that establishing a new water supply system was the most effective way to serve the community's water needs.

This collaborative approach ensures that the project considers the specific requirements and perspectives of various departments and entities, thus enhancing its suitability and alignment with the overall needs of the community. It also fosters a sense of ownership and commitment among stakeholders, increasing the likelihood of successful project implementation and long-term sustainability.

#### **Plan Involvement**

The plan for the Ibapah domestic water supply project in Tooele County, Utah was primarily prepared through collaborative efforts involving several key stakeholders with diverse interests. The following entities and departments were involved in preparing the plan:

- Road Department: The Road Department played a central role in the planning process, serving as the coordinating body for the project. They were actively engaged in all aspects of the plan's development.
- Fire Department: The Fire Department, being a critical stakeholder due to its need for reliable water access for firefighting and emergency response, was deeply involved in the planning discussions. Their input was instrumental in shaping the project.
- Facilities Department: The Facilities Department, responsible for managing and maintaining community facilities, had a stake in the project's success, as access to clean water is essential for public buildings and amenities.
- County Manager: The County Manager, representing the local government's interests, was involved in the planning process to ensure that the project aligns with broader county objectives and regulations.

It's important to note that the involvement of these key stakeholders demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that the project's planning process is well-informed, responsive to the diverse needs of the community, and aligns with the broader interests of Tooele County and the Ibapah community. It fosters a comprehensive understanding of the project's potential impacts and benefits across multiple sectors and interests.

#### **Process Input**

The process for interested stakeholders to provide input during the development of the plan was designed to be inclusive and participatory. Here's how stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input and feedback:

• Through the Roads Department: The Roads Department served as a central point of contact for all interested stakeholders. This department actively engaged with and facilitated communication between various stakeholders, including the Fire Department, Facilities Department, County Manager, and community members.



- Community Outreach: Community members and residents were encouraged to attend public meetings, workshops, and informational sessions organized by the Roads Department. These gatherings provided a platform for individuals to express their wants and needs related to the domestic water supply project. Community input was highly valued and considered in the planning process.
- Feedback Mechanisms: The Roads Department established feedback mechanisms such as suggestion boxes, surveys, and dedicated email addresses or phone lines for stakeholders to submit their ideas, concerns, and feedback related to the project.
- Collaborative Decision-Making: The collaborative process involved regular meetings and consultations with all relevant departments and entities. This allowed for a comprehensive exchange of ideas and ensured that the perspectives and needs of each stakeholder group were considered.

Regarding the involvement of the applicant in the development of the plan, Tooele County, who is facilitating the grant, played a key role in coordinating the collaborative process and involving all stakeholders. While the specific details of the plan's development were not provided, the applicant's involvement was crucial in ensuring that the project aligns with the community's needs and regulatory requirements.

This approach demonstrates a commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness to the needs of the community and relevant stakeholders in the development of the Ibapah well for Tooele County.

#### Plan Development

The referenced plan was collaboratively developed, with contributions from a multitude of individuals.

#### Drought Planning

This projects planning is based on and includes elements of Utah's 2023 Drought Plan. It is a critical component, particularly in arid regions like Utah, to ensure the project's resilience and sustainability in the face of potential water scarcity. Elements of the drought plan are listed below:

- Drought Contingency Measures: The project plan incorporates drought contingency measures in line with the guidelines outlined in Utah's 2023 Drought Plan. These measures are designed to address water supply challenges during drought periods and ensure that the community's water needs can be met even when water resources are strained.
- Water Conservation: The plan emphasizes water conservation strategies and practices to optimize water use efficiency. These measures include promoting responsible water usage among residents and implementing water-saving technologies and infrastructure where applicable.
- Monitoring and Trigger Mechanisms: The project plan outlines a system for monitoring local drought conditions and implementing appropriate responses based on predefined



trigger points. This allows for timely adjustments in water management practices as drought conditions evolve.

- Community Education and Outreach: The plan includes provisions for community education and outreach programs to raise awareness about drought conditions, water conservation, and responsible water use. These programs empower residents to take an active role in conserving water during drought periods.
- Emergency Preparedness: Drought planning includes provisions for emergency preparedness and response in case of severe drought events. This may involve developing contingency plans for alternative water sources, such as water storage or emergency interconnections with neighboring communities.
- Compliance with Regulatory Guidelines: The project ensures compliance with Utah's 2023 Drought Plan and any other relevant state or local regulations related to drought planning and water resource management.

By incorporating these elements of drought planning, the project aims to enhance its resilience and ability to provide a consistent and reliable water supply to the community and tribal residents, even in the face of challenging drought conditions. This proactive approach aligns with responsible water resource management practices and helps safeguard the well-being of the residents in surrounding communities.

# E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Severity of Actual or Potential Drought or Water Scarcity Impacts to be addressed by the Project



Data Source: https://www.drought.gov/states/utah/county/Tooele

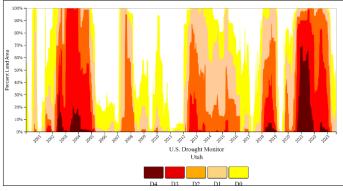


Figure 7. Historical Drought Conditions in Utah

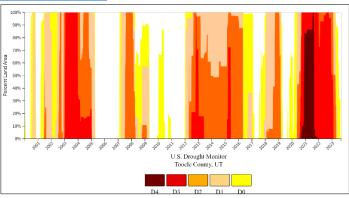


Figure 8. Historical Drought Conditions in Tooele



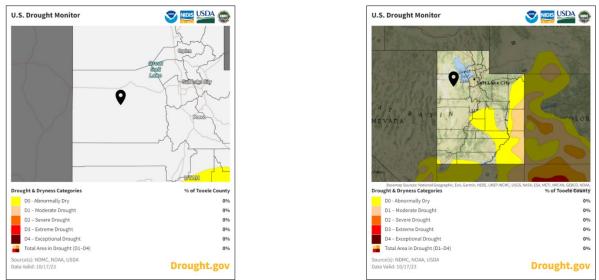


Figure 9. Utah Current Drought Conditions and Tooele Current Drought Conditions

# **Drought Conditions**

Currently, no areas in Tooele County are being affected by drought. However, Tooele County has been in extreme drought within the last year. Since 2020 the County has been in varying states of abnormally dry to extremely dry that have only subsided in early 2023. 2012-2016 also marked a period of extensive drought.

Data Source: <a href="https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/">https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/</a>

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	<u>DSCI</u>
Current	<u>2023-10-17</u>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Last Week to Current	<u>2023-10-10</u>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
3 Months Ago to Current	<u>2023-07-18</u>	68.76	31.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31
Start of Calendar Year to Current	<u>2022-12-27</u>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	50.76	0.00	351
Start of Water Year to Current	<u>2023-09-26</u>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
One Year Ago to Current	2022-10-18	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	95.57	0.00	396

Figure 10. UNL Drought Monitor Table for Tooele County

# **Projected Drought**

The aquifer that will be used to export water by the well has been approved by the state of Utah and has shown that there will be no increases to severity of drought or water scarcity. There will be no negative climate change effects as proven by the permit given to Tooele County by the state of Utah.



#### **Drought Impacts**

The project will provide essential water sources to various sectors like fairgrounds, parks, and homes, ensuring reliable access. Without the well, municipal facilities may have limited water, and the fire station could struggle during emergencies. Rodeo events and animals at the fairgrounds may lack clean water, posing health risks. In the past, water shortages led to bottled water deliveries. The proposed well would prevent such issues and enhance water access, crucial in the desert landscape of Ibapah, reducing wildfire risks and ensuring safety.

#### Alternative Water Source

The community served by this grant does not currently have another water source available if their water service is interrupted. In the past, the county fire department has provided water bottles to the area when water service has been interrupted. However, this approach is not sustainable in the long term, highlighting the critical need for the proposed project to establish a reliable and consistent domestic water supply system that can serve as a primary source, especially in times of water service interruptions and drought conditions.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Assessing ongoing or potential environmental impacts, including impacts on endangered, threatened, or candidate species and their habitat, requires site – specific environmental studies and assessments, which are typically conducted as part of the project development process.

Environmental impact assessments are designed to evaluate the potential effects of a project on the surrounding environment. This may include studying the local ecosystem, wildlife habitat, and potential impacts on species of concern. The results of these assessments inform project planning and design to minimize negative impacts and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

For the specific project described in the earlier responses, the project's proponents would need to conduct environmental assessments in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. These assessments would identify and address any potential environmental impacts, including impacts on species or habitats.

It's important to emphasize that detailed environmental impact assessments, often involving collaboration with the environmental agencies and experts, would be a necessary step in the project development process to fully understand and address potential environmental impacts.

# Losses Tied to Water Conditions

• Agriculture: The absence of a reliable water supply has a substantial impact on local agriculture. There are several farms and ranches that are a part of the community, working in a wide variety of industries. Primarily, agriculture is specific to livestock, specifically cattle ranchers, hay, and dairy farmers. Farmers in the area may experience reduced crop yields or may be forced to limit their agricultural activities due to water scarcity. This can lead to economic losses for agricultural businesses and impact the livelihoods of farmers.



- **Businesses:** Local businesses, especially those dependent on water-intensive processes or services, may face operational challenges and increased costs due to the need to secure alternative water sources. This can affect profitability and economic growth in the community.
- **Real Estate Values:** Reduced access to clean water can negatively affect real estate values in the area. Properties with unreliable or inadequate water sources may be less attractive to buyers and investors, potentially leading to decreased property values.
- Healthcare Costs: Water-related health issues, such as waterborne illnesses resulting from inadequate access to clean water, can lead to increased healthcare costs for individuals and the community.
- **Emergency Response:** The limitations on the fire department's ability to access sufficient water for firefighting pose significant safety and property damage risks. The community may experience increased property losses and insurance claims in the event of a fire.
- **Economic Development:** The lack of a reliable water supply can deter potential economic development opportunities, as industries and businesses may be hesitant to invest in an area with uncertain water availability.
- **Community Well-Being:** Overall, the community's well-being is compromised by ongoing water scarcity. Residents may face financial burdens from purchasing bottled water, and the lack of access to clean water can impact daily life, education, and overall quality of life.

#### Other Water-Related Impacts

It's essential to thoroughly assess potential impacts and challenges during project planning to ensure its successful and sustainable implementation. There are no additional water-related impacts identified, which is a positive sign for the project's feasibility and the local community's water security.

#### E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Presidential and DOI Priorities

# E.1.4.1. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

The proposed project of the Ibapah Well will be a great resource to the local community due to many factors. One of the most advantageous benefits will be to the community's water supply and will provide water to many different residential and municipal facilities. According to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, this area is defined as disadvantaged due to several factors. Ibapah meets that definition due to the following factors: climate change poses a significant threat, with natural hazards causing economic losses each year. Additionally, a substantial number of homes lack essential indoor plumbing, highlighting a pressing housing issue. Legacy pollution, stemming from abandoned mine lands and a formerly used defense site, further complicates the environmental concerns. More on these factors can be found on page 7.



# E.1.4.2. Tribal Benefits

The proposed project will directly serve and benefit the Confederated Tribe of the Goshute, which resides on the Deep Creek Reservation spanning Tooele and Juab Counties in Utah and Pine County in Nevada. The project's direct benefits include improved access to clean water, enhanced public health and safety, and the provision of a new and reliable water supply. Additionally, by addressing water scarcity challenges and promoting economic development, the project contributes to the well-being and sustainable water management of the Goshute Tribe and the broader community.

# Reclamation

Tooele County has attempted to contact the Goshute Tribe Council to have visual or verbal confirmation of support and agreement for this project and are currently awaiting a response.



Figure 11. Reservation

# E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E—Readiness to Proceed and Project Implementation.

Table 2. Work Plan		
Activities	Tasks	Timeline/Schedule
1.0 Receive Grant	1.1 Grant Securement	Nov. 2024
	1.2 Grant Funding	Nov. 2024
2.0 Engineering stage	2.1 Engineering of project completion.	Mar. 2025
	2.2 Create RFP/RFB	April. 2025
3.0 Start Project	3.1 Award Project	May 2025
	3.2 Start Drilling	June 2025
4.0 Project Work	4.1 Underground tank installation	Mar. 2026
	4.2 Erection of Building	May 2026
5.0	5.1 Fencing/project completion	Oct. 2026

Table 3. Milestones Schedule							
Milestone	Timeline						
M1 Receiving Grant funds	Nov. 2024						
M2 Completion of Engineering	Mar. 2025						
M3 Project start	June. 2025						
M4 Erection of building	May 2026						
M5 Fencing	Oct. 2026						

Table 4. Project Schedule												
Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2024												
Secure Grant											Х	



2025												
Engineering	Х	Х	Х									Х
Create RFP/RFB				Х								
Start Drilling						Х	Х	Х	Х			
2026												
Tank installation			Х	Х								
Erection of building					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Fencing										Х	Х	

#### Permits and Approvals

A permit was filed with the State of Utah's Department of Natural Resources for "Application to Appropriate Water Number 17-226 (A83763)" and was approved on August 21, 2023. State inspections and cultural surveys will be conducted April 2025 if applicant is awarded the grant.

#### Engineering and Design Work

The project is currently in the planning stage, the engineering and design work for the proposed project in Ibapah, Utah, is contingent on securing required funding. As of now, there has been preliminary collaboration with engineering firms, including J. Clegg and Ensign Engineering. Once grant funding is secured, more detailed engineering and design work will be undertaken to plan and construct the well and associated infrastructure, ensuring the project's success in delivering a reliable domestic water supply in the community while adhering to regulations. Engineering and design work can also be noted as part of the projects schedule and milestones.

#### Land Purchases

No land purchases are required for the implementation of the proposed project. The land is under Tooele County's jurisdiction. This simplifies the project's logistics and streamlines the process of bringing clean water to the Ibapah, Utah, community.

#### New Policies/Administrative Actions

No new policies or administrative actions are required to implement this project.

# E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion F—Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)

Per the NOFO page 36, this section does not apply to the proposed project.

# **Applicant Status**

The applicant is not a tribe, but the project is directly tied to access to clean water for the Ibapah community and Goshute Tribe located in the far west corner of Tooele County, Utah.

# E.1.6. Evaluation Criterion G—Stakeholder Support for Proposed Project

Table 5. Stakeholder Support									
Stakeholder Name	Entity Type	Type of Support							
Tooele County	County Government	Matching Funds							
Confederate Tribe of the Goshutes	Tribal	Letter							
Shambip Soil Conservation	Conservation	Letter							
Tooele County EOC	Emergency Management	Letter							
Tooele County Fire	Emergency Services	Letter							



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#### Stakeholders

The project to provide a domestic water supply in the disadvantaged community and tribal lands of Ibapah, Utah, has garnered support from a diverse set of stakeholders due to its broad impact and the multifaceted nature of the challenges it seeks to address. The types of interested stakeholders within the project area and the scale, type, and complexity of the proposed project is supported from various entities representing different interests: municipal authorities, the tribal community, environmental groups, recreation and community groups and health care providers.

Municipal authorities back it due to its direct impact on public health and safety, especially benefiting the fire station's needs and enhancing emergency response capabilities. Tribal communities are also supportive, recognizing the fundamental need for clean water and addressing historical challenges in securing this resource. Environmental groups endorse the project for its contribution to local environmental conservation efforts by reducing plastic waste from bottled water and encouraging responsible water usage. Additionally, community and recreational groups view the project as a way to enhance residents' quality of life and attract visitors, while healthcare providers support it for its potential to promote positive health and hygiene habits within the community.

The project's potential to address public health, safety, economic, environmental, and community development concerns makes it a compelling initiative that aligns with the interests of various stakeholders. Effective collaboration among these diverse groups will be essential for the successful planning and implementation of the project.

#### Citations

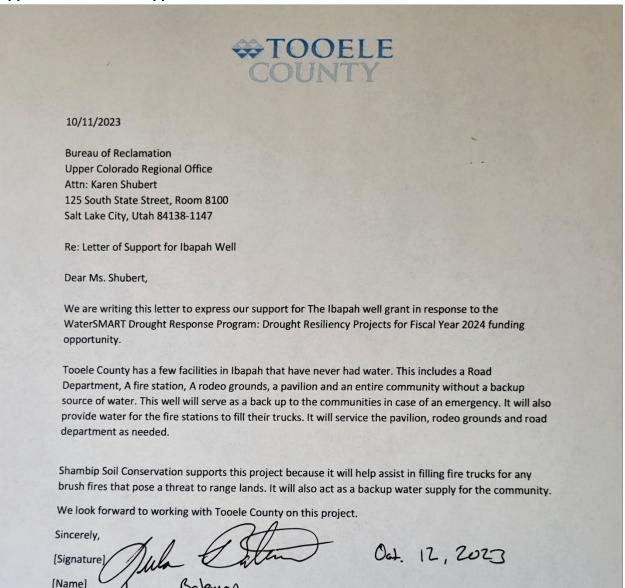
*Ground-water resources of Tooele Valley, Utah*. (1999). pubs.usgs.gov. Retrieved October 19, 2023, from <u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/1999/0125/report.pdf</u>

University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (2023, October 19). Current map: U.S. drought monitor. Current Map | U.S. Drought Monitor. <u>https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/</u>



Empowering Ibapah's Disadvantaged and Tribal Community with Reliable Water Access Appendix: Letters of Support

#### **Appendix: Letters of Support**



[Position]







10/11/2023

Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office Attn: Karen Shubert 125 South State Street, Room 8100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

Re: Letter of Support for Ibapah Well

Dear Ms. Shubert,

I am writing this letter to express our support for **The Ibapah Well Grant** in response to the **WaterSMART Drought Response Program**: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 funding opportunity.

Tooele County has several facilities in Ibapah Utah that support the local community. The town of Ibapah is a frontier community that borders the Confederated Tribe of Goshutes Indian Reservation and the State of Nevada. This community has a major need as <u>it lacks essential water infrastructure</u> to support the needs of the area.

Tooele County facilities include a Road Department shop, Ibapah Fire Station, and other recreational locations for the community. This well will serve as a back up to the community of Ibapah and the Goshute Reservation to provide water in case of an emergency. Because of the remote nature of this area wildfire events occur annually. When these events occur water resources are scarce, and it creates a significant challenge to suppress fires. Many times, emergency events deplete existing wells in the area to dangerous levels. This area is also vulnerable to drought conditions, and it is not uncommon for Emergency Services to receive requests to supply the area with drinking water for households during these times. An additional water source would assist our abilities to provide a secondary water source for both communities when these situations occur.

We look forward to working with Tooele County on this project.

Sincerely,

Bucky Whitehouse, Director Tooele County Emergency Services









CONFEDERATED TRIBES of the GOSHUTE RESERVATION HC 61, Box 6104 Ibapah, Utah 84034 (435) 234-1138 (office)

October 31, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office ATTN: Karen Shubert 125 South State Street, Room 8100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

Dear Ms. Subert,

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation (CTGR) Business Council, I hereby provide you with an official response to the Tooele County Culinary Water Well. The CTGR Business Council is pleased to express our support for the Ibapah Well Grant in response to the WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Opportunity.

Tooele County has a few facilities lacking water located in Ibapah, Utah. including: a road department, fire station, rodeo grounds, and a pavilion. In fact, the entire reservation is without a backup source of water. This well will serve as a back-up to our community, in case of an emergency. It will provide water for the fire station and will serve the pavilion, rodeo grounds, and road department. The Toole County Emergency Management (TCEM) supports this project because it will help assist in filling fire trucks for any brush or house fires that pose a threat. It will also act as a backup water supply for the community. We look forward to working with Tooele County on this project.

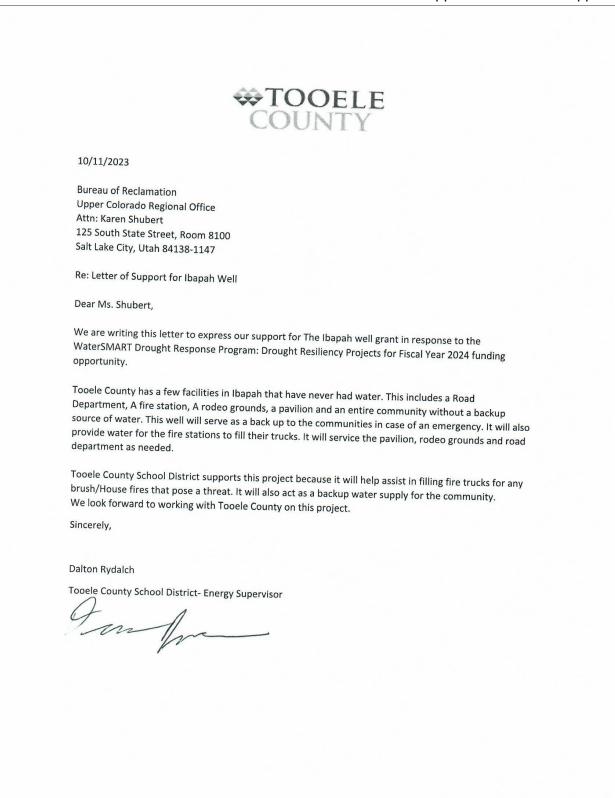
If you have any questions and/or concerns please contact myself at <u>amos.murphy@ctgr.us</u> or <u>phyllis.naranjo@ctgr.us</u>. Either of us may be contacted also at (435)234-1138.

Sincerely,

anor Muply

Amos Murphy, Business Council Chairman Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation









November 17, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office Attn: Karen Shubert 125 South State Street, Room 8100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

Subject: Audit Reporting Statement

Dear Ms. Shubert,

We are writing to confirm that our organization, Tooele County, Utah, did not participate in a federal audit during the last fiscal year.

The absence of an audit or review should not be interpreted as an opinion on the accuracy or completeness of the financial information submitted with our grant application.

Should you require an independent examination of the County's grant distributions, we can engage a qualified and independent auditor to perform an audit or review in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and regulations. We acknowledge our responsibility to provide accurate and reliable financial information and will consider such examination if requested.

If you require any further information or documentation regarding our financial practices, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of financial responsibility and are available to assist with any inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,

Jed A. Bell Tooele County Road Director



November 2, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office Attn: Karen Shubert 125 South State Street, Room 8100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

Subject: Disclosure of Conflict of Interest for Funding Request

Dear Ms. Shubert,

My team and I are writing to officially confirm that there is no conflict of interest concerning the funding request, by Tooele County, Utah presented to the Bureau of Reclamation on October 31, 2023.

We would like to state that there are no potential recipients, including but not limited to, requestors, subrecipient or contractor personnel, which are in any way associated with individuals, organizations, or entities that could present a conflict of interest regarding the Ibapah Well Project, funding through the WaterSMART Drought Resilience Grant from the Bureau of Reclamation.

We are able to assure you that the intentions behind seeking funding from the Dept of the Interior are solely for the purpose stated in the funding proposal. As a recipient of Federal and State grant funds, Tooele County has a have a conflict-of-interest policy in place to maintain compliance with Dept of Justice (DOJ) requirements. We also vent our subgrant recipients and our grant support consultants to ensure they have written conflict of interest policies that meet DOJ best practices. Tooele County is dedicated to utilizing the funds responsibly and effectively, adhering to the guidelines and requirements set forth by your organization.

We appreciate your time and attention to this important disclosure. Thank you for considering Tooele County Utah's funding request.

Sincerely,

hal A. Ball

Tooele County

Jed A. Bell

**Roads Director** 



November 2, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office Attn: Karen Shubert 125 South State Street, Room 8100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

Subject: Confirmation of No Overlapping Proposals in the Proposed Funding Project

Dear Ms. Shubert,

Dear Ms. Shubert,

I am writing on behalf of my team to confirm that there is no overlap in participation in other funding opportunities by any participating member in the Ibapah Well Project regarding the Dept of Interior's funding opportunity, entitled WaterSMART Drought Resilience Program.

Each team member has identified their specific area of expertise and has tailored their proposal to address unique components of the project. Each participating member's strengths complement the others, creating a synergistic effect that enhances the overall impact and feasibility of the project.

In our proposal, the Project Manager will have responsibility for ensuring a diverse and wellrounded approach to the project and for preventing duplication of efforts and other forms of waste.

In our proposal, the Project Manager will have responsibility for ensuring a diverse and wellrounded approach to the project and for preventing duplication of efforts and other forms of waste.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. We are enthusiastic about the prospect of working closely with the Bureau of Reclamation on this innovative and impactful project that will bring incredible resources to the surrounding area of Ibapah, Utah.

Kind Regards,

Person responsible for the project?

Jed Bell

Director of Roads

Jel A. Bell