



Cedar City

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Council Members

Terri W. Hartley
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NEWS RELEASE

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Cedar City acquires old water rights to augment water supply in Cedar Valley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2023

CEDAR CITY, UT – Cedar City Mayor Garth O. Green shared a monumental moment in Cedar City history at the council meeting on Wednesday, October 18th regarding water supply in the Cedar Valley. Thanks to a majority approval vote from the city council at a September 13th meeting, one of two water purchases was officially signed in mid-October.

With the growing concern about the State's Water Management Plan and how that may impact Cedar City residents and the future water supply, Mayor Green [shared in a video](#) how crucial it was for this purchase of old water rights to go through.

“There are approximately 51,000 acre-feet of water rights issued in our basin by the State, however, our safe yield as determined by the State is only 21,000 acre-feet of water rights,” explained Mayor Green. “The State's Water Management Plan establishes cut off dates for the newer water. Prior to this purchase and other purchases, we only had 2,000 acre-feet of water rights with old dates within that 21,000 safe yield number.”

After exploring many avenues to address the growing need for water, Mayor Green stated, “I never dreamed there would be an opportunity to purchase the old water that we needed in the Valley.”

Adding nearly 2,400 acre-feet of old water rights in the last 20 months was made possible in part by the rate increase in July, and without any new additional water rate increases. \$18.1 million was borrowed for the purchase and \$7 million was funded by a combination of the City's water enterprise fund and general fund money.

Cedar City is now in a better place to support the current residents with the 942 acre-foot water purchase out of Basin 73, and the purchase from Escalante Valley in Basin 71, which is on track to close soon.

Mayor Green expressed appreciation to the City Council, City staff, and the families who were willing to sell water to Cedar City. "This is perhaps the biggest single transaction in the last decade," said Mayor Green. "We still encourage conservation and mindful water use for our Cedar Valley community, because it takes a village to protect our natural resources for today, tomorrow, and our future generations."

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About Cedar City, UT - Cedar City encompasses nearly 35 square miles and is located 250 miles south of Salt Lake City and 52 miles north of St. George on Interstate 15, with a current population of nearly 40,000 residents. Information regarding the City and the many programs and services provided to the community can be found at www.cedarcity.org and via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.