

# The Times - News

Serving East Juab County - A Nice Place To Live!

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## Residents in West Desert ready to fight against water grab, again

By Myrna Trauntvein

*TN Correspondent*

Folks in the West Desert continue to worry about other places trying to take the water that they depend on.

“The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is reviving the permitting effort for the Cedar City Pipeline and West Desert Water Grab,” said Barbara Mumm.

She said that the effort to siphon water away from rural counties in Utah and Nevada will have far-reaching impacts for centuries to come.

“Without your help and support water ways connected to Great Basin National Park, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, rural communities, and a Paiute Tribal Band will be siphoned away for development in Cedar City and inflicting harm, conflict and uncertainty,” she said.

The people of the West Desert appreciated and were grateful for the help they had received from the county commission when the Las Vegas Water Grab was being considered. It had been a big help, she said.

Marvin Kenison, commission president, said that the water users in the West Desert could count on the commission for continued support.

“Point blank, the proponents said that they needed the water to keep Cedar City growing,” said Mumm.

They did not seem to care that they would destroy farming in the West Desert and other areas as long as Cedar City could keep growing and attract more business.

Groundwater systems are not like separate, distinct buckets of water. USGS reports and decades of hydrologic analysis show inter-connected flow system throughout the region, meaning that groundwater moves from one basin to another. The proposed project will rob Peter to pay Paul.

“We need to do some independent hydrology studies,” said Kenison.

The proposed project doesn’t look like it will limit regional conflict, boost water availability and decrease uncertainty about the future. Communities outside of Iron County that will be impacted are already quarreling over limited water availability. This is exacerbating the tensions.

“Cedar City’s project will not benefit other counties and communities,” said Mumm.

Clinton Painter, commissioner, said that the commission would back the residents of the West Desert in their attempt to prevent the water from being taken in another water grab.

The project proponents’ own data show that the project will take from Snake Valley, Tule Valley, Wah Wah Valley, and the Escalante Desert.

Scenarios from the USGS



**DRY, DRY, DRY** • Summer has officially begun, and we are again seeing drought-like conditions in the area. With Fourth of July festivities this Friday, the community is being asked to be extra careful with fireworks, open fires, smoking, operation of ATVs/motorcycles, etc; cutting, welding or grinding on all state lands and unincorporated private lands within the state. Be aware of weather conditions (i.e. wind) and always have a water source nearby to douse any fires that may accidentally be started including water hoses, buckets of water, etc. Stay safe and enjoy your weekend.

## Mona City council approves amended and proposed budgets following public hearing

By Myrna Trauntvein

*TN Correspondent*

Mona City council held a budget hearing for the coming year budget and a hearing for the amended budget for 2024-2025 as part of council meeting on Tuesday.

“The Mona City budget is split into two portions: enterprise funds and the general fund,” said Sara Samuelson, city finance director. “Enterprise funds are our services we provide: gas, water, sewer. These funds are about 56 percent of our total revenue and 67 percent of our total expenses.”

By Myrna Trauntvein

*TN Correspondent*

The Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA) earlier approved an incentive to support Ash Grove Cement, a CRH Company’s expansion project at its Leamington Cement Plant in Juab County.

Located within the Central Utah Agri-Park Inland Port Project Area, the project will enhance production capabilities and sustainability while strengthening Utah’s position as a key supplier of cement in the Western U.S. market.

Due to be completed in 2026, the work includes upgrades to the existing kiln and the installation of a second finish mill. The project will enable Ash Grove Cement to produce low carbon cement, improve fuel and power efficiency, and

enhance operational resilience at the plant. General fund is everything else: taxes, fees, etc. It is 44 percent of the total revenue and 33 percent of the total expenses,” she said.

“The miscellaneous fund includes the cemetery, parks, recreation and celebrations,” said Samuelson. “Administration includes elections, office staff, mayor and council, planning and zoning, the city building, the community center, utilities, software and etc.”

Those expenses include the sewer at 35 percent, misc. at 6 percent, admin. at 13 percent, streets at 8 percent, garbage at 6 percent, gas at 19 percent, water at 13 percent, sewer at

35 percent.

Samuelson presented a summary of the amendments to the 2024-2025 budget revenues: highway tax increased (\$85K, increased by \$30K); sales tax increased (\$420K, increased by \$20K); Class C road fund allotment was higher than expected (\$210K); interest earned was higher in all funds.

She also presented a summary of amendments to the 2024-2025 budget expenses: sewer connection deposit return fund was developed; general budget transferred money to the sewer fund (\$233K); cost of natural gas increased (\$90K).

“For every \$10 the city spends, \$3.50 goes to the sewer department, \$1.90 goes to the gas department, \$1.30 goes to the water department, \$1.30 goes to administration, \$0.80 goes to the streets, \$0.60 goes to misc (parks, cemetery, celebrations, recreation, and \$0.60 goes to garbage (collection and green waste),” said Samuelson.

She said that the water fund (the expenses include bond payments): 2021-2022-Revenue was \$369,661, expenses were \$269,044 and profit was

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## Expansion project at Ash Grove Cement represents major win for Juab County

By Myrna Trauntvein

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enhance operational resilience at the plant.

Ash Grove Cement’s investment in Juab County reflects the strength of Utah’s manufacturing sector and the commitment to sustainable economic development.

The project will secure high-quality jobs and economic benefits for the region also fostering long-term environmental improvements in cement production, said the press release.

UIPA awarded Ash Grove Cement an annual Property Tax Differential Rebate equivalent to 30 percent of the assessed property tax, post completion of the development. If approved, this rebate will be provided yearly for no more than 25 years, provided continued operation within the Project Area during that time. The incentive played a critical role in Ash Grove Cement’s decision to prioritize the en-

hancements at its Leamington Plant.

“The Leamington Project is a key part of Ash Grove Cement’s long-term strategy to meet growing demand while reducing our environmental footprint,” said Serge Schmidt, President of Ash Grove Cement. “This partnership with UIPA ensures that our facility remains competitive, operates efficiently, and is well positioned to service the Western U.S. market.”

“This expansion represents a major win for Juab County,” said Brent Boswell, Juab County Economic Development Director. “Ash Grove Cement has been a valued employer in our community since 1984, and this investment solidifies its role in our economic future. We appreciate everyone’s support in making this project possible.”

Ash Grove Cement, a CRH

Company, is a leader and pioneer in the cement industry. For over 142 years, Ash Grove Cement has provided cementitious materials to construct the highways, bridges, commercial and industrial complexes, homes, and other structures fundamental to the nation’s economic vitality and quality of life.

Ash Grove Cement ships cement from twelve cement plants and its network of terminals located throughout the Midwest, Texas, and the Western United States, and is one of the largest cement producers in North America with the addition of operations in Florida, the U.S. Great Lakes and Canada.

“The Leamington Plant plays a critical role in serving the Western U.S. construction and infrastructure markets,” said Boswell.

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