

South Fields Estates

Information Notes

The State of Utah recently made public the 2021 Water Resource Plan. This comprehensive plan lays out the most recent information and planning the Water Conservancy Boards throughout the state have available.

In 2015 the population of Utah was approximately three million people and in 2065 the population is estimated at 6 million. Unless our annual water supply increases above the normal expected supply – a huge deficit of water is likely. Therefore it seems likely that the desired balance of supply equals demand will fall mostly on the demand side of the equation.

Specifically, Washington County (our county) residential households are expected to more than double (239%) in the next fifty years. In Washington County household demand for water is 50% of the total water usage. It is logical to expect that any conservation efforts to reduce water demand will directly affect household usage.

The Resource Plan indicates that normal household water usage is 15 gallons per person per day. Using this daily usage number of 15 gallons, the expected annual usage for South Fields Estates would be 4 (number of persons per unit) times 365 days (in a year) time 92 units. The total is approximately 2.1 million gallons per year. Our actual usage is about 14 million gallons per year. Our water demand is 6-7 times greater than the figures provided in the Water Resource Plan. It can be argued that the usage numbers in the plan of 15 gallons is low; however, 6-7 times – South Fields Estates simply uses a lot of water.

The water supply for Washington County is 99% from precipitation in rain and snow. We are wholly dependent on Mother Nature. Due to our dependence on a fickle water source, we have been in a drought since 2015. Record temperatures and lower than normal precipitation have occurred in 5 of the last 7 years. St George temperature during this past summer was 5-8 degrees above normal. St George has been in an exceptional drought during the past two years.

The Southwest part of Utah (Washington County, southern half of Iron County and east to Kanab) is the highest water deficient area in the state. Southwest Utah is projected to have a water deficiency of demand over supply for the next 55 years. As a result, the State of Utah Water Conservancy Board has targeted a 14.1% reduction of water usage for the Southwest area by 2030. Basically, that is now.

The follow is a quotation from the water plan. "Remove laws, ordinances and HOA by-laws that conflict with water conservation." This goal is expected by the State of Utah to reduce the water deficiency in the Southwest area by 50% by 2030.

South Fields Estates needs to plan for expected changes in water usage in partnership with this plan. Your HOA Board recommends that each member read the 2021 Water Resource Plan.

The website location for the plan: Using your search engine (browser); type in "WATER.UTAH.GOV/2021waterplan"