



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

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### News Release

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2010  
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### **Department of the Interior Approves \$39 million for Piping the Provo Reservoir Canal**

On February 24, 2010, The United States Department of the Interior's Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCA) in Provo, Utah signed an agreement with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) that will provide \$39 million as a federal cost share toward placing the Provo Reservoir Canal in an enclosed pipe. The enclosure project will conserve water and assist in the recovery of an endangered species. The Canal is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the Provo River Water Users Association (PRWUA) as a feature of the Provo River Project, a federal water resources project. The total cost of replacing the canal with a pipeline is estimated at \$150 million. The non-federal funding will be arranged by a partnership among the PRWUA, CUWCD, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, and the Provo Reservoir Water Users Company.

The pipeline construction will be administered by the PRWUA under a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. It is anticipated the project will be completed by 2013. Enclosing the Provo Reservoir Canal in a pipeline is a major water efficiency improvement. It will conserve water otherwise lost to seepage from the open canal, protect water quality thereby reducing water treatment costs, and increase public safety in the growing urban areas of north Utah County.

Among many other advantages, the project will provide environmental benefits through a commitment to leave 8,000 acre-feet of conserved water in the Provo River as instream flows primarily benefiting the endangered June sucker which spawns in the lower reaches of the Provo River as well as improving aquatic habitats in that “blue ribbon” trout stream . The new pipeline will continue to make its historical deliveries to Provo River Project customers and will, in addition, convey new Central Utah Project water from the Utah Lake System which is now under construction. For further information concerning the Interior’s \$39 million contribution please contact:

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