



Lake Powell Pipeline Project

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

Item 6a

February 8, 2021

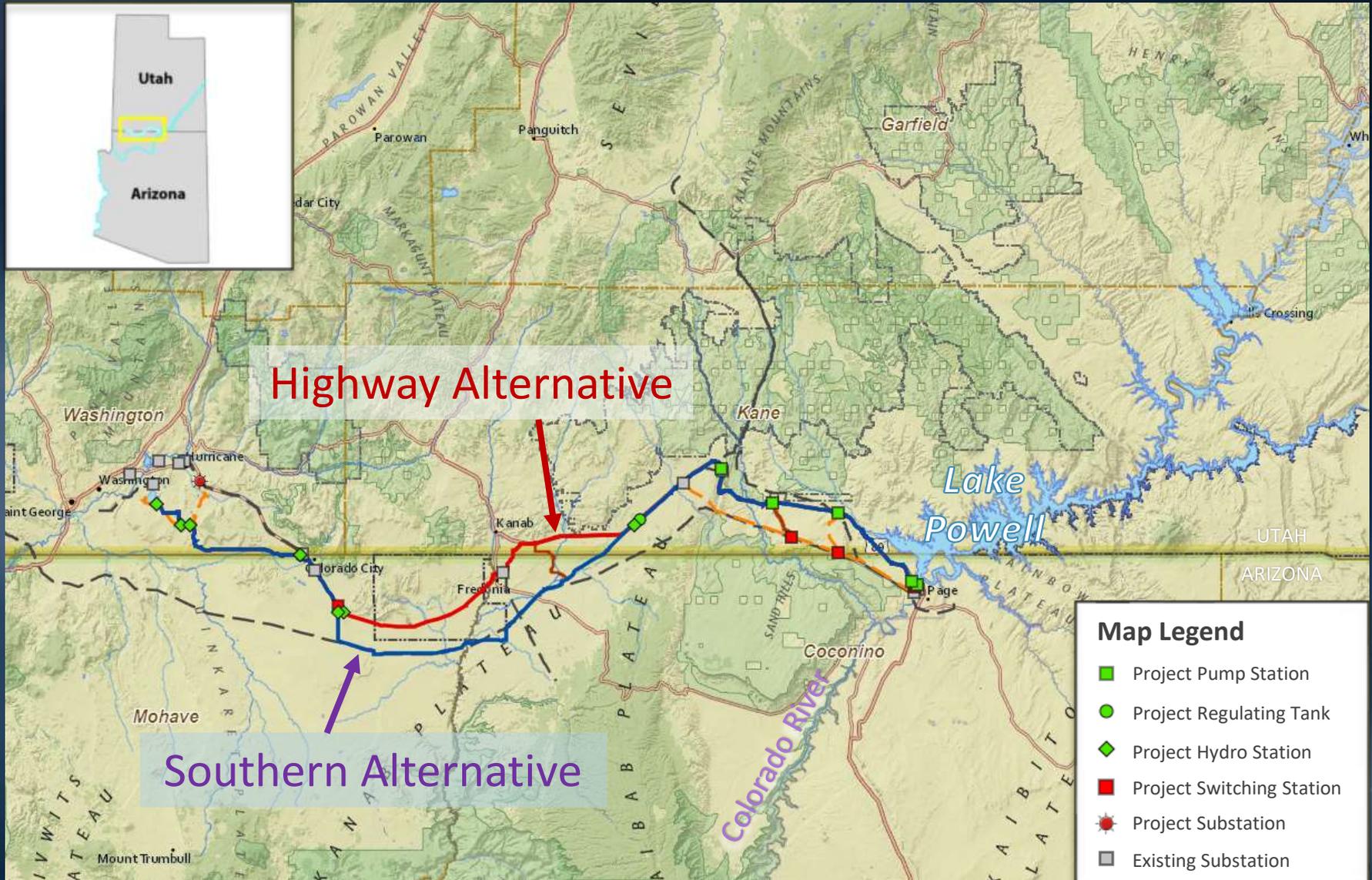
Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) Project

- 140 mile underground pipeline - Lake Powell in Page, Arizona to Sand Hollow Reservoir in Washington County, Utah
- 86,249 AF – water Utah reserved for the Project
- Intended to serve Washington County Water Conservancy District in Southern Utah

LPP – Purpose and Revenue Sources

- LPP proposal seeks to provide communities in Southern Utah with:
 - Additional source of supply - currently served by a single source, the Virgin River system
 - Supply for projected population growth through 2060
- Proposed sources of revenue:
 - Impact fees on new development
 - Water rates
 - Property taxes

Project Location



LPP Project Background

- 2006 – Utah legislature passes the Lake Powell Pipeline Development Act, directing the Utah Board of Water Resources (UBWR) to construct the LPP
- 2008 – UBWR applies for a FERC permit to construct LPP. FERC begins NEPA process
- 2019 – UBWR removes large hydropower component of the LPP proposal and withdraws application for FERC license. Requests DOI assume responsibility for NEPA compliance
- June 2020 – US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) publishes Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- September 2020 – UBWR requests USBR extend time to respond to Basin States' request to resolve legal and operational concerns

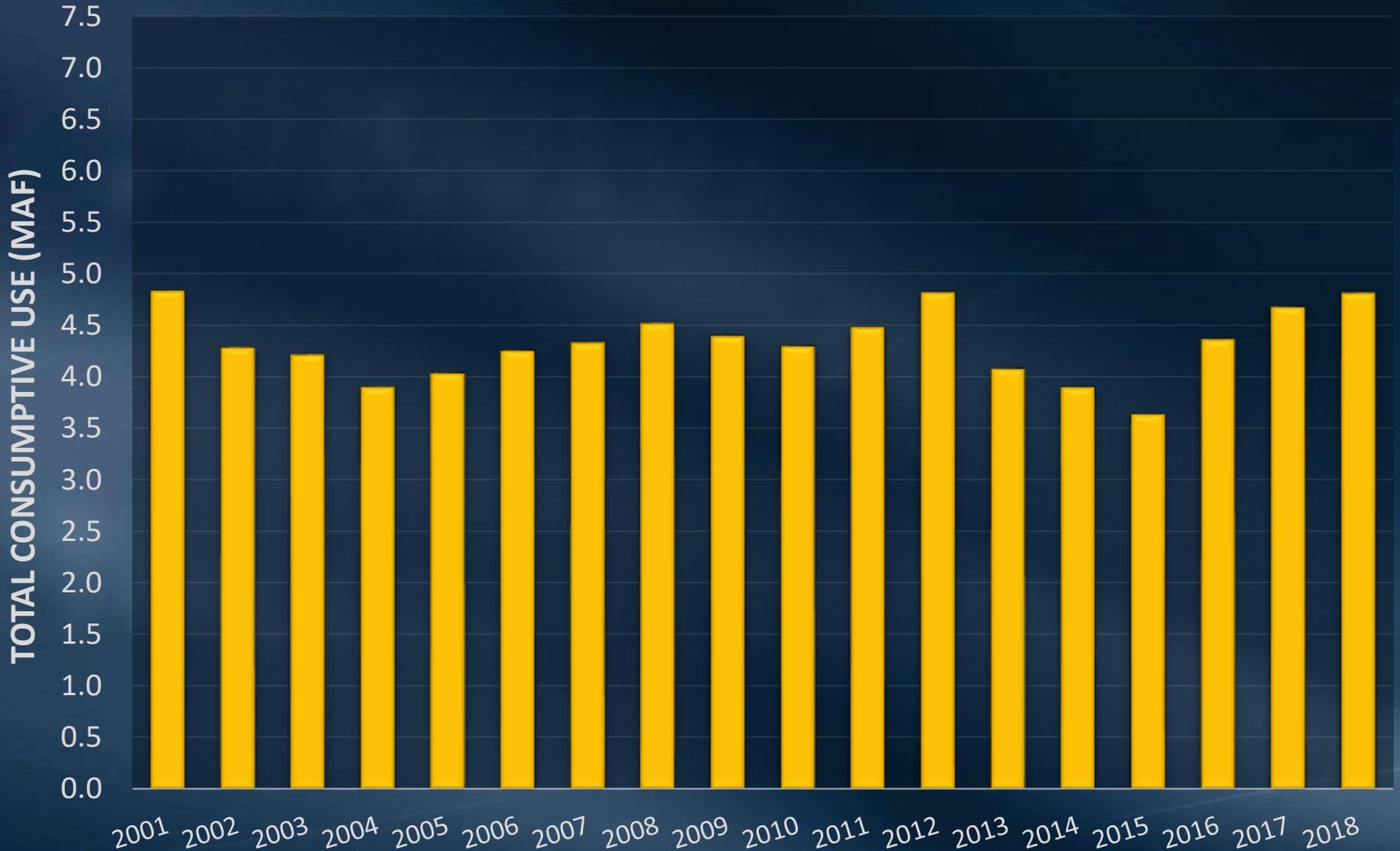
UBWR's Tentative LPP Schedule

- 2021-2022 Environmental Impact Statement
- 2022 Record of Decision
- Mid 2020s Project design and financing
- Late 2020s Construction

Utah's Colorado River Water Rights

- Colorado River Compact – Upper Basin 7.5 million AF/YR Allocation
- Upper Colorado River Compact – Utah's right to annually divert and use 23% of native flow in the Upper Basin
- Future Contract with the USBR – would allow Utah to deplete releases from Flaming Gorge Dam
- State water rights decrees

Upper Basin Consumptive Use



Comments on Draft EIS

- Thousands of comments submitted during the public comment period
- Comments submitted by Tribes, NGOs, water users, the Colorado River Basin States and members of the public
- Metropolitan interests represented in letters
 - Six Basin States
 - Colorado River Board of California
 - Metropolitan letter

Colorado River Basin States Comment Letter

- Six Colorado River Basin States (AZ, CA, NV, CO, WY and NM) asked DOI to refrain from issuing a Final EIS and Record of Decision until the seven Basin States and DOI are able to reach consensus regarding legal and operational concerns raised by the proposed LPP project

Colorado River Board Comment Letter

- Joined the six Basin States letter on behalf of California
- Noted that the draft EIS did not adequately analyze impacts:
 - Proposed UBWR/USBR contract – Lake Powell Pipeline Project Block Water Exchange
 - Operations – Lake Powell and Lake Mead
 - Return Flow Accounting – Virgin River
 - Water quality – downstream of Lake Mead

Metropolitan's Comment Letter

- Supported six Colorado River Basin States comment letter
- Noted that the draft EIS did not adequately analyze impacts to:
 - Downstream water quality and supply
 - Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations
 - Cumulative effects

Schedule and Next Steps

- UBWR is working to address concerns raised by stakeholders in public comments to the draft EIS, including the Basin States
- USBR has not yet responded to the UBWR request for new time line to complete environmental compliance
- USBR's new time line would likely establish a schedule for a supplemental EIS, followed by a Record of Decision

