



# MEMO

## City of Santaquin, Utah

**TO:** Mayor & Council

**MEETING DATE:** October 6, 2020

**FROM:** Norm Beagley, Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Utah County Debris Basin NRCS Final Design Work

### BACKGROUND

Several years ago, Santaquin City, as a co-sponsor, and Utah County, as the project sponsor, initiated an effort to study and evaluate the adequacy of the existing debris basin and embankment located at the mouth of Santaquin Canyon. As you know, this debris basin is owned, operated, and maintained by Utah County. However, the debris basin provides a great deal of flood protection for Santaquin City residents during large storm events and for heavy spring runoff. The project began with Phase 1, which was a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA was fully funded using National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)/USDA federal funding. Part of the EA process was to solicit and incorporate stakeholder input within what is called the project's "Preferred Alternative". As such, Santaquin City, Utah County, NRCS/USDA, and the project engineers (McMillen-Jacobs) solicited and obtained input from several potentially affected private property owners in the area that own property adjacent to the debris basin. Comments, input, etc. obtained from these property owners was incorporated into the EA and helped shape the preferred alternative. We also obtained letters of support for the preferred alternative from each of the property owners that provided comments and input.

### RESEARCH & FINDINGS

With the EA study now complete and approved by the NRCS/USDA national headquarters, a final design (Phase 2) for the preferred alternative can now move forward. The potential for full reconstruction of the debris basin embankment, as part of the preferred alternative, could affect several private property owners in the area adjacent to the facility. As with the EA, the final design effort will be fully funded by NRCS/USDA with federal funds as they are currently available. No Santaquin City or Utah County funds are needed or required for Phase 2, the final design. What is needed is for Santaquin City and Utah County to continue as the co-sponsor and sponsor, respectively, as the final design moves forward. I should note that this upcoming final design work (Phase 2) is unrelated to the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) work that is current ongoing. That EWP work is related to mitigation efforts to protect against debris flows that could result from the 2018 wildfire damage.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that City Council authorize Santaquin City to continue through the final design (Phase 2) work as a co-sponsor with Utah County as the project sponsor.