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**Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure Project  
Ready To Move Forward  
*Construction Contracts Awarded***

The Provo River Water Users Association (the Association) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are pleased to announce that they have completed final preparations and are set to move forward with the Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure Project.

The 21-mile project will enclose the Provo Reservoir Canal, which was built in 1911 and enlarged in 1944, into a 126-inch steel pipe. The canal starts at the mouth of Provo Canyon in Orem, Utah, and runs to the Point of the Mountain in Salt Lake County, Utah.

"We have worked for more than 12 years to make this project a reality," says Association General Manager Keith Denos. "It is exciting to see the hard work of many people come to fruition and offer so many benefits to the community."

The Provo Reservoir Canal is one of the main water-delivery arteries along the Wasatch Front and is the largest canal in Utah County. Enclosing the canal will increase safety; improve water quality; provide redundancy for drinking water supplies; increase water savings of approximately 8,000 acre-feet per year (the current unlined canal loses 10 percent of the water it transports); and enable a multi-use trail to be built on top of it.

"This project is a win-win situation for all entities involved," says Reclamation Provo Area Manager Bruce Barrett. "We are now able to move forward in a collaborative fashion and deliver a project to taxpayers that will not only benefit our generation, but also generations to come, with a safe and reliable water supply."

In addition to the Association, which operates the canal, and Reclamation, which owns the canal, participants in the project include Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy (MWDSLS), Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD), Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), and Provo Reservoir Water Users Company. Reclamation will oversee project construction and inspection. In 2004, Congress passed legislation to allow the Association to take title to the facility. It intends to exercise this option once the enclosure project is complete.

The \$150 million enclosure project is authorized to receive a \$60 million loan from the Utah Board of Water Resources, and will receive the remainder of its funding from CUWCD, the United States Department of Interior and other sources.

"When you consider this project will require the excavation for and installation of nearly 21 miles of 10-and-a-half foot diameter pipe through the north Utah Valley area, and that this pipe will have the capacity to carry more than 400 million gallons of water every day, you begin to see what an enormous project this is and the amount of planning and coordination involved," says Denos. "We have been planning this project for years and are taking all the precautions to ensure it is built and operated in a responsible manner."

Ames Construction, which has been in operation since 1960 and specializes in large infrastructure projects such as this, has been selected as the construction contractor. Ames Construction's staff will work closely with the Association to ensure it remains on-schedule and on-budget, and to ensure the public is informed and that construction happens with as little disruption as possible for a project of this magnitude.

Northwest Pipe Company, a leading supplier of large-diameter, high-pressure steel pipe products used primarily for water infrastructure in North America, was selected as the pipe supplier. Northwest plans to manufacture the pipe at its facility in Pleasant Grove, which it was planning to close, but will now keep open for the benefit of this project and the local communities.

The enclosure project is expected to start in October of 2010 and is required to be complete by spring 2013. The contractor has an incentive for early completion, and may finish the project as early as spring 2012.

The enclosure project goes through Salt Lake and Utah Counties, including the cities of Orem, Lindon, Pleasant Grove, Cedar Hills, American Fork, Highland, Lehi and Bluffdale. After the canal is enclosed a trail will be built on top of it by Utah County and the cities that it travels through.

"The enclosure project provides a perfect corridor for a trail," says Denos. "In fact the Association worked hard in Washington, D.C. to secure \$11.7 million of federal money for the \$17 million trail project, and has been very involved with the cities the canal corridor passes through to help make the trail a reality."

The Association was organized in 1935 for the purpose of sponsoring the Deer Creek Division of the Provo River Project, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water project. The project extends over five counties and diverts water from three river basins. Deer Creek Dam and Reservoir are the primary project features. The Association also operates and maintains many miles of canals, tunnels and river dikes as part of the project. The project provides a significant portion of the drinking water supply for over one million people along the Wasatch Front. The project is also used for supplemental irrigation of agricultural land in Summit, Wasatch, Utah and Salt Lake Counties. [www.prwua.org](http://www.prwua.org)

Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western states. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. [www.usbr.gov](http://www.usbr.gov)

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Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure project alignment.



Sample pipe for the Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure project.