



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

# RECOVERY OVERSIGHT ADVISORY

*A Critical Point Evaluation Product*

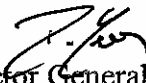




**RECOVERY OVERSIGHT OFFICE**  
Washington, DC 20240

**SEP 25 2009**

To: Chris Henderson  
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Economic Recovery and Stimulus

From: Robert A. Knox   
Assistant Inspector General, Recovery Oversight Office

Subject: Hotline Complaint Concerning the Central Utah Water Conservancy District

We reviewed a hotline complaint, which we received on June 10, 2009, on projects being implemented in the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. The District is located in Orem, UT. Our review was part of our oversight efforts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

The complaint alleged that officials for the Central Utah Water Conservancy District are wasting Recovery Act funding for a “pipeline to nowhere.” The complaint also alleged that officials are using an outdated impact study from 2004. After thorough research and review, we found that the officials are using the funding appropriately and that the impact study is appropriately up-to-date for a project of this size.

The Department received \$50 million in funding under the Recovery Act for programs, projects, and activities originally authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act Titles II to V of Public Law 102-575 (CUPCA). The CUPCA program is overseeing the implementation of the three projects funded with this money: 1) Utah Lake System; 2) Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Conservation – Utah; and 3) Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Conservation - Out of State. The funding enables the CUPCA program to accelerate work on projects that were previously planned, designed, and approved and which are essential to meeting the goals and objectives of CUPCA.

The complaint seems to pertain to \$41 million in funding to be used to construct three segments of pipe in the Utah Lake System. These three pipe projects, the alleged “pipeline to nowhere,” are a part of an ongoing effort that began in 2007. The effort is projected to be completed in 2021. Although each part is constructed separately, when completed the three segments will be part of a single system of piping to deliver water to counties in the Salt Lake County area.

The impact study was completed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. It was conducted in 2004, and the report on the study is considered to be a recent document. Congressional appropriations were received in 2005, and construction began in 2007. Unless there are significant changes during the construction phase, there is no need to update the impact study for a project of this magnitude.

No further action is anticipated to be taken. This summary and posting of it to our website helps to ensure we meet the expectations for transparency under the Recovery Act.

cc: Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget  
Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management  
Director, Office of Financial Management  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Acting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Audit Liaison  
Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Departmental GAO/OIG Audit Liaison  
Audit Liaison, Office of the Secretary

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