

# Chapter 1 - Need for Proposed Action and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is for development of an East Canyon Reservoir Water Supply, analyzed and presented in the Park City and Snyderville Basin Water Supply Study Special Report (February 2006 Special Report). In March 2006, the Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office (Reclamation) distributed to the interested public, a report analyzing water supply options that might provide for future Municipal and Industrial water supplies for the Park City and Snyderville Basin area of Summit County, Utah. This report was completed as directed and authorized by the U.S. Congress; Reclamation was the lead agency in preparing this report, with the Utah Division of Water Resources contributing to the study effort. In this report, Option 5 (East Canyon Pipeline) and Option 7 (Lost Creek Canyon Pipeline) were identified as preferred water supply options recommended for implementation.

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) requested, and Reclamation completed an Environmental Assessment which analyzed the impacts related to the development of Option 7, as analyzed in the water supply study. This option, providing for delivery of up to 7,500 acre-feet per year from Rockport Reservoir to the Signal Hill Water Treatment Plant via the Lost Creek Canyon pipeline, was authorized in February 2008 and is now ready for operation.

Through the WBWCD, Summit Water Distribution Company (SWDC) asked Reclamation to undertake additional engineering and environmental analyses related to implementation of Option 5, the East Canyon pipeline. Some components of this option have already been planned and built by Summit Water Distribution Company. A plan to divert up to 12,500 acre-feet per year of water from East Canyon Reservoir into facilities already built or under construction requires Reclamation authorization. This proposed action includes a water intake structure, a pump station, a possible booster station, 23.6 miles of powerline and transformers/substation, and 5.2 miles of 30-inch diameter pipeline which would convey water from East Canyon Reservoir to the junction of State Road 65 and the East Canyon Creek Gravel Road, to a pipeline currently under construction, and from there to Summit's East Canyon Water Treatment Plant in the Jeremy Ranch area of Summit County, Utah.

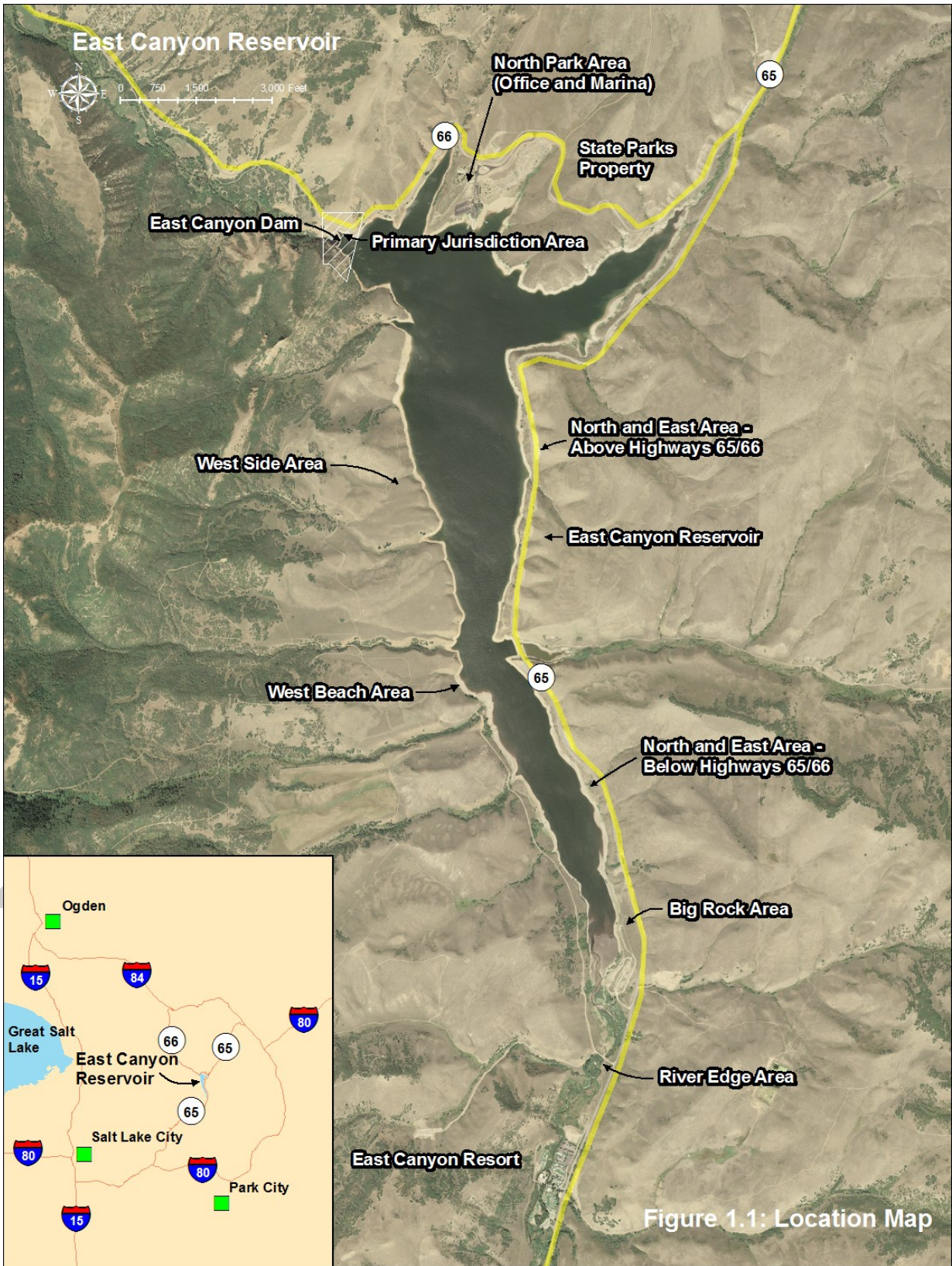
In order to analyze this proposed action, Reclamation has prepared this EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA. This EA analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed action. As required by the NEPA implementing regulations, if potentially significant impacts to the human environment are identified, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. If no significant impacts are identified, the Bureau of Reclamation will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact.

## **1.2 Background**

East Canyon Reservoir, located in Morgan County, is on East Canyon Creek, a tributary of the Weber River in northern Utah, 9 miles south of the City of Morgan and 15 miles northeast of Salt Lake City (Figure 1.1). The reservoir rests at the 5,705 foot elevation and has a 681-acre surface area, with a 3.5-mile reach, and a width of about 2,000 feet. On the eastern side of the Wasatch Mountains, the climate in the vicinity of the reservoir is semiarid with dry summers and cold, snowy winters.

The original dam on East Canyon Creek was completed in 1899 by the Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company (DWCCC), to provide downstream irrigation water during the latter part of the growing season. In 1900 and 1902, the canal company raised the dam 25 and 17 feet, respectively, to a total dam height of 145 feet above bedrock. In 1916, an arched reinforced-concrete dam was completed just below the original dam, to further increase the reservoir's storage capacity. This dam served the area until 1964, when deterioration of the concrete necessitated the need for a new dam.

The current East Canyon Dam, completed in 1966 by Reclamation, is the fifth dam construction project in the East Canyon Creek Reservoir area. This dam was constructed as part of the Weber Basin Project, authorized by Congress on August 29, 1949 (63 Stat. 677), for the purposes of supplying irrigation water to lands, both new and presently irrigated; supplying municipal, industrial, and domestic water; controlling floods; and generating and selling electric energy and for other beneficial purposes (including, but without limitation, the control and catchment of silt, improvement of the general quality of the water, the preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife, and the provision and improvement of recreation facilities). The Secretary of the Interior authorized reimbursement of costs for constructing, operating, and maintaining (including reasonable provision for replacement) for irrigation, power, municipal, and other water supply purposes but flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife purposes are nonreimbursable and nonreturnable.



Water released from East Canyon Dam is returned back to East Canyon Creek, where it flows to the Weber River and is diverted for domestic and irrigation uses. The present dam nearly doubled the East Canyon Reservoir water storage capacity from 28,800 acre-feet to 51,200 acre-feet. The DWCCC, through an agreement with Reclamation and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, operates and maintains East Canyon Dam.

### **1.3 Purpose and Need and Scope of Analysis**

The purpose of the proposed action is to deliver water to the Park City/Snyderville Basin area. The need for the proposed action is a growing demand for water in the Park City/Snyderville Basin area due to population growth and increased development of recreation facilities and vacation homes.

The scope of analysis in this EA is limited to consideration of whether or not Reclamation should authorize Summit Water Distribution Company to proceed with the proposed new intake structure and pipeline and appurtenant facilities on Reclamation property. A number of studies over the years, most recently the February 2006 Special Report, published by the Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office, have discussed and analyzed the broader issue of how to meet the growing demand for water in this area over the next 50 years. There are a number of possibilities for providing new sources of water for the Park City/Snyderville Basin area, which might involve Federal and/or State Government entities, or which could be developed by local Government and/or the private sector.

The proposed action does not include any changes to the operation of East Canyon Dam. Construction activity would be limited to the vicinity of East Canyon Reservoir.

### **1.4 Authorizing Actions, Permits, and Licenses**

Implementation of the proposed action could require a number of authorizations or permits from State and Federal agencies. These are summarized below.

- Reclamation authorization needed to construct and operate facilities on Reclamation lands.
- State of Utah (State Engineer) authorization may be needed to allow DWCCC and Weber Basin Project water rights to be diverted from the new point of re-diversion.
- Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 and 10 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, would be obtained by Summit Water Distribution Company.

- A Utah Pollutant Elimination System Permit from the State of Utah would be obtained by Summit Water Distribution Company.
- A stream alteration permit from the State of Utah, Division of Stream Alteration would be obtained by Summit Water Distribution Company.
- Water purchase agreement with or between Park City and Summit Water Distribution Company.
- Summit Water Distribution Company, if design alignment requires, would obtain the necessary easements or rights-of-way to connect the proposed pump station to the existing 30-inch Ductile Iron pipeline.
- Summit Water Distribution Company would enter into an agreement with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to protect and enhance fishery values in East Canyon Creek.

## **1.5 Relationship to Other Projects**

- Park City and Snyderville Basin Water Supply Study Special Report. As discussed in Section 1.3 above, the proposed action analyzed in this EA was discussed as Option 5 in the February 2006 Special Report.
- Change of Water Use in Willard Reservoir Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), January, 1989 (conversion over time of 30,000 acre-feet from agriculture water to M&I water). This EIS not only focused on conversion of water stored primarily in Willard Bay, but described how the WBWCD operates all Weber Basin Project facilities in a coordinated manner to assume that water rights are met and instream flows are maintained where applicable.
- Park City Municipal Corporation & Mountain Regional Water Special Service District Water Pipeline Interconnection & Water Treatment Plant. This project is for construction of a water pipeline designed to deliver raw water from Signal Hill Pond (which receives water from Rockport Reservoir), to Quinn's Junction to a planned water treatment plant for treatment prior to final delivery to Park City. This project is an extension of the Option 7 (Lost Creek Canyon Pipeline), identified as the other preferred option recommended for implementation in Reclamation's "Park City and Snyderville Basin Water Supply Study Special Report, February 2006." In that report, Option 5 (East Canyon Pipeline) and Option 7 (Lost Creek Canyon Pipeline), were identified as preferred options recommended for implementation.