

Ogden City Advances Next Phase of Critical 36-Inch Water Pipeline Replacement at Pineview Reservoir This Fall

The replacement of a critical water transmission pipeline that serves more than 120,000 water users is being timed to take advantage of naturally lower reservoir elevations caused by drought conditions. This unique window allows the work to be completed with less impact than would be required during a normal or high-water year. Construction timing is being finalized through ongoing coordination with partner agencies and is expected to begin this fall.

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OGDEN, Utah — As work continues on the Ogden Canyon 36-Inch Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement Project, Ogden City is preparing to begin construction on the Pineview Reservoir crossing, one of the most complex and visible segments of the multi-year infrastructure improvement effort. This section of pipeline connects the wellfield north of Pineview Reservoir to the transmission system at Port Ramp Marina and is a critical component of the water delivery infrastructure serving more than 120,000 customers in the Ogden area.

The Pineview Reservoir crossing represents the next phase of an ongoing investment in water reliability and the responsible stewardship of essential infrastructure. Since early 2025, crews have been replacing aging sections of the transmission pipeline from Pineview Reservoir through Ogden Canyon to help protect long-term drinking water service for customers served by Ogden City's water system.

The existing pipeline has been in service for approximately 55 years beneath Pineview Reservoir and nearly 100 years through Ogden Canyon. The aging pipeline is experiencing significant water losses that are estimated to exceed one million gallons per day and is reaching the end of its service life. Replacement is expected to provide significant water savings by reducing losses from aging infrastructure while helping maintain the long-term reliability of Ogden City's water delivery system. The project will also help protect against failures that could interrupt service to homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and public services throughout the community.

Utah's 2025–2026 water year has produced the lowest statewide snowpack on modern record, and Pineview Reservoir is already projected to reach low levels independent of this project. These conditions create a unique opportunity to complete critical infrastructure work at a time when the reservoir is naturally lower than normal, reducing the impact that would occur during a typical water year. Any water released to support construction will remain within the broader water management system, where it will continue to serve beneficial uses and be managed through existing storage and delivery facilities, including Willard Bay. This project is about protecting long-term water reliability while responsibly managing a valuable water resource.

“Responsible stewardship means maintaining critical infrastructure before it becomes an emergency. This pipeline is one of the most important components of the Ogden City water delivery system, serving more than 120,000 customers throughout the Ogden area. Replacing it now protects long-term water reliability, preserves the integrity of a vital public asset, and takes advantage of a rare opportunity created by naturally low reservoir levels. Just as importantly, the water involved in this process remains part of the regional water system and continues to serve beneficial uses. This project reflects years of planning and close coordination among local, state, and federal partners who share a commitment to protecting our water future.”

—Justin Anderson, Executive Director of Public Services, Ogden City

The project does not require fully draining Pineview Reservoir. Crews will lower water levels to install the new pipeline alongside the existing one within the federally authorized pipeline corridor. The existing pipeline will remain in service during construction and will afterward be rehabilitated as a redundant backup line. The

approximately \$100 million project is being financed through loans from the EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and other funding sources.

The project reflects close coordination among Ogden City, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Ogden River Water Users Association(Pineview Water Systems), the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. These partners have worked together throughout planning and design to support long-term water reliability, responsible resource management, environmental stewardship, and compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. Whitaker Construction and Sunrise Engineering continue to assist with construction and engineering services. All reservoir release operations will be authorized and supervised by the appropriate agencies and conducted in compliance with state and federal water rights laws.

PROJECT FAST FACTS

- Pipeline age: ~55 years beneath Pineview Reservoir; ~100 years through Ogden Canyon; possible water savings recovered because of improved infrastructure: ~1,000,000 gallons per day
- Total project investment: ~\$100 million (all phases, 2025–2029)
- Reservoir capacity: 110,150 acre-feet operational capacity (approximately 2,874 acres at full pool)
- Utah's 2025–2026 water year has produced the lowest statewide snowpack on modern record, and Pineview Reservoir is already projected to reach low levels independent of this project.
- Construction approach: New parallel pipeline installed alongside existing pipe; reservoir is lowered, not drained. Water will be reclaimed through controlled release.
- Reservoir refill: Will begin by January 2027 (average snowfall season will completely refill the reservoir post-construction).

Ogden City recognizes the importance of Pineview Reservoir as a recreational resource and has worked closely with recreation stakeholders throughout project planning. The timing of this work is intended to minimize impacts to recreational use by taking advantage of naturally lower reservoir levels during a drought year rather than requiring more significant disruptions during a normal or high-water season. Project partners have been coordinating with marina operators, the Pineview Reservoir Yacht Club, and other recreation partners and will continue providing updates as construction schedules are finalized.

MEDIA CONTACT & PRESS INTERVIEW REQUESTS

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ABOUT OGDEN CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Ogden City's Public Services Department delivers safe, reliable drinking water to residents and businesses throughout the community. The department manages water treatment, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, including the 36-inch transmission pipeline from Pineview Reservoir through Ogden Canyon. The Ogden Canyon 36-Inch Pipeline Replacement Project is one of the most significant water infrastructure investments in the City's history.