

<div> <div>Comment Response Matrix</div> <div>Public Open House: June 14, 2022</div> </div>									
Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email	Phone Number	Comment	Comment Submission Type	Response
		Vernal	UT	84078			Please do not change the Kids Canal. I'm not understanding how it would be a flood risk. There are other measures that could happen or be taken. This would affect things negatively in multiple ways. We are in high drought area. Keep it the same please!	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Please do not change Kids Canal! Can you run the line where the proposed recreation will be? I can't see flood prevention as a reason since the canal is controlled by head gates and our area is in high drought risk.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Please do not change the Kids Canal! We need uncapped water sources. How is there a flood protection needed when water is controlled by head gates etc. We are in a high drought area and we need open waters for our future generation to enjoy and play in.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT				<p>Worried about the great blue heron that I have seen using this canal. Other animals I have seen using the canal as a ecosystem have been Utah prairie dogs, Mexican spotted owls, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, deer, moose, and so many more. If this 132-year-old canal is put underground these animals will no longer have a home. We do not understand the repercussions these actions might have on this valley. Children, parents and singles love walking Kids Canal. I have read up on several lawsuits about foundation damage when canal companies dig too close to homes. The trees in our valley will all die. To reduce silting and erosion. Plants help to hold up river banks. When we have flooding the canals will be full of silt and erosion. I have sent a copy to the state.</p> <p>Who will take care of canals. Will the well owners sue Uintah County. Pipe after Kid Canal. What are other options.</p>	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			I've lived in Vernal nearly all of my life. Kids Canal has always been there. I want my kids to know the simple joy of swimming in the canal on a hot summer day. This whole project is a way to control our water, therefore control us. Many people have dried up wells and dead land/trees because of your project. It's a shame that as the years go by what we knew as Vernal goes by the wayside for other's greed. That being said, pipe the whole damn city, but at least leave Kids Canal, the trees, and the pathway/location be. We don't want your pipeline!	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Jensen	UT	84035			As a farm and a shareholder in the Central Canal (Chivers Ranch), I want all of my water delivered to my pipeline which connects to the canal. I'm tired of people pumping canal seepage and all other things that happen to 45% of my water.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your participation in this process.
							Why did the County and the Canal Company not adequately notify and discuss the project plans with ANY of the residents that live along the canal or own the water shares along the canal? How are you going to better notify residents from now on?	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. The County, Ashley Central Irrigation Company and NRCS began public outreach in 2018 when a legal notice was published and mailers sent out notifying the public of a public open house to learn more about the proposed project. Once a draft Environmental Assessment was prepared, a series of three public meetings and public comment periods were legally noticed in the local newspaper and mailers were sent out to notify the public. A copy of the Draft EA was made available on the NRCS website, and a physical copy was placed at the Vernal Library for public access. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Save the canal. We love the playing in the canal with our friends and family.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Kids Canal has been a local icon in Vernal my entire life. It's beauty and historical value are very important to the citizens of Uintah County. Please don't destroy what is already in place, find middle ground that will keep the citizens and farmers happy. I understand this is a difficult balance. My suggestion would be to pipe the canal down the existing canal deep and allow run off water to run over the top. I'm not sure if this will work but it would allow both sides to meet in the middle.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.

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		Vernal	UT	84078			Concerns: 1 - What happens to the natural springs and wells on our property when the canals are piped. Currently the valley underground water gets its water from the seepage of the valley canals. 2- Loss of trees along the canals - help keep the valley green. 3- Loss of places for kids to swim (most of the kids are low income and have nothing else).	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. Based on available groundwater information, piping of the Ashley Central Canal would not be anticipated to significantly affect natural springs and wells, which are likely receiving groundwater from multiple sources beyond any seepage from the canal. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			The solution would depend on what the residents concerns are. Uintah County pumps 100 AF of water over from Red Fleet Reservoir to supply the local golf course and the golf course is not available for County residents during the winter or for the high school cross country teams. If the County can pump for the golf course, pump some water into the stretch of canal they call Kids Canal. I am not sure if the County or City maintain the trail along the Central (1500 W) it wouldn't take as much as the golf course to keep trees along this stretch. If they can raise \$30,000 for a Dinosaur. If they actually have the numbers they say it shouldn't be a problem.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Salt Lake City	UT	84106			As an attorney who has litigated EIS/EAs I wanted to note several defaults in the Draft EA. First, I do represent the family. Second, the EA has no information about the claimed construction easement. Second, the handout states all trees along the Kids Canal will be destroyed. Maeser, Utah experienced the destruction of historic trees. Given that there are historic ash and snow cherry trees that are proposed to be destroyed, a law suit is warranted. Third, the scoping meeting and now the Public Meeting held on June 14 is inadequate by NEPA standards. I would appreciate a telephone call. My purpose of this comment is to encourage further meaningful discussion with facilitator. Hope cooperation prevails.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. The County, Ashley Central Irrigation Company and NRCS began public outreach in 2018 when a legal notice was published and mailers sent out notifying the public of a public open house to learn more about the proposed project. Once a draft Environmental Assessment was prepared, a series of three public meetings and public comment periods were legally noticed in the local newspaper and mailers were sent out to notify the public. A copy of the Draft EA was made available on the NRCS website, and a physical copy was placed at the Vernal Library for public access. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							This is all propaganda to take the water from small shareholders and give to the bigs. Makes it unaffordable and dries up wells. Kills vegetation.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Be sure and put all the water in the pipe. Do not leave water in the canal to sub down thru the valley.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			We have water from the trailer park pond on the north of us. We have piped it underground so our land could be dry and not swampy. It also captures some water from some springs on the west of our land. This pipeline was installed by my husband (who has been a plumber) and me. It drains in our pipe into the pipe on our south pipeline and out to Kids Canal. I hope this water will still be able to drain into Kids Canal. We do not want swampy land.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.

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		Vernal	UT	84078			You are destroying the beautiful valley without flowing water trees will die. You have not done a real study of wildlife. Every year because of the canal by my house I have seen migratory birds of many varieties land in the canal, field, and my front yard. Have you studied this problem? You just tell us and will not listen to the people of the valley and what they want. Why not? This is our town and we should have a say in what is going on.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. As part of the Environmental Assessment, biological field surveys were completed over multiple years. The Environmental Assessment notes that migratory birds and waterfowl use the canal as stopover habitat and some may also nest on the fringe of the canal. The Environmental Assessment determined that this habitat use would be lost with piping the canal, however the loss would not affect protected wildlife habitats, nor would it be anticipated to jeopardize the persistence of any species population under the Endangered Species Act, nor the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Please leave Kids Canal the way it is. You can pipe any other area but its so sad to me that we will lose a treasure like the canal provides for many youth who don't have money to pay rec center fees.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			The children in this community have used and enjoyed the canal for ages. The flooding concern is not anything like Yellow Hills. The removal of the trees and canal only dry this area up. I personally feel this is a grab at more water from the irrigation water users to be allocated to the county's desires.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Esquire Estates will be completely off the map. We need water for animals, etc. We do not want the canal to be capped. There are 40 people depending on that pipeline that pumps the water to their homes. No one wants it to be in a pipeline. I do not want the pipeline.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			The section of Ashley Central that runs along 1500 W from 500 N to Main St is an important green belt for our community. I strongly support an alternative that would allow water to flow in this section of the canal. This would allow trees to survive along the existing trail. I feel Uintah County has an important role to play in preserving this resource and I am interested in finding out what they are willing to do.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			I don't want you to pipe the canal because it is my favorite place to swim. It is the best canal in Vernal. It is the worst idea ever to pipe the canal.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			I like to swim and play in the Kids Canal. I will be sad when I can't do that anymore. I like to see the ants and butterflies and ducks and catch crawdads...sometimes there are fish and birds. I like to see the cottonwoods blowing and the rain when it fills up and that makes me happy. Sometimes I lie in the sun on the trail and climb in the trees and play in the clubhouse.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			The decision to privatize the Ashley Canal was made many years ago in what was deemed the best interests of the community and originally provided water for 120 farmers which the county/city paid to help dig and trench. The trees that line the canal were donated by the Church of Jesus Christ LDS and handwatered in order to provide shade and a recreational area for the citizens before the canal was privatized and even then the city/county paid additional funds to maintain the park and trees for community use and enjoyment. The plants which currently line the canal, indigenous willows, cottonwoods transplanted from the banks for the Jordan River, showy milkweed, goldenrods, native currants, horsetail, wild roses, etc. all provide food for animals and cover for them and are edible and medicinal. In areas where the water has been piped and trees removed deer now forage in farmers fields and no attempt has been made to relace the native plants. For local children who come from poor areas there are no other free places to swim or cool off in the summer besides Kids Canal.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.

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		Vernal	UT	84078			<p>Did the analysis for this project look at the difference of greenways that have water flowing versus greenways without water feature. The scenic beauty and recreation value of a path or trail with water and mature trees is significantly different than piped canal with no shade or vegetation. The open water allows for an abundance of biology this will be lost. There have been no meaningful mitigations proposed. Has there been an indepth look at the cumulative effects of piping all the canals through the valley and all surface water in Ashley Creek being diverted and now piped.</p> <p>My parents own property along the Kids Canal portion of Ashley Central Canal. Has the project looked at the easements across private property. To alter an easement there must be an agreement between both parties. To change the character of an easement from a historic canal with origins from the 1880s to a piped canal requires due diligence and due process. I am also concerned about input into the Section 106 process and Draft MOA. I believe input from regional history centers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and families of the original homesteaders could provide a significant oral history. It would be a great collaborative effort to include members from the area to assist in mitigating adverse effects.</p>	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			Yes, we need to keep our beautiful Kids Canal with water and all, and stop putting our canals and waterways into pipelines. It is killing off all the green vegetation, wildlife, and insects like the honey bees. They all need water to survive. Your pipelines are drying up all the ground water, springs, and water wells in the valley. Our forefathers (like my great grandfather) planned and build our open canals and waterways and we have all benefitted from them and I hope to continue to do so. So go do your water conservation and flood control in some other town and leave ours alone.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT				<p>First of all, I do understand the need for this project and the proponent's responsibility to shareholders. Efficient water management is obviously necessary, but use of federal funds carries other responsibilities as well. My concerns pertain to balancing multiple values in the process of achieving the main purpose of this project. I believe the analysis presented in the draft EA regarding effects to bird nesting habitat and to Kids Canal users is insufficient and does not support the finding of no impact for these resources. There are, in fact, impacts to these resources that need to be addressed with additional analysis and in the case of Kids Canal, new mitigation measures. Please see the comments below for my reasoning.</p> <p>1. Wildlife - value to raptors and migratory birds. The EA states that "no active nest belonging to raptors or migratory bird species" were found in the project area, but that the project area could provided "perching or foraging habitat" (p.64). However, the nest surveys were done in the late summer months (p.33). Since for many species nesting occurs in spring and early summer, such surveys are unlikely to detect nests. The project area certainly provides suitable habitat for nesting, and one person even commented that owls nest on the canal by her house every year (page E-45).</p> <p>You indicated that the area would be checked for nests again prior to vegetation removal, but that does not address the potential effects on bird populations due to "permanent removal of riparian vegetation" (p.49) that currently provides suitable nesting habitat for a variety of migratory species and raptors. The conclusion of "no effect" on p.65 and in Table 3-1 (p.50) is therefore not supported by any substantive analysis of nesting habitat availability pre- and post-construction. This needs to be addressed and disclosed before a decision is made.</p> <p>2. Kids Canal Parkway - recreation and visual resources/scenic beauty. The EA states Alt 1 will have no effect on recreation and scenic values (Table 3-1, p.52) and the Parkway in particular will not be impacted by the project (p.69). But the analysis doesn't support that conclusion.</p> <p>It is noted in multiple places that construction will require removal of some mature trees and piping the water in the canal will result in loss of vegetation that depends on that water, probably permanently (see, e.g., Section 4.5.1.2). Even though disturbed areas will be reseeded and restored, without the water currently flowing in an open canal it will be impossible for these areas to be "restored to pre-construction conditions" as stated in Table 3-1 (p. 49, under the Riparian Areas heading). Both the type and amount of vegetation will be substantially different. At the very least, shade will be absent for a generation of users. These are values specifically noted in many comment letters as important to people who use the Parkway (see, e.g., Section 2.6.8 on page 40). This is not a "minor long-term visual impact" as stated on p. 52. It's the whole reason the Parkway exists.</p> <p>The EA does acknowledge that the open water provides "passive recreation value" (e.g., pp. 52 and 69), but dismisses the loss of that value because the canal itself is not designated for recreation use and the walking path will remain. This seems to be the basis for saying the Parkway will not be affected. But in fact, the recreation experience on the Parkway will be significantly degraded by loss of the sight, sound and cooling effect of the water adjacent to the path in the summer months, as well as the shade, wildlife viewing, and other aesthetic values provided by the riparian vegetation year-round.</p> <p>The recreation experience may not be a measurable physical value but it is important social value - as so many comment letters indicated. It is, in fact, why people go there. So there is clearly an effect on the Parkway that needs to be acknowledged and mitigated.</p> <p>Alternative 1 is described as "creating a new recreation resource" through construction of 3 miles of asphalt trail along Ashley Central Canal and Steinaker Service Canal (pp. 69-70). Although presented as a recreation improvement, to me, as a user of Kid's Canal, this seems more like an acknowledgment that current recreation values will be lost or degraded and this is an attempt to mitigate that loss. Either way, it does not replicate the user experience that currently exists and I believe there are other options that could be considered before settling for a different kind of trail and experience. The handout provided at the June open house acknowledged that as well, by stating that "the opportunity for a project outside the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project to have an open water source along Kid's Canal is an option still available to citizens and Uintah County." So clearly there are other options; you've just left them for someone else to explore. I believe that since loss of scenic and recreation values I've just described is due to this project, it needs to be addressed in this EA and decision, not left for citizens to figure out later. Additional mitigation measures for the Kid's Canal Parkway should be developed and included in the final EA.</p>	Mail	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

Comment Response Matrix Public Meeting: July 27, 2022									
Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email	Phone Number	Comment	Comment Submission Type	Response
		Vernal	UT	84078			I am very against the piping of the Kids Canal - It is a historical site which benefits many people in the Basin. I hate watching trees die all over the Basin. Hate the detriment done to wildlife. I do not believe that this is because the farmers requested it. I have personally talked with many of them who were never contacted on this subject. I feel this is because Const Cola (sp?) and local and state politicians are benefitting greatly. Our once beautiful valley is dying. Please stop.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. The Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			My understanding is that the people that own the water have put this project in motion. Right now, the engineer pointed out that 1/3-2/3 of the water is being lost to seepage. Right now that water is a loss. Why not have the water owners donate the water for the Kids Canal? The engineer said that the amount of water needed for the Kids Canal is significantly less than the water that will be recovered from piping the canal. Their profits from the water would still be substantial even with the donation. Destroying Kids Canal will irrevocably change the face of the most beautiful area in Vernal. It would be a travesty to not preserve this historic area. The City of Vernal built that giant snow hill that is not essential for \$1 million. How could that money be spent on that and not on preserving an area that is used all year long!	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
		Vernal	UT	84078			No resolution to adverse effects!! Wildlife; birds, ducks; trees. A plaque or a historic sign is not a resolution.	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Hi. Hello everyone. I'm I'm 20 years old and I wanted to share my perspective on this. As someone who's grown up in rural Utah. Kids canal has been a safe Haven for the people of this community for so many years. Families with numerous children can't always afford to take the kids to the rec center or make the trip out to one of the reservoirs. It is the only option for some families to combat the summer heat. It is the only shaded pathway in town with running water alongside it. It's also one of the only areas in this community where you are allowed to exist without the obligation of spending money. Kids canal is a staple in our community and not one day goes by during the summer that I don't see someone making use of it. Whether that be someone walking in the area, swimming in the canal, or even having a picnic. It's disappointing to see so much talk on the county, you about making our city better when we can't even seem to maintain the few things that make Vernal; Vernal in the first. In aiding, one group of individuals who are taking something precious from this current and future generations to come. Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name is I had not intended on being in a meeting at the technology center the other day, but they had a beautiful oil painting that Dean Milham had done. And the lady said, "oh my gosh, where is that?" And I said, "oh, it's about half a mile down there." And she said, "are you serious? That's in Vernal?" And I said, "yes, that's the greatest thing in our town. That's the thing called kids canal." And it is a beautiful painting. If you haven't seen it, it's kids canal in the fall and all this. And she was just so excited that we had that in our town. Maybe they can put that picture on the kiosk, cause it's gonna be gone. I have walked up and down that for years and years in the winter and the fall in the morning in the evenings, there are always people there. There are children there all summer long. There are families there. It is such a critical thing in our community. And I get that; that's cultural, but you can't replace that with a kiosk and you can't replace it with a poster and you can't replace it with things in a historical thing. It's part of our community. And it's part of our town. I'm not really smart about engineering things, but I just do not understand. Why that canal cannot be left open for a half a mile. And I don't understand the whole thing about the pressure thing, cause the water looks to me like it runs pretty good, but I don't understand that. But I think that you would, you do a real disservice to destroy that cultural, beautiful place in our community. I think putting a trail up there with a couple of trees, which are all gonna die without water is not gonna solve the problem. I hope you can find a way to do that. Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Hi, I'm I live at the center of that picture. So right across the street. So, it's all a matter of perspective. The people who thought that they were making a good decision by piping, the canals were only trying to satisfy the water needs of those in agriculture. They would be those at the top of the hypothetical pyramid, from their great height. They cannot see that the majority of the people, the population holding up their position also need the water by wearing blinders. The people who decided to help one segment of the population are depriving the 95% of the remaining population. The solution though, not a hundred percent fair would be to leave one for the community. Leave one canal for the parents to teach their kids and dogs to swim, to love water. Leave one as a sanctuary where those seeking a walk with nature that doesn't involve driving 30 minutes may enjoy it in the heart of the city. The systems of piping, head gates and holding basins that have been installed would totally work here. Use the kids' canal as a holding at basin that links the two different sets of pipes. Build a gated head gate at the end of this canal to catch all the debris that falls and blows into the canal. Preserving an empty canal is defeating the purpose. It needs the canal, not an empty channel to catch what runs off the roads. Preserve all aspects of the small slice of heaven, this little oasis in the desert for all to use freely. It's the right/decent thing for all people in the community. And as you guys were talking, you have a why up here on fifth. Why not move it down here to main street? So keep one of 'em piped. Keep your existing system. So just leave one so that it runs down kids canal, and then they join at the Wyatt main street. That's my solution.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

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							My name is [REDACTED] and I really wanna thank the project team for listening to the community and considering the alternate plan to keep that section of the canal open. But I really urge you to consider extending it. And I know that it can't go on for ever and ever, but. From 500 north main street is really only part of what I consider the continuous kids canal section. And I'm coming from a place of self interest because I live on the other side of main street. So I really consider. The main street to 500 south section worth keeping too. I walk in every day. I know most of my neighbors along the canal. I live on [REDACTED] where my family's actually been for six generations now. And I know my neighbor's dogs, even if I don't know their name, like, Johns dog mute, but between, main street and 500 south, I walk that section almost every day and the number of trees that line, that section as well. I think are worth keeping. And I think keeping the water open in that section is really important. Also on the section where I live between 400 south and 500 south, there's a slew that comes through my property that has to have between 50 and hundred trees in it that are fed from the McNaughton water Gulch. Water that comes from the other side of 1500 west, which I own and flows under the road, into kids canal into my property to create that slew. The slew is full of deer. It's full of raccoon skunks, red wing black birds. I wouldn't know if it, it was spring and summer if I didn't hear the birds out in the slew. There are cattails that are at least eight feet tall out there. So, I don't know what's going to happen to that section. And I think it's important to the community, but like I said, I'm self-interested because I own property on both sides of [REDACTED] And I really don't understand how my property will be affected.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name's [REDACTED] self-interest wise, aesthetically. It's beautiful. It's amazing. I also look down on the canals from yellow hill out in Maeser, where they cut down the trees and they look horrible and I watch the deer across the field, and they don't know where to go. They're like, there's no water here. Where do I go? This is my normal water source. Bigger interest wise, I teach science. It is my classroom to go there. I've taken kids out there. We've used the nets to get, we get crawdads and other critters in there, all sorts of bugs and things that just get kids involved and interested in science and the life that's there. We've identified so many of the plants there and used that as our classroom and not having that there for me is taking away part of my classroom and part of the education of kids. Watching my kids, tell me stories. They're like, oh, [REDACTED] I was at the kids can help this weekend. I was doing this, that, and the other thing it's accessible to all of them. They don't have to have money. They don't have to have transportation. They can just go there. As far as a resource for kids in the community, it is huge, both for education purposes and just for fun and a place to explore. I'm a firm believer that kids need a space outside, and this makes a really good one for them.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name's [REDACTED] and I want to, first of all, thank you for coming out tonight. It was those of you who participated in the June meeting on the 14th of June that facilitated the beginning of some changes here. I wanna punctuate something that was said tonight, and I think is it Tara? Can you please repeat what the ultimate decision was of regarding the history of kids' canal? There was a, a term that you used for that. I'm kind of putting you on the spot, but basically it's not. Can we go back? I don't know if we can find that slide, go back to the history. Let's see. Adverse effect. Kids canal is part of the fabric of the history of the Uintah basin of Vernal. It's a part of how many generations and so the power of history standing behind it. We need to support that. And right now, who I wanna speak to are those of you who are commissioners and those of you who will be commissioners. Because we may not be able to stop the piping that's gonna happen, but we can make a difference as to what happens after the pipe is in. We have seen some total destruction on the upper and the Highline and up in dry fork. I used to live in dry fork. I watched trees die. I can see that you're trying. To help placate us with leaving trees. And that's a good start, but if there's no water, like Joanne said, the trees will die. So commissioners, we're gonna talk to the city, city council as well. We need your support now to hear these voices and to help make this a park, not a parkway. And, and to support our, our heart's desire of keeping that green with running water, a place for kids for the next few generations. Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name is [REDACTED]. I live on kids canal [REDACTED]. I've lived there for 33 years and not one person from your group come and talk to me. And every single day I see hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. And, Families with their kids. And I remember when they used to stock the thing and that's a whole other issue with vegetation and moss and all that. But, I keep hearing that the kiosk, to me, it sounds like a tombstone. That young lady that was a biologist She said, Nope, we're gonna lose tress, we're gonna lose birds. I hear this defeatist attitude. We're gonna pipe it and we're gonna dry out kids canal no matter what the public says. It was talked about water shares someone's gonna have to buy water shares to replace the water that we want to flow down for the kids. what happens to that water when it goes past the end of kids canal? Anybody wanna tell me that works with the canal company. Do you want us to rent shares? We'll sell 'em back to you down at the other end and you can sell em again with reservation? I mean, I'm serious. There can be a way to get this accomplished. We want to have running water. We want have trees. The public, I talk to people everyday and they're like, "what!?" I understand piping. I understand conservating water. There's nobody even come to my house in my backyard. I have a water well. You're welcome to come and put your tape in at 62 inches of standing water. Why do when you turn off the water it puddles up and stays there for months. Okay. My two minutes is up, but I hope y'all understand. I'm sorry, last time I was here I gotta apologize. I lost my temper because I was just told how it's be done. And there can be a way. Like I said, there way we can rent shares for a couple blocks. but the community obviously wants to keep it. We've gotta work together to find some way that we can get a little bit of water go down that canal through nine to 10 blocks. I mean, the four is essential. That is the cultural center for the kids in Vernal. But yeah, I would like to see it go down to 7th. That is a area the whole community walking paths in the county intersect right there also.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name is [REDACTED]. I made a few notes during the presentation, but I have some comments that I've made him twice to the EA team. I'm wondering, when you can't, it's my understanding environmental policy act. If you can't mitigate an impact, you do the EIS, I think that is correct? And maybe it could be mitigated by leaving some water some way in the canal. The impact, you know we live on, I always thought we live on the kids canal, central canal, but I guess I don't live on the kids now. I just live on central canal side, north of five hundred north. And, my concern is large concern I have is having to have a stormwater drain. I've lived there 43 years. Maybe, I just haven't been there long enough to see a hundred year storm, but we had some pretty big storms, did a lot of damage that make where it's necessary to do a storm water drain. But, uh, it just doesn't occur. You got two canals there. It didn't intercept them. It's just not gonna occur. It's a way. And I'll say frankly, it's way of getting money for the project. If you're going have strong water also up in where those, uh, where you're doing on degree basins and taking care of some of the watershed that's above there. So you don't need those degree basins quite as much. Uh, I am glad to hear that it's now conceived that you'll put the pipeline in the prism of the existing disturbance. One time there was talk of all on the east side. And that then would take more disturbance from our property. We have roughly 45, 50 feet of disturbance that's there now. And I like to see the, the tree stay but they won't, but if some way you could. I don't have enough water to give, to donate any even to the cause. I would like also to hear from a county commissioner. If they're here, that you have requested that this storm water drain occur. I don't know that that's for you. The case that the county commission has and the county people certainly haven't.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

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							My name's [REDACTED] I am on city council. Any of you that would like to visit with me most, a lot of you probably know how you can find me, but. You can catch me after the meeting. I'm glad to visit with any of you. We do have a scheduled meeting with the county and Vernal city coming up. And I'd like to hear from more of you outside of this meeting to, uh, find out some of your concerns. I've talked to some of you here. Um, I am a Vernal resident and have been my whole life. Grew up here. I've swam in kids canal. Now I went on the rope swing. I fished, I've caught my first fish in kids canal. I have good memories there. I'd love to see my kids have those same memory. I'm not engineer, I'm actually a carpet salesman. And I don't understand why we couldn't put the pressure, pressurized that at main street lane. That's my question. I don't know what it costs. I really don't care what it costs. I think the city of Venal there's so many things in our world, in our nation that divide everything. The last thing we need is one more thing to divide this flipping community. I'm sorry. We have so many things that divide us. Let's come together, make this a positive experience, put a liner in the canal, put an outlet for some trees, do something. Let's keep kids canal. I'm with John Baker in the aspect that putting the Memorial there as, you know, is kind of putting the tombstone on the whole deal. I think Deanna Milton's picture would be great, but I'd love to have my kids live to see what kids canal is, not what it was. But reach out to me if you'd like to visit with me. I will say that at this point, Vernal city has anything they can do. I'd love to see their water run down the canal if nothing else. I don't know that I can make any promises, but I'd love to see that the case. But, uh, look me up. If you have a question or concern, love to help.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name's [REDACTED] I've been around for a day or two you can tell by looking at me. I have some major concerns. You're telling me that, uh, this, uh, historic site yet we're gonna disturb it. I have questions on that. I think there's some real issues on that. What Wetlands are we not gonna have because of the piping? I think there's some mitigation that has to be done on that. According to the federal government, we went and we did all these interpretations and everything doing the EA's and, and watching for our wildlife and stuff. I didn't hear anything about doing it during the winter. And that's, this is their winter range. How many animals are we gonna disturb? And even if you put a drinking fountain in the pipeline, I don't think all the deer are gonna go to it. They don't know how to run it. I think it's gonna affect not only our community, but also the wildlife that we have here. And we cherish the kids canal. Now I can tell you right now, after as long years as I did as a cop, the kids canal is one of the best things I've ever seen in my entire. It's just like everybody says, kids grew up in that canal. Several of 'em had the very first water fight in that canal and it hurts to even think about it going away. So my concern is, and again, like everybody else, what can we do to save it? And how are we gonna save it? But there's gotta be a way that we can keep that in there. There's no reason to pipe everything and kill all the vegetation. Or John Baker's well, Michael dry, you never can tell, but it's gonna affect a lot more than just right beside the canal. Those beautiful trees are gonna be gone. We're gonna see a lot of farmland that should be there. Not because the canal, it needs to be looked at a lot different than it is. Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I just moved here a couple years ago and I didn't really know what kids canal was but I was always like, what's that beautiful place everyone's walking. All the kids are always there and families and people walking past there. And I just learned on Facebook, what it was. And so I live up at, um, near upper, I think it's upper Ashley Creek and they just piped that that's right next to my house. And it's completely changed. Like the ecosystem. Let's call that there by my house, there used to be box seller bugs and the beautiful trees and birds there constantly. And the deer running by, and now all of that is gone. It is dry. I have a garden, um, that I water and I have to water it significantly more than I did before, because it's drying up the water table. Like it's all going away and that I'm sure that will increase and get worse and worse as the years go. these people on the panel. I don't wish you, I, you know, I don't know of any of you live here. Um, I'm guessing, I think one of you does. Um, but this is a decision for the people that live here, right? Like we should have a say in what happens to our land, especially something that's so historic. Um, and for all these kids, especially like kids just went through something really difficult with COVID and the things happened with school and don't, we want them to be outside, enjoying something like kids canal. Um, and I'm just worried. I mean, I see the differences in, um, the bugs and different things near my house. How will that change? all of Vernal in the ecosystem of Vernal to have, um, no more water kids. Canal is like the Oasis in the desert and we need it, um, for our wildlife. Um, there's got to be a way for us to be able to work this out where we can keep this waterway and, um, I'm willing to do whatever I can do. There's got to be some sort of compromise for the people that live here. , uh, we deserve it. The kids deserve it.		Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Hello my name is [REDACTED] I'm a mechanic. So I fix things. So the reason that, uh, they haven't figure out a way to do this is they don't have the desire to, we would like them to have that desire. We would like to work with them and hopefully we can come to a conclusion, something that's favorable to everyone. This is a landmark of Vernal. It is one of the things that makes Vernal; Vernal. So I encourage everyone here to reach out to our elected officials and let, to know how important this is to us. We don't need to be like salt lake and 50 years from now trying to make kids canal again, just like we're doing in salt lake with, with city creeks. If I was doing it and I wanted to do it, I'd get 'er done. I challenge you guys to get it done. Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name's [REDACTED] And I'm a crier. I'm sorry. And when you talked about, you talked about things on the canal that are there, that you haven't seen, or you don't know what kind of bugs are there or have you seen the dragon flies that fly there? They're blue. They're purple. They're green. And they won't be there if you take the water away. I there, I live on [REDACTED] My house is right in the middle of that canal I've lived there for 30 years. This is a picture of my house. Is the canal in right in front of my house. These are my grandkids that float in that canal every summer, they swim in that canal. My kids grew up swimming in that canal. Do you know how important this canal is? To me, to my family, to this town, this is a picture I took today. I walk up that path and it's beautiful. It's important to the soul. And so quiet. It brings peace. It brings peace to everybody that walks up that path that walks in front of my house every day. I look out my front window and there's someone walking, their dog, walking their kids. Walking babies in strollers. It is so important in this community. We need to fight, we need to fight to keep this canal. It's very very important to us. I cry every day when I go out there and think that they're gonna take this canal the away, and I told my kids this, I told my husband this, when they come to take. Bridge outta my front yard then I'm gonna chain myself to that bridge. And they're not gonna take it away.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

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							My name's [REDACTED] and I wasn't gonna get up here, but, um, We have a townhouse near kids canal road. We own a house now on the upper highline. Y'all have no idea what it's gonna look like when those trees are gone. You're right. It's nasty looking. I don't have pretty trees anymore. You know what grows now? Weeds. We have nothing but weeds on a piece of property. We can't do anything on, we have a fence up now, just so I don't have to look at that piece of property anymore. We see deer in our neighbor's field, our neighbor's driveway. They don't know where to go to get a drink. They don't know what to do. We used to have raccoons that lived in our yard. They never once touched our chickens but we had to get rid of our chickens because now we don't even have. An area where the chicken could run. Never once did those raccoons touch our chickens? But now we don't have raccoons, We don't have the deer. They don't know where to go. And we have weeds instead of trees. So I have pictures and I live off of [REDACTED] If you wanna come take a look at my backyard. You can see what kids canal's gonna look like. It's gonna look like junk.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Hi, I'm [REDACTED] And I'm excited to talk to you not the time so much, but, um, I too am concerned, but I come here and I say, we're at your mercy. Take it back, go vote again with the waterboard and have them do it after the kids canal. Say tonight, Hey, you, you earn this much money. I'll start a go fund me page all the way. So you just named the price. Okay. You take it back and say, can we start it after? And everyone would be happy. Right? Right. Yes. We would all be so happy and we would all be so much more content. And, and it's a win-win. Do you know what I mean? Because the history and the environment that the environmental impact that I am worried. Personally, because I've lived by it my whole life. I've seen, I'm a biologist as well. And I've seen so many endangered species that use that waterway. They use it for so many things. They come here, they, they bathe in it. They're birds, they're wildlife, they're everything. And we're not gonna have that anymore. Not only that, but I'm terribly concerned about the erosion. That's going to be caused when the trees are all gone and that will fill with silt. And then where's our runoff. Where's the runoff for. If we have a flood, the flood is the streets. So as soon as that is all filled and it's all past that capacity, you know, we're saying like the impact of it, but you're not saying like the full impact of what could happen here. So it's super scary. And I just say, Hey, give me a number. I'll make the number happen, or go to the board and say, let's save this much of the pipe. Let's decide to not pipe that first half, and then let's pipe it after and we'll pressurize it after. And if you need the extra funds, we'll run the extra funds you tell us or whatever you're gonna save on the engineering up upstream. You use that money and, and sell us the shares. Like, I will help you and we will do a solution so that everyone can be happy and that we don't have to think about what was thanks.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							My name is [REDACTED] and, uh, the canal companies got a right-of-way. and, uh, as far I know it has been quite a while since there was any fish in it, and I think everybody's got a pet tree or a pet Bush. They can't go around them all. And if they're gonna build a pipe line, build it that they're not, they don't need to build it.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Hello, my name's [REDACTED] I'm a small business owner here in Vernal. Um, I've lived in Vernal, um, for, um, here almost 12 years now. And, um, I wanted to share with you an article that I read recently in the Denver post, um, the article is titled, uh, let me get it here. As development eats away at Denver's green space. The city within a park is becoming a concrete metropolis. Um, the article was published on January 13th, 2019. So it's a little dated now, but I think it's appropriate for, um, the, for this, this meeting and for this topic, um, the, the city of Denver is basically dealing with a situation where they can't take back poor city planning decisions that they've made in 1974. There was 19% of the city that was basically impervious paved over due to, um, concrete or structures in 2018. That number is 48%. Um, I, um, I like a lot of things about Denver, but when I go there and I see the cityscape, I don't wish that for Vernal. Now I know that that's a long way coming from what we have now. Right. But, um, the reason that Denver doesn't have the green space that they want is because they didn't make decisions early on that affected, that affected the outcome of, of the future. And I think it's important that, um, Uh, the decision makers for this project consider the big picture of what happens, uh, 25 years from now, when we do this with all of the canals and all of our green space is gone. there's no easy way to go back and create it. Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							hello everyone. My name is [REDACTED] Um, I'm an archeologist. I work for the federal government. So. I kind of know the process that's going on here and I appreciate you guys doing your job. And I know you're not the bad guys. Um, it's just one, one of those sensitive situations. And as an archeologist, I understand. Well, for me, the history is very important without canals there would be no Vernal, right? I mean, really that's the only reason why there's even farming and agriculture and people that are living here when they first came here. People, they, they thought I was like the worst place in the world. They like, they left and because of human ingenuity, we're able to create a beautiful place to live. And I, I don't live close to the, the kids canal. I live across town, but my, my wife, my kids go there several times every summer and they enjoy it. And so I'm getting a plug for, for the kids too, but. I think it's important to have a space, right? To show the history, to keep at least a section of a historic canal. That's bringing this life water to not only the humans, but the animals and the plants and everything that live here in this valley. And I think it's a great idea to, to have that open space. And as I, when I was a kid, I loved outdoors. I loved being able to go and explore and what a great opportunity. There's not much of that. Uh, around anymore for kids. And so I think just keeping that as it is, is, is a great opportunity. So I say, you know, let's have a space for open for kids open for the canal. Keep that historic aspect of at least that section of it. Thank you. Thanks for offering this comment time and your time and your expertise and what you've shared. And I don't really have much anything better to say than like many of you have like very pointed and specific, like you've spoken everything, but I just didn't want to just sit back there and not let everybody think that, like, I didn't agree with what was so like heartfelt shared, because a lot of those same, um, experiences while I don't live on the canal, like so many of you, but I do like. It's a vital place. And if we think we have struggles now finding things for kids to do, then, I mean, it's only gonna get worse. Like it's only get worse. And I go there frequently, because I'm just a kid at heart but anyhow, I can get kids. I'll take 'em there and it's just it's yeah, it's just there. It's there. It's and it's easy to get to and it's not like that. You have to drag. You have to, you can just walk there. You can bike there. It's so convenient. And I think where we already have seen the impacts of having other canal spaces been piped. Like we can see, okay, well, is this what we want? Is this really what we want? So I, I think I, I appreciate the efforts that are being made to try to come together and make some sort of a solution that will help us get what we need on all sides. So, thank you. [REDACTED] Thank you.	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. As part of the mitigation for adverse effects to the canal, a history kiosk will be built beside the Kids Canal and a short documentary film will be produced and available to the public. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

<div> <div>Comment Response Matrix</div> <div>Public Meeting: November 15, 2022</div> </div>									
Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email	Phone Number	Comment	Comment Submission Type	Response
							<p>I am [REDACTED] I was one of the original creators of this PL566 grant, when I was public lands director for Uintah County. So there's a long history of it and I know I we're discussing the NEPA process and everything like that. But part of one of the aspects to this grant was the recreation aspect. Where we talked about the water being part of that recreation aspect. But, in our minds when it started, it was a trail. It was, we called it the Steineker Service Canal Trail which is this system. So as time progressed and then there was a lot of talk about the water, and the trees and everything like that. The people then came forward and said, hey, we can mitigate that. We can use water as the recreation aspect, because of course, recreation use, you can swim in that water. So, as we were, there's a lot of different sides to this. And today we actually had a very, very important informative meeting with a lot of the stakeholders that are represented that was laid out on this program and we have found a way. NRCS has been able to accommodate those desires to mitigate with water through the historical part. But then also then that frees up the recreation aspect well which will allow us to do a phase of the trail which is the Parkway itself right now. So we can make that better like Cindy said, make that better and still create and have the water. So as I know as frustrating as this very long governmental process can be and has been it truly does take, you know some very heartfelt comments and some very actual comments and these people and Ashley Central Canal and NRCS they are here to listen and the government agencies are engaged. And I'm not saying they wouldn't be as engaged if it wasn't for the public support. So I think that's a great aspect to just know that we are all trying to work together to deliver a really good project. So I just feel that you know, moving forward and we can all kind of understand that and not everybody is going to be happy but hopefully we'll do some good work. And now as Transportation was taking on the trail aspect, I am assistant executive director of the Special Service District number one so that just kind of how it ties in transportation and Recreation Special Service District along with impact mitigation Special Service District are combining into one super district. So that is where this all kind of ties in, so there's a lot of agencies partnering up and are on the same page. So, I appreciate the meeting that we had today that was very good and very informative. Thank you.</p>	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							<p>When [REDACTED] and I first heard that they were going to pipe Ashley Central Canal, we were kind of wondering because does that means Kids Canal. We weren't sure. We had to do our own research, we had to pull up papers. We had to verify that Kids Canal really is Ashley Central Canal, and that Kids Canal was going to be piped. So, when we first heard about it, that was our primary objective was just to help people be aware of the fact that they're talking about Kids Canal. You guys, this is important, and we need to speak up. So, the next thing we did was we formed the Friends of Kid's Canal, and there's a lot of faces here I see tonight that are a part of that. Thank you for coming out tonight. And I want to thank them for all the times that they have helped in the past. But through that we looked at what the items are in the environmental assessment that are considered with the historical impact, with the cultural, the community with the wildlife. There's like seven or eight different specific bullets that were on the document when we first received it in the mail. And so, our committee addressed every single one of those. We did a lot of research to find out the history... I'm going to take someone else's two minutes too. Anyway, we addressed every one of those issues. Dan and I drove out to JUB. And we sat down with these good folks, and we thought, well we're going to show you; you can't pipe Kids Canal because look, we've refuted every one of these. You know what they told us. They said if there was a raptor in the tree you can move the nest and if its historical you can put up a kiosk and they refuted every single one of the things that we had brought up. And I went home with my tail between my legs, and I was pretty disappointed. But there's a few people in this room that said don't give up, I got a call from Hannah and she's like "We can't give up!". And so, through the public working together, and with these folks listening to what we had to say. That passion that started out as just a vision years ago with the conservation issues committee. When they first thought, maybe there should be a place for the kids to actually go and not have to lay on the road to get warm. When they saw that as a Parkway in 1992 or 93, when it became Asher Markley Memorial Parkway from that time on that vision that's carried over. And because of that, passion of those people that started with that. And because of those of you who commented we're getting it; we're getting it done. We're going to be able to keep that Parkway and because it's been, like, dancing work through the process, they're working with us. And I think it could be even better. It'll end up better than what we started with. We're going to have the trail repaved. Hopefully, we'll have picnic tables, there won't be as much water, but you know what, kids can make a mud puddle into a full day's play, and it will be flowing water. And there will be enough water to keep the trees growing. So, because of those early visions, because of your passion, because of these people listening to what we have to say, I printed off all seven hundred pages of the environmental assessment. Your comments are in there. And it's worth the read. So, you took time to educate yourself. You took time to be here tonight and have your voices heard and it is making a difference. We're going to have trees, we're going to have running water, there's a place for the kids to play. Now, it's going to be a busy summer next summer, and who knows how long it'll take for it to be finished. But thank you. Thank you all of you. I appreciate it.</p>	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							<p>I'd like to thank everyone, particularly the folks at NRCS for putting this together so that we that we could have public comment and that public comment has been received. And I thank them for that. I'd like to read a quote here by Frank Church those of you who do not know who Frank Church was, he was a United States senator and was very instrumental in preserving public lands for us. The quote reads: "In a country where nature has been so lavish. And we have been so spendthrift of indigenous beauty, to set aside a few rivers in their natural state should be considered an obligation." This guy set rivers aside for us to enjoy, so I think that what we're trying to do here is a small section of a man-made canal. But it is part of our culture and history, and part of the fabric of our own town. I'd like to thank everyone involved here and the people have come to support our desire to save that. For people to come and enjoy for the future. If not for government who, who else would have that ability, set, something aside for perpetuity, it has to be the government. We all know who Larry H. Miller was. Larry H. Miller built a racetrack between Tooele and Grantsville and now it is owned by the Chinese. Even with the money that he had; he was not able to that. So, it has to be the government. I appreciate the process that we have worked through together. And have come to what I think will be a favorable outcome for us all. Thank you.</p>	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							<p>I live up on Kids Canal on [REDACTED] Did you know there was two concrete structures, one was built in 1907 the other just in 1934? I was wondering what the impact of private property would affect your decision. Would it have any impact at all private property concerns.</p>	Verbal Comment	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. As part of the Environmental Assessment, a cultural resources survey was completed and all historic structures were documented. As part of the mitigation for adverse impacts to the historic canal, an informational kiosk will be constructed beside Kids Canal, and a short documentary film will be produced and available to the public. Construction would take place within the canal prism and rights-of-way. Prior to construction, private landowners will be contacted to discuss and obtain access to the canal. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							<p>Sadly I regret the piping of the open canals in the Uinta Basin- I think that the biggest waste of water due to evaporation is watering fields of alfalfa in the heat of the days and windy weather. What we standing to lose in wildlife habitat, recreation and the experience of walking along the canals can't be measured. I hope is there is a chance of saving any of these values, the project should go ahead gently and generously knowing how much the canals have meant to generations of residents. Thanks.</p>	Comment Card	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

<div> <div>Comment Response Matrix</div> <div>Public Meeting: November 15, 2022</div> </div>									
Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email	Phone Number	Comment	Comment Submission Type	Response
							My comments and concerns regarding Kids Canal: 1.Preserve running water, allowing access for children of all ages. 2.Preserve as many mature trees on the East side of the canal, along the walking path, as possible. 3.Repair the pavement on the walking path. 4.Designate parking spaces on Main Street. 5.Signage or kiosk that includes information about history of Kid’s Canal and names of common trees, plants and animals found along the walking path. 6.Picnic tables and trash cans at the two primary swimming holes. Thank you for working with our community to find a compromise to the piping of Ashley Central Canal.	Email	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. Additional trail amenities are included in the revised alternative that include picnic tables and improved trail surfaces. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. As part of the mitigation for adverse effects to the canal, a history kiosk will be built beside the Kids Canal and a short documentary film will be produced and available to the public. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
							Thank you for your efforts. After joining your Nov 15 meeting, these are my comments. 1.When the pathway is rebuilt, it should not be any wider than it currently is. The advantage of additional width so that more people can walk side by side is far outweighed by the loss of green space. 2.The amount of margin beyond the pathway that is maintained as grass should be minimized. Not only is it an ongoing maintenance issue, but again, this green space is mostly for walking and enjoying the nature, not throwing frisbees or playing on a lawn. 3.Benches with firm backs are good; picnic tables would take up too much space, and would encourage people to eat there. While that is not currently prohibited, I don't think it should be encouraged. I foresee a trash problem. 4.A brief survey of the native species that "volunteered" to grow there should be maintained, and those species, if possible, be retained or replanted after construction. There are people in the community that would be glad of the opportunity to help. 5.While a native mix of pollinator plants is a good idea, again, the naturally occurring pollinator plants should be retained and encouraged. There are people in the community that would be glad of the opportunity to help. 6.Invasive Russian olive should be cut back. There are people in the community that would be glad of the opportunity to help. 7.It is possible that the amounts of water discussed will be insufficient for the cottonwood trees, but I do not know. We will find out. But the smaller trees and larger shrubs could, I think, maintain themselves, and the shade they throw is a critical element to Kids Canal. 8.The special service district could give ownership to these interested parties, who have long been involved with the canal. For example, Uintah High School natural resources students can easily walk down to the canal from the school, and could help devise management strategies, and help with maintenance. USU and Terra Academy could be approached about the same possibilities	Email	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. In response to public comments about the Kids Canal, a design variation was developed to move the pipe to the west side of the canal, maintaining as many trees as possible, and keeping the canal feature open, while additional water shares would be purchased to maintain flow in the Kids Canal during the irrigation season. Additional trail amenities are included in the revised alternative that include picnic tables and improved trail surfaces. This Kids Canal alternative received favorable community support. As part of the mitigation for adverse effects to the canal, a history kiosk will be built beside the Kids Canal and a short documentary film will be produced and available to the public. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.

Comment Response Matrix									
Public Comment Period: January 18, 2023-February 17,2023									
Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email	Phone Number	Comment	Comment Submission Type	Response
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Salt Lake City	UT	84114		[REDACTED]	Dear Mr. Evenstad: The state of Utah (State) through Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) supports the Ashley Valley Watershed Project sponsored by Uintah County to prevent flood damages, further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of irrigation and flood waters and further the conservation and proper utilization of agriculture land. PLPCO, in collaboration with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), submits the following comments for your consideration: The Coal Hill detention basin's proposed location would be within crucial mule deer winter habitat. DWR recommends construction on the detention basin occur outside of the crucial winter period for mule deer, December 1 - April 15, to minimize disturbance. If you have questions contact [REDACTED] Impact Analysis Biologist, [REDACTED] Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments. Call to discuss any questions or concerns.	Letter	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. The importance of crucial mule deer winter habitat has been noted in the Environmental Assessment, and construction will avoid the December 1st - April 15th timeframe to protect mule deer use of the area. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.
[REDACTED]					[REDACTED]		To Whom It May Concern, The private landowners impacted by this proposal and alternatives need to be consulted and their authorization obtained, in particular the landowners along the section called Kids Canal. That said, I would like to express my appreciation for all of the work that has been put into this project and the numerous drafts that have been submitted based on feedback from the community. I'm pleased to see that these open comment periods have been both beneficial and productive towards improving the plan set for this proposal and alternatives. However, the lack of integration and authorization of the private landowners on the portion of this plan called Kids Canal needs to be addressed. Kids Canal is private land that landowners have allowed the public to access, however, decisions about improvements or modifications to infrastructure on this land in the plan need to include the landowners input and authorization. The plan now includes things like improvement and widening of the walking path, shade structures, an information kiosk, and more, which is all going to be placed on private land. Decisions that impact or modify the private land along Kids Canal need to be discussed and approved by the landowners and not simply assumed. To go along with integration and authorization of the landowners along Kids Canal, an updated MOU needs to be put into place to reflect the changes that are being proposed by this new plan and proposal. The original MOU from 1992 was created to ensure transparency between the private landowners and the government entities that would be maintaining and adding to these greenways. The 1992 MOU has been a vital source document for this current proposal and has helped to give guidance and direction based on the original intent of this greenway. The understanding that was created with the original MOU needs to continue and be updated as this plan moves forward, this includes updating the landowners on changes this plan will have on their land and the landowners approval of modifications that will be made, which an updated MOU will reflect. Thank you for your time,	Email	Thank you for submitting your comment during the Ashley Valley Draft Watershed Plan-EA public comment period. Your comment has been received and documented as part of the Environmental Assessment. Coordination with private landowners regarding access, construction, and amenities will be conducted prior to construction and a representative of the Friends of the Kids Canal and a private landowner along the Kids Canal were invited to be part of the cultural MOA. We appreciate your comment and your participation in this process.