

2019 Survey of Big Cottonwood Creeks Irrigated Acreage under EPA/DEQ Clean Water Act Waiver

99.5% of reasonable basis to discharge polluting Utah Lake Water into the pristine Big Cottonwood Creek under an Clean Water Act waiver by DEQ and EPA ended decades ago. In the early 1900's, 9,000 acres were being irrigated from Big Cottonwood Creek. Today the irrigated acreage is about 50. Utah Lake water was exchanged for mountain water by Salt Lake City resulting in Utah Lake water discharges into Big Cottonwood Creek. Salt Lake City continues this outdated practice by operating the Jordan and Salt Lake Canal at a cost of over \$800,000 a year canaling water along the east bench of Salt Lake County from Utah Lake to Temple Square.

Moreover, for over 20 years, Salt Lake City's watershed policy has been to eliminate these Utah Lake exchange contracts.¹ It's past time to end this outdated 100 year old practice and restore Big Cottonwood Creek to its historical pristine state.

Big Cottonwood Creek Irrigation 1910	Irrigated Acres
² Butler Ditch (closed)	70
Brown & Sanford (closed)	500
Upper Canal Irrigation Company	1480
Upper Ellison Irrigation Company	100
Newman Ditch Company	40
Tanner Ditch Company	1860
Green Ditch Company	742
Walker Ditch Company	45
Farr & Harper Irrigation Company	64
Big Cottonwood Lower Canal Company	816
Big Ditch Irrigation Company (closing)	2400
Hill Ditch Irrigation Company (closing)	300
Bagley & Knudsen Irrigation Company	4
McGhie Irrigation Company	343
Harper & Taylor Irrigation Company	25
Lower Ellison Irrigation Company	45
Severson Irrigation Company	60
Bagley Ditch Company	60
Knudsen Ditch Company	?
Total historic irrigated acres	8954
2019 irrigated acres	50 (1/2%)



Saveourbigcottonwoodcreek.org
Evan Johnson 801-369-3400 utah15@gmail.com

1 **“3. Irrigation Exchange Contracts. - Recommendation:** Eliminate the exchange contracts and purchase the contracts outright.” Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan Final Draft march , 1999 page Lxv (65)

2 Progress Case Findings of Facts page 333