

HISTORY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Where does our culinary water in Cottonwood Heights come from and why was the Little Cottonwood Treatment Plant built when the Salt Lake Aqueduct was already in place?

ANSWER

The Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy owns and operates two large aqueducts for the purpose of conveying water. The Salt Lake Aqueduct (SLA) is a 42 mile long pipeline that carries water from Deer Creek Reservoir in Wasatch County to a storage reservoir in Salt Lake County. The Point of the Mountain Aqueduct (POMA) is the connecting pipeline between the Point of the Mountain Water Treatment Plant and the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant. This, 12 miles of pipeline travels from Draper to Cottonwood Heights.

The Little Cottonwood Treatment Plant (LCTP) was built to provide water for the burgeoning population of Salt Lake City and the Sandy/Cottonwood Heights area. The LCWTP was completed in 1960 and designed to treat 113 million gallons of water per day. The capacity of the plant was increased to 143 million gallons of water per day in 2007. Other major improvements were also made. The plant is positioned in line with the Salt lake Aqueduct such that raw untreated water can enter the plant and finished/treated water can be transported through SLA to the terminal reservoir. Only 15% of the treated water goes to Salt Lake City. The remainder is supplied to the Sandy/Cottonwood Heights/Holladay areas. Additional water from Little Cottonwood Creek and Bell Canyon is also treated and used.

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