



Hello Santaquin residents and business owners,

I hope this note finds you all well.

I wanted to write regarding our current 2023 water year situation.

As you know, we have experienced a very heavy and wet winter season. At present, (as of March 18, 2023), our current snowpack along with the amount of water in that snowpack is at historically high levels. That said, the current snowpack and water therein is at roughly the same level as it was back in 2019. 2019 is the highest year we have on record for the Snotel site up in the Santaquin Canyon Meadows (No official records exist dating back to the floods of 1983).

In and around Santaquin City, there are many drainage systems that have been in place for decades. These systems include the Utah County owned and operated debris basin at the mouth of Santaquin Canyon and the downstream overflow channel, pipes, ditches, culverts, and canals owned and operated by the Summit Creek Irrigation & Canal Company, and the pipes, channels, culverts, etc., owned and operated by Santaquin City.

As your Mayor, I have witnessed all of these facilities as they have operated successfully for decades to attenuate high water flows and as they have protected Santaquin residents. These systems are currently functioning properly. We anticipate that they will continue to do so over the next few weeks and during the anticipated high water flows that are ahead of us. For instance, did you know that, during the 2019 high water flows, all of these systems worked very well. During that high water runoff year, no homes were flooded.

There are also a few newer systems that have been constructed within the last decade or so. These newer systems have also operated as designed and have helped protect homes from flooding.

With all of that said, nothing is perfect. Some flooding may be experienced. For instance, if the weather heats up very quickly, high runoff flows will increase. Additionally, if we receive a very heavy "rain on snow event" **up in the mountains**, high runoff flows will increase. We have not experienced either of these types of events to this point this year, and we hope to not have to face them. But none of us can control "Mother Nature". As a note, the rains that we have recently received down here in town over the past couple of weeks (with snow in up in the canyon), are typically not so much of an issue. Our existing stormwater systems are currently functioning properly.

As I stated in my March 2023 newsletter article

(https://www.santaquin.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/community/page/16464/march_2023_newsletter.pdf),

“Generally, the high runoff water starts around the first week of April and will ramp up as the temperatures increase. We should see peaks in May. We will work diligently to maintain the best control possible of all of the waters that flow from the canyons.”

“To ensure you are all aware, the committee that manages flood mitigation and high runoff water consists of Santaquin City, the Utah County engineer, the Utah County maintenance dept., Summit Creek Irrigation and Canal Company, and others. We have met with this committee and will continue to meet monthly and then possibly bi-weekly as we near the high-water season. These meetings ensure that attention is being paid to all details and eyes are on every area where issues may occur.”

If you are new to Santaquin or live in a newer home, please make sure to direct storm water coming from your yards, roofs, and downspouts away from your window wells. We have heard of a couple of instances where basements did experience some flooding due to these types of issues. These are typically a result of insufficient drainage for landscaping, roof drains, downspouts, and areas around window wells and homes.

At present, our high water runoff has not yet started in earnest. If the time arises where and when we need your help as volunteers, we will put the call out on our website, through City social media channels, etc. If a need arises, we may ask for volunteers to fill and place sandbags, or help your neighbors, etc.

Again, please know that the flood committee is working to take all precautions that are possible to help protect homes and businesses in Santaquin. We will continue to do so.

The very best that can happen is that Mother Nature will cooperate with periods of warmer days followed by cooler days. If this can happen, the high runoff water can come down in a more orderly fashion and the existing systems can handle the flows.

If you happen to live near a major drainage channel, ditch, etc., that may run adjacent or through your yard, we encourage you to remove any debris, trees, sticks, trash, etc. City crews have already done quite a bit of this clearing and cleaning, but we can always use your help in areas we don't see or cannot get to.

Additionally, if you live near a major drainage channel or other area and feel that you would like a few sandbags, the City has a limited number of those that you can fill and use for your individual homes.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself (mayor@santaquin.org), our City Manager, Norm Beagley (nbeagley@santaquin.org), or our City Emergency Manager, Chris Lindquist (clindquist@santaquin.org).

All my best to you and your families,

Mayor Dan Olson