Dredging Gunlock Speaking Points

- Because naturally occurring sediment of around 50 to 100 acre feet flows into Gunlock Reservoir annually, dredging the reservoir is part of the district's ongoing operation and maintenance planning.
- But dredging adds no new permanent capacity and is a temporary and unreliable band aid. The Santa Clara River is a sediment-laden river with stream banks vulnerable to erosion during high flows. Additional sediment will continue to accumulate in Gunlock during high flow events. For example, after dredging Gunlock in 2010, a large flood refilled the reservoir with sediment the very next year, leading to a second dredging in 2014.
- Although it is likely that the district will dredge Gunlock again, the district carefully evaluates the risks, benefits, and timing of doing so because dredging is not a reliable source of added capacity and is extremely expensive, both financially and environmentally.
- Depending on the process, dredging may require draining the reservoir to run equipment through the basin and haul material, resulting in significant water loss.
- Dredging Gunlock would temporarily allow for more storage of Santa Clara River water. But additional storage is dependent on the hydrology of the system, and Santa Clara River flows fluctuate widely year to year.
- Unlike river flows, reuse water is a consistent, drought-resilient source.
- The district's 20-year water supply plan shows the need to develop a reuse system that can deliver close to 25,000 acre-feet of water annually. Dry Wash Reservoir is part of that system, while Gunlock Reservoir is not.
- Dredging Gunlock does not directly augment the ability to store and use reuse water and, therefore, does not replace the purpose and need for Dry Wash Reservoir.
- Without the ability to store reuse water during low irrigation demands, it is discharged to the Virgin River and lost from the system. Reuse water allows for greater local control of our water resources.
- The Regional Reuse System will supply Type 1 reuse water to local municipalities and irrigation companies for irrigation use. This exchange will free up other supplies of water that can be used as potable supplies.
- The district is planning to construct a surface water treatment facility on the west side of the county to treat the freed-up water from Gunlock Reservoir to drinking water standards for delivery to Ivins residents.
- Reduced storage of reuse water would limit the ability to deliver drinking water.

Commented [GE1]: Is there anything about the obligation to the Shivwits worth mentioning?