

## **2015 Public Community Water Use Data Collection Effort**

During this summer, the Division of Water Resources (DWRe) collected 2015 customer level potable (drinking water quality) water use data from approximately 470 Public Community Systems that are regulated by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) in the State. In addition, the DWRe estimated the secondary use (untreated water used for lawn and garden irrigation) occurring within the service area boundaries of those systems. This secondary water use is usually delivered by separate irrigation and/or secondary water systems and is usually not metered at the individual customer level.

The basis for this data collection comes from the Division of Water Rights (DWRi) Utah Water Use Data Form. Each year, in the month of January, the DWRi sends out this form to all of the Public Community Systems in the state. Each system is instructed to fill out the form and complete it and send it back by the end of March. DWRe began its 2015 data collection in June, 2016 and has worked to complete this task by end of September, 2016 and are now working to publish the results.

By June 2016, of the 470 Public Community Systems, only 315 had submitted the form to DWRi; and of those, only 142 systems data were adequate and accurate. Five DWRe staff members and the assistance from DWRi, Rural Water Users Association, Jordan Valley WCD, Central Utah WCD, Washington County and Weber Basin WCD worked with local water providers, over the last several months, to obtain the remaining data accurate water use data. The data collection work is now nearing completion and the 470 Public Community Systems 2015 water use is being entered into the DWRe water use database with documentation on how the data was obtained. About 10% of the systems were unable to be contacted and/or accurate 2015 data obtained. Therefore, for those systems, water use was estimated based on the most recent data. The DWRe is in the process of summarizing all of this data by the various hydrologic basins and counties of the state.

## **Establishing Rules**

Senate Bill 251 from the 2016 Legislative session charges the DWRe and Board of Water Resources to work with the State Water Development Commission in making rules in preparation to make loans from the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account (WIRA). In helping to make those rules, DWRe is to work together to: establish criteria for better water data and data reporting; establish new water conservation targets; have independent verification and review of the data; proposed construction plan and a plan to repay the construction loan of a potential WIRA funded project; invite/recommend public involvement; and set appropriate financing and repayment terms.

During the 2015 Legislative session SB 281 Water Infrastructure Funding setup the WIRA account and directed the DWRe make rules for the account. The DWRe went through the Rules process and rules were published for the WIRA fund in the fall of 2015. Rule 653-2 Financial Assistance from the Board of Water Resources specifically directed to the WIRA fund.

### **Drafting Request For Proposals**

There are specific tasks directed from Senate Bill 251 that will be addressed through Requests for Proposals. Specifically, they are:

- A. Establish criteria for:
  - a. Better water data and data reporting;
  - b. New water conservation targets based on data collected.
- B. For a potential WIRA sponsored projects establish plan for independent review of:
  - a. Proposed construction plan;
  - b. The plan to repay the construction loan.

When these studies are completed, other SB 251 tasks will also be addressed through the DWRe, Board of Water Resources, the Water Development Commission and Legislative Management Committee, such as public involvement and setting appropriate financing and repayment terms for WIRA funded projects.