

Representative Casey Snider proposes the following substitute bill:

WATER RELATED CHANGES

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Casey Snider

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses issues related to water.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ modifies provisions related to the formulation of a state water plan;
- ▶ requires a study of the financing of water infrastructure projects and provides a sunset date for the study;
- ▶ modifies provisions related to the Water Development Coordinating Council;
- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates the Water Infrastructure Fund;
- ▶ modifies provisions of the Watershed Councils Act;
- ▶ provides for rulemaking;
- ▶ enacts planning and prioritization provisions, including:
 - defining terms;
 - requiring a unified water infrastructure plan;
 - providing for ranking and prioritizing of water infrastructure projects;
 - addressing duties; and
 - requiring reserve studies and capital asset management; and



26 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

27 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

28 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

29 ▶ to Department of Natural Resources - Water Infrastructure Fund as a one-time
30 appropriation:

31 • from the General Fund, One-time, \$5,000,000

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33 None

34 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

35 AMENDS:

36 **63I-1-273**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 205, 261

37 **73-10c-3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 238

38 **73-10g-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 458

39 **73-10g-301**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 309

40 **73-10g-302**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 309

41 **73-10g-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 65

42 **73-10g-305**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 309

43 **73-10g-306**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 309

44 ENACTS:

45 **73-10-39**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

46 **73-10g-107**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

47 **73-10g-601**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

48 **73-10g-602**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

49 **73-10g-603**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

50 **73-10g-604**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

51 **73-10g-605**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

52 REPEALS AND REENACTS:

53 **73-10-15**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1967, Chapter 176

54 REPEALS:

55 **73-10-17**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1963, Chapter 178

56

57 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

58 Section 1. Section **63I-1-273** is amended to read:

59 **63I-1-273. Repeal dates: Title 73.**

60 (1) Title 73, Chapter 27, Legislative Water Development Commission, is repealed
61 January 1, 2031.

62 (2) Section 73-10-39, which requires a study related to financing water infrastructure,
63 is repealed July 1, 2027.

64 [~~2~~] (3) Title 73, Chapter 10g, Part 2, Agricultural Water Optimization, is repealed
65 July 1, 2028.

66 [~~3~~] (4) Section 73-18-3.5, which authorizes the Division of Outdoor Recreation to
67 appoint an advisory council that includes in the advisory council's duties advising on boating
68 policies, is repealed July 1, 2024.

69 [~~4~~] (5) In relation to Title 73, Chapter 31, Water Banking Act, on December 31,
70 2030:

71 (a) Subsection 73-1-4(2)(e)(xi) is repealed;

72 (b) Subsection 73-10-4(1)(h) is repealed; and

73 (c) Title 73, Chapter 31, Water Banking Act, is repealed.

74 [~~5~~] (6) Sections 73-32-302 and 73-32-303, related to the Great Salt Lake Advisory
75 Council, are repealed July 1, 2027.

76 Section 2. Section **73-10-15** is repealed and reenacted to read:

77 **73-10-15. State water plan -- Entities to cooperate in formulation of plan.**

78 (1) As used in this section:

79 (a) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources created under Section 73-10-18.

80 (b) "State water plan" means a comprehensive framework that identifies available
81 water resources, recommends strategies for water resource optimization, and guides efforts to
82 manage available water supplies.

83 (2) (a) Beginning on or before December 31, 2026, the division shall publish a state
84 water plan that:

85 (i) is consistent with the state water policy established in Section 73-1-21;

86 (ii) references the state unified water infrastructure plan created by the Water
87 Development Coordinating Council under Section 73-10g-602;

88 (iii) fosters communities and businesses;

89 (iv) facilitates local agriculture;

90 (v) addresses outdoor recreation; and

91 (vi) provides for a healthy environment.

92 (b) The state water plan may include recommendations for policy, fiscal support,
93 implementation of findings by governmental and private institutions, and public engagement.

94 (c) In formulating the state water plan, the division shall seek input from a wide range
95 of stakeholders, including representatives from agriculture and other water dependent
96 businesses, conservationists, recreation interests, government entities, academia, and Utah
97 residents in general.

98 (d) The division shall update the state water plan no less frequently than every ten
99 years.

100 (3) The following shall cooperate with the division in the formulation of the state water
101 plan:

102 (a) the following state entities:

103 (i) the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget;

104 (ii) the Department of Agriculture and Food;

105 (iii) within the Department of Natural Resources:

106 (A) the Division of Water Rights;

107 (B) the Utah Geological Survey;

108 (C) the Division of Wildlife Resources;

109 (D) the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands; and

110 (E) the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office;

111 (iv) within the Department of Environmental Quality:

112 (A) the Division of Drinking Water; and

113 (B) the Division of Water Quality;

114 (v) the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner; and

115 (vi) the Colorado River Authority of Utah;

116 (b) the following local entities:

117 (i) a water conservancy district created under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 10, Water
118 Conservancy District Act; and

119 (ii) a local watershed council created under Chapter 10g, Part 3, Watershed Councils
120 Act; and

121 (c) any other state or local entity that the division considers necessary.

122 (4) A state entity identified in Subsection (3)(a) shall designate an individual to assist
123 and advise the division in the formulation of a state water plan.

124 (5) The division shall use information, including water resources data, that has been or
125 will be assembled by state entities, the United States government, various colleges and
126 universities of the state, or any other source that can profitably contribute to the development of
127 the state water plan.

128 (6) In accordance with this section, an entity described in Subsection (3) shall
129 cooperate with the division unless the cooperation would directly impair the authority granted
130 to the entity by statute.

131 (7) The Utah Watersheds Council shall advise the division concerning state water
132 planning activities.

133 Section 3. Section **73-10-39** is enacted to read:

134 **73-10-39. Study and recommendations related to the financing of water**
135 **infrastructure.**

136 (1) As used in this section:

137 (a) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources.

138 (b) "Water infrastructure projects" means the same as that term is defined in Section
139 [73-10g-102](#).

140 (2) (a) The division shall study and make recommendations, to be completed by
141 October 31, 2024, concerning:

142 (i) which funds or accounts used to finance water infrastructure projects should be tied
143 to the planning and prioritization process in Chapter 10g, Part 6, Planning and Prioritization;
144 and

145 (ii) whether any funds or accounts should be consolidated.

146 (b) The division shall study and make recommendations, to be completed by October
147 31, 2025, concerning whether to impose a new fee to fund water infrastructure projects
148 identified in the unified water infrastructure plan adopted under Section [73-10g-602](#) and
149 consistent with the planning and prioritization process in Chapter 10g, Part 6, Planning and

150 Prioritization. The study shall consider:

- 151 (i) who is assessed the fee;
- 152 (ii) how to calculate the fee amount, including any adjustments to the fee amount over
- 153 time;
- 154 (iii) the process for collecting the fee;
- 155 (iv) where the money collected should be deposited;
- 156 (v) whether the revenue stream should be configured as a tax rather than a fee;
- 157 (vi) how the money collected should be spent;
- 158 (vii) the affordability of the fee for end users; and
- 159 (viii) how to assure that the revenue is distributed equitably statewide.

160 (3) In conducting a study described in Subsection (2), the division shall:

- 161 (a) work cooperatively with the Water Development Coordinating Council; and
- 162 (b) consult with a wide range of stakeholders with diverse interests, including those
- 163 with expertise in water development and delivery, tax policy, and water funding.

164 (4) The division shall report the division's findings and recommendations to the
165 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee by no later than:

- 166 (a) for the study described in Subsection (2)(a), the November 2024 interim meeting of
- 167 the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and
- 168 (b) for the study described in Subsection (2)(b), the November 2025 interim meeting of
- 169 the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.

170 Section 4. Section 73-10c-3 is amended to read:

171 **73-10c-3. Water Development Coordinating Council created -- Purpose --**

172 **Members.**

173 (1) (a) There is created within the Department of Natural Resources a Water
174 Development Coordinating Council. The council is comprised of:

- 175 (i) the director of the Division of Water Resources;
- 176 (ii) the executive secretary of the Water Quality Board;
- 177 (iii) the executive secretary of the Drinking Water Board;
- 178 (iv) the director of the Housing and Community Development Division or the director's
- 179 designee;
- 180 (v) the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designee; [and]

181 (vi) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food, or the
182 commissioner's designee[-]; and
183 (vii) an individual appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate
184 who is:
185 (A) familiar with water infrastructure projects, including planning, financing,
186 construction, or operation; and
187 (B) employed by a water conservancy district that is subject to the asset management
188 criteria of Section 17B-2a-1010.
189 (b) The council shall choose a chair and vice chair from among the council's own
190 members, except the chair and vice chair may not be from the same department.
191 (c) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but
192 may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:
193 (i) Section 63A-3-106;
194 (ii) Section 63A-3-107; and
195 (iii) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and
196 63A-3-107.
197 (2) The purposes of the council are to:
198 (a) coordinate the use and application of the [~~funds~~] money available to the state to
199 give financial assistance to political subdivisions of this state so as to promote the
200 conservation, development, treatment, restoration, and protection of the waters of this state;
201 (b) promote the coordination of the financial assistance programs administered by the
202 state and the use of the financing alternative most economically advantageous to the state and
203 its political subdivisions;
204 (c) promote the consideration by the Board of Water Resources, Drinking Water
205 Board, and Water Quality Board of regional solutions to the water and wastewater needs of
206 individual political subdivisions of this state;
207 (d) assess the adequacy and needs of the state and its political subdivisions with respect
208 to water-related infrastructures and advise the governor and the Legislature on those funding
209 needs; [~~and~~]
210 (e) conduct reviews and reports on water-related infrastructure issues as directed by
211 statute[-];

212 (f) engage in planning and prioritization of water infrastructure projects in accordance
213 with Chapter 10g, Part 6, Planning and Prioritization; and

214 (g) expend money from the Water Infrastructure Fund in accordance with Section
215 73-10g-107.

216 Section 5. Section **73-10g-102** is amended to read:

217 **73-10g-102. Definitions.**

218 As used in this chapter:

219 (1) "Board" means the Board of Water Resources[;].

220 (2) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources[; ~~and~~].

221 (3) "Restricted account" means the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account created in
222 Section 73-10g-103.

223 (4) "Water Infrastructure Fund" means the enterprise fund created in Section
224 73-10g-107.

225 (5) "Water infrastructure project" means:

226 (a) the following for the supply, control, measurement, treatment, distribution, storage,
227 or transport of water:

228 (i) planning;

229 (ii) design;

230 (iii) construction;

231 (iv) reconstruction;

232 (v) improvement;

233 (vi) renovation;

234 (vii) acquisition; or

235 (viii) seismic upgrade; or

236 (b) a project to engage in planning consistent with Part 6, Planning and Prioritization.

237 Section 6. Section **73-10g-107** is enacted to read:

238 **73-10g-107. Water Infrastructure Fund.**

239 (1) There is created an enterprise fund known as the "Water Infrastructure Fund,"
240 which is referred to in this section as the "fund."

241 (2) The fund shall consist of:

242 (a) appropriations from the Legislature;

- 243 (b) money from the federal government;
- 244 (c) grants or donations from a person;
- 245 (d) money made available to the state for purposes of water infrastructure projects from
- 246 any source;
- 247 (e) money received for the repayment of loans made from the fund; and
- 248 (f) interest and earnings on the fund.

249 (3) The state treasurer shall invest the money in the fund according to Title 51, Chapter
 250 7, State Money Management Act, except that interest or other earnings derived from those
 251 investments shall be deposited into the fund.

252 (4) (a) The Water Development Coordinating Council may use money in the fund to
 253 pay for the costs of administering Part 6, Planning and Prioritization, including staff directly
 254 related to the activities of the Water Development Coordinating Council under Part 6, Planning
 255 and Prioritization.

256 (b) The division may use money in the fund to pay for the costs of the study required
 257 by Section [73-10-39](#).

258 (c) Fund money may be used to issue loans or grants prioritized in accordance with
 259 Section [73-10g-603](#).

260 Section 7. Section **73-10g-301** is amended to read:

Part 3. Watershed Councils Act

73-10g-301. Implementation of part.

263 [~~(1)~~ This part is known as the "Watershed Councils Act." (2)] This part shall be
 264 liberally construed to:

265 [~~(a)~~] (1) provide input to the Water Development Coordinating Council regarding
 266 infrastructure planning on a watershed and state level in accordance with Part 6, Planning and
 267 Prioritization;

268 (2) develop diverse and balanced stakeholder forums for discussion of water policy and
 269 resource issues at watershed and state levels that are not vested with regulatory, infrastructure
 270 financing, or enforcement powers or responsibilities; and

271 [~~(b)~~] (3) use local expertise and resources found in universities and other research
 272 institutions or in regional, state, and federal agencies.

273 Section 8. Section **73-10g-302** is amended to read:

274 **73-10g-302. Definitions.**

275 As used in this part:

276 (1) "Council" means the state council or a local council created under this part.

277 (2) "Local council" means a local [~~watershed~~] council created in accordance with

278 Section [73-10g-306](#).

279 (3) "State council" means the Utah Watersheds Council created in Section [73-10g-304](#).

280 (4) "Utah Water Task Force" means a task force created by the Department of Natural
281 Resources to review and make recommendations regarding water issues.

282 Section 9. Section **73-10g-304** is amended to read:

283 **73-10g-304. Utah Watersheds Council -- Creation and governance.**

284 (1) Within the Department of Natural Resources, there is created the "Utah Watersheds
285 Council" consisting of the following members who are residents of the state:

286 (a) the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources;

287 (b) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality;

288 (c) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;

289 (d) the director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs;

290 (e) the Utah State University Extension vice president;

291 (f) the director of the Division of Emergency Management within the Department of
292 Public Safety;

293 (g) a representative designated by the Utah Association of Counties;

294 (h) a representative designated by the Utah League of Cities and Towns;

295 (i) a representative designated by the Utah Association of Special Districts;

296 (j) a representative of reclamation projects located in the state selected by the governor
297 from a list of three persons nominated jointly by the local sponsors of reclamation projects
298 located in the state and the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources;

299 (k) a representative of agricultural interests selected by the governor from a list of three
300 persons nominated jointly by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food, the
301 president of the Utah Farm Bureau, and the Utah State University Extension vice president;

302 (l) a representative of environmental conservation interests selected by the governor
303 from a list of three persons nominated jointly by the executive directors of the Department of
304 Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources;

305 (m) a representative of business and industry water interests selected by the governor
306 from a list of three individuals nominated jointly by the Utah Manufacturers Association, Utah
307 Mining Association, and Utah Petroleum Association;

308 (n) an attorney who is authorized to practice law in the state, who has recognized
309 expertise in water law, and is selected by the governor from a list of three individuals
310 nominated jointly by the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, the
311 executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality, and the commissioner of the
312 Department of Agriculture and Food; ~~and~~

313 (o) the state engineer, as a nonvoting member;

314 (p) the director of the division, as a nonvoting member; and

315 ~~[(o)]~~ (q) the designated individual selected by a local ~~watershed~~ council certified
316 under Section 73-10g-306.

317 (2) (a) The state council shall:

318 (i) organize the state council as provided in this part;

319 (ii) select a chair and at least one vice-chair from among the members of the state
320 council to have powers and duties provided in the organizing documents adopted by the state
321 council; and

322 (iii) adopt policies to govern the state council's activities, including policies for the
323 creation of subcommittees that may be less than a quorum of the state council and may include
324 persons of suitable expertise who are not state council members.

325 (b) The state council shall make the organizing documents and policies created under
326 Subsection (2)(a) available:

327 (i) to the public;

328 (ii) at each meeting of the state council; and

329 (iii) on a public website maintained by the division for council business.

330 (3) The state council may invite federal agencies to name representatives as liaisons to
331 the state council.

332 (4) The state council shall stagger the initial terms of the state council members listed
333 in Subsections (1)(g) through (n), after which members will be replaced according to policies
334 adopted by the state council.

335 (5) After the state council's initial organization, the state council may hold regular and

336 special meetings at such locations within the state and on a schedule as the state council
337 determines, provided that the state council shall meet at least semi-annually.

338 (6) A majority of the voting members of the state council constitutes a quorum.

339 (7) The action of the majority of the voting members of the state council constitutes the
340 action of the state council.

341 (8) (a) The state council policies may allow that a properly authorized representative of
342 a voting member of the state council may act in the place of that voting member if the voting
343 member is absent or unable to act.

344 (b) The state council shall enter in the record of a meeting proper documentation of a
345 representative's authority to act on behalf of the voting member under this Subsection (8).

346 (c) Authorization to act on behalf of a voting member may be given for more than one
347 meeting.

348 (d) Authorization to act on behalf of a voting member shall comply with the policies
349 adopted by the state council.

350 (9) (a) The division shall staff the state council.

351 (b) The division may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
352 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to facilitate the creation and operation of the state council.

353 Section 10. Section **73-10g-305** is amended to read:

354 **73-10g-305. Role of the state council -- Reporting.**

355 (1) The state council [~~is directed to~~] shall:

356 (a) serve as a forum to encourage and facilitate discussion and collaboration by and
357 among the stakeholders relative to the water-related interests of the state and the state's people
358 and institutions;

359 (b) facilitate communication and coordination between the Department of Natural
360 Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Environmental Quality,
361 and other state and federal agencies in the administration and implementation of water-related
362 activities;

363 (c) facilitate the establishment of local [~~watershed~~] councils by certifying a local
364 council:

365 (i) for the watersheds defined in Section **73-10g-303**; and

366 (ii) after reviewing the proceedings and documents submitted by proposed local

367 councils, to ensure that the local council meets the certification requirements in Section
368 [73-10g-306](#);

369 (d) provide resources and support for the administration of local councils;

370 (e) consult and seek guidance from local councils; [~~and~~]

371 (f) advise the Water Development Coordinating Council regarding a unified water
372 infrastructure plan in accordance with Section [73-10g-602](#); and

373 [~~(f)~~] (g) provide advice to the governor and Legislature on water issues.

374 (2) The state council shall provide updates on the state council's activities annually, or
375 as invited, to:

376 (a) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee;

377 (b) the Legislative Water Development Commission; and

378 (c) the Utah Water Task Force.

379 Section 11. Section **73-10g-306** is amended to read:

380 **73-10g-306. Local councils -- Creation.**

381 (1) A proposed local [~~watershed~~] council may be certified by the Utah Watersheds
382 Council under Subsection [73-10g-305](#)(1)(c) if:

383 (a) the organizing documents and policies of the proposed local [~~watershed~~] council:

384 (i) provide for an open and equitable system of governance;

385 (ii) encourage participation by a water user or group of water users, other watershed
386 groups, mutual irrigation companies, distribution system committees, and other stakeholders
387 within the watershed; and

388 (iii) require that:

389 (A) a majority of the members of the local council constitutes a quorum; and

390 (B) an action of the local council be approved by no less than a majority of the
391 members of the local council;

392 (b) in a balance appropriate for the watershed, the proposed local council membership
393 includes watershed stakeholders who reside or work within the watershed or own or control the
394 right to divert or use water within the watershed and is representative, where feasible, of at
395 least these interests:

396 (i) agriculture;

397 (ii) industry;

- 398 (iii) Indian tribes;
- 399 (iv) public water suppliers, as defined in Section 73-1-4;
- 400 (v) water planning and research institutions;
- 401 (vi) water quality;
- 402 (vii) fish and wildlife;
- 403 (viii) water dependent habitat and environments;
- 404 (ix) watershed management, such as distribution system committees functioning within
- 405 the watershed;

406 (x) mutual irrigation companies;

407 (xi) land use planning agencies; and

408 [~~(xi)~~] (xii) local sponsors of [~~reclamation~~] Bureau of Reclamation projects;

409 (c) for each of the five watersheds that drain into Great Salt Lake, the proposed local
410 council includes a person designated by the Great Salt Lake local watershed council, if the
411 Great Salt Lake local [~~watershed~~] council is certified; and

412 (d) for the Great Salt Lake watershed, the proposed local council includes a person
413 designated by each of the five watersheds that drain into Great Salt Lake that has a certified
414 local watershed council.

415 (2) A local council may invite state and federal agencies to name representatives as
416 liaisons to the local council.

417 Section 12. Section 73-10g-601 is enacted to read:

418 **Part 6. Planning and Prioritization**

419 **73-10g-601. Definitions.**

420 As used in this part:

421 (1) "Agency plan" means a water infrastructure plan adopted by a relevant agency.

422 (2) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Natural
423 Resources.

424 (3) "Relevant agency" means:

425 (a) the Division of Water Resources;

426 (b) the Division of Drinking Water;

427 (c) the Division of Water Quality;

428 (d) the Housing and Community Development Division; and

429 (e) the Department of Agriculture and Food.

430 (4) "State council" means the Water Development Coordinating Council created in
431 Sections 73-10c-3 and 79-2-201.

432 (5) "Utah Watersheds Council" means the Utah Watersheds Council created in Section
433 73-10g-304.

434 (6) "Water infrastructure fund money" means money in the Water Infrastructure Fund
435 created by Section 73-10g-107.

436 Section 13. Section **73-10g-602** is enacted to read:

437 **73-10g-602. Unified water infrastructure plan -- Annual reporting.**

438 (1) (a) The state council shall adopt a unified water infrastructure plan in accordance
439 with this section by no later than March 1, 2026.

440 (b) The state council shall update the unified water infrastructure plan as needed, but at
441 least every four years.

442 (c) A relevant agency may request that the state council amend the unified water
443 infrastructure plan.

444 (2) A unified water infrastructure plan shall:

445 (a) describe water infrastructure projects:

446 (i) needed to maintain the reliable supply of safe and clean water within the state; and

447 (ii) organized in 10-year phases up to at least a 20-year plan;

448 (b) be consistent with the policies, goals, and recommendations of the state water plan;

449 and

450 (c) be based primarily on agency plans submitted by the relevant agencies.

451 (3) Beginning on June 30, 2025, a relevant agency shall:

452 (a) annually adopt a water infrastructure agency plan that describes and ranks needed
453 water infrastructure projects under the jurisdiction of the relevant agency;

454 (b) include in the agency plan ranking justifications and descriptions of whether a
455 water infrastructure project is:

456 (i) ready for construction;

457 (ii) planning for construction; or

458 (iii) a future project.

459 (c) organize an agency plan under this section in 10-year phases up to at least a 20-year

460 plan; and

461 (d) annually submit the agency plan to the state council by no later than June 30.

462 (4) Before adopting or amending a unified water infrastructure plan, the state council
463 shall provide a draft of the proposed unified water infrastructure plan to the Utah Watersheds
464 Council and the Utah Watersheds Council may advise the state council concerning the unified
465 water infrastructure plan.

466 (5) (a) Beginning September 1, 2024, a relevant agency shall annually prepare a report
467 and submit it to the state council concerning the funds or accounts that the relevant agency
468 administers.

469 (b) The report required by this Subsection (5) shall provide for the fund or account:

470 (i) the balance at the beginning of the fiscal year of the report;

471 (ii) revenues received from any source during the fiscal year;

472 (iii) the ending balance after the close of the fiscal year; and

473 (iv) projected revenues and disbursements for the coming fiscal year.

474 (c) The state council shall compile the reports submitted pursuant to this Subsection (5)
475 by no later than October 1 and distribute the compiled report to:

476 (i) the governor;

477 (ii) the Legislative Management Committee;

478 (iii) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and

479 (iv) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations
480 Subcommittee.

481 Section 14. Section **73-10g-603** is enacted to read:

482 **73-10g-603. Ranking and prioritizing water infrastructure projects.**

483 (1) The state council, in consultation with the relevant agencies, shall develop a written
484 prioritization process for ranking and prioritizing water infrastructure projects that are or will
485 be funded by water infrastructure fund money beginning with fiscal year 2027. The written
486 prioritization process shall:

487 (a) identify water infrastructure projects listed in the unified water infrastructure plan
488 described in Section [73-10g-602](#); and

489 (b) rank the water infrastructure projects identified under Subsection (1)(a).

490 (2) The following shall be included in the written prioritization process under

491 Subsection (1):

492 (a) subject to Subsection (3), categories of the types of water infrastructure projects
493 against which other water infrastructure projects are prioritized;

494 (b) exclusion of the following types of water infrastructure projects:

495 (i) an emergency water infrastructure project; or

496 (ii) a small water infrastructure project that receives less than an amount of water
497 infrastructure fund money established by rule made by the state council in accordance with
498 Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;

499 (c) hardship criteria that at a minimum refer to the hardship criteria of the Division of
500 Drinking Water and the Division of Water Quality;

501 (d) criteria related to the public interest, including conservation and the protection of
502 public health and safety;

503 (e) criteria to ensure that the project is adequately designed based on sound engineering
504 and geologic considerations;

505 (f) criteria for ranking or prioritizing a local water infrastructure project based on:

506 (i) a local water infrastructure plan that is consistent with this section; and

507 (ii) consultation with local entities about local water infrastructure projects;

508 (g) criteria for ranking or prioritizing a water infrastructure project when water
509 infrastructure fund money will be used to match federal funding;

510 (h) a requirement that a person who receives water infrastructure fund money for a
511 water infrastructure project:

512 (i) engage in long-term planning consistent with Section [73-10g-602](#); and

513 (ii) comply with Section [73-10g-605](#); and

514 (i) any other provision the state council considers appropriate.

515 (3) When including categories of types of water infrastructure projects used in the
516 written prioritization process, the state council shall consider:

517 (a) whether to apply percentages of water infrastructure fund money assigned to each
518 category;

519 (b) the size and resources of recipients; and

520 (c) the potential purposes of the different types of water infrastructure projects, such as
521 agricultural, municipal, or industrial uses.

522 (4) In developing the written prioritization process, the state council shall seek and
523 consider public comment related to developing the written prioritization process by holding
524 public meetings at locations throughout the state in accordance with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open
525 and Public Meetings Act.

526 (5) (a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
527 the state council shall make rules establishing the written prioritization process under
528 Subsection (1).

529 (b) The state council shall submit a proposed rule to a committee or commission
530 designated by the Legislative Management Committee for review before taking final action on
531 the proposed rule or a proposed amendment to the rule described in this Subsection (5).

532 (6) In determining priorities and funding levels of water infrastructure projects, the
533 state council shall use the ranked list of water infrastructure projects based on the criteria
534 adopted in the written prioritization process under Subsection (1).

535 (7) A relevant agency shall annually report to the state council on the status of new
536 water infrastructure projects, including water infrastructure projects that are funded by the
537 Legislature in an appropriation act.

538 (8) For a fiscal year before fiscal year 2027, a relevant agency shall prioritize water
539 infrastructure projects within the jurisdiction of the relevant agency and not the state council.

540 Section 15. Section **73-10g-604** is enacted to read:

541 **73-10g-604. State council's general duties related to prioritizing -- Reporting --**
542 **Relevant agency actions.**

543 (1) The state council shall:

544 (a) beginning with fiscal year 2027, determine priorities and funding levels of water
545 infrastructure projects for each fiscal year based on ranked water infrastructure projects;

546 (b) hold public meetings in accordance with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public
547 Meetings Act, and otherwise provide for public input on funding of water infrastructure
548 projects; and

549 (c) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
550 Rulemaking Act, necessary to perform the state council's duties related to:

551 (i) adopting the unified water infrastructure plan;

552 (ii) adopting a written prioritization plan; and

- 553 (iii) prioritizing and setting funding levels for water infrastructure projects.
- 554 (2) (a) For water infrastructure projects prioritized with funding provided under this
555 title, the state council shall annually report, by no later than the October interim meeting of the
556 Legislature, to a committee or commission designated by the Legislative Management
557 Committee:
- 558 (i) a prioritized list of the water infrastructure projects and the funding levels available
559 for those water infrastructure projects; and
- 560 (ii) the unfunded water infrastructure projects and maintenance needs within the state.
- 561 (b) The committee or commission designated by the Legislative Management
562 Committee under Subsection (2)(a) shall:
- 563 (i) review the list reported by the state council; and
- 564 (ii) recommend to the Legislature:
- 565 (A) the amount of additional funding to allocate to water infrastructure projects; and
566 (B) the source of revenue for the additional funding allocation under Subsection
567 (2)(b)(ii)(A).
- 568 (3) A relevant agency shall administer money prioritized under this part in a manner
569 consistent with this part.
- 570 Section 16. Section **73-10g-605** is enacted to read:
- 571 **73-10g-605. Capital asset management and reserve analysis -- Assistance for**
572 **person seeking state funds.**
- 573 (1) As a condition of receiving water infrastructure fund money for a water
574 infrastructure project by a loan or grant, a recipient shall:
- 575 (a) conduct a reserve study showing how the recipient shall:
- 576 (i) repay the loan if the recipient receives a loan; and
577 (ii) collect money for repair and replacement of the water infrastructure project;
578 (b) if the recipient receives a loan, update the reserve study described in Subsection
579 (1)(a) every five years or until the loan is repaid; and
- 580 (c) comply with the relevant capital asset management requirements under:
- 581 (i) Section [19-5-202](#) for a water infrastructure project related to wastewater or sewage
582 infrastructure; or
- 583 (ii) Section [73-10g-502](#) for a water provider's, as defined in Section [73-10g-501](#), water

584 infrastructure project that is not described in Subsection (1)(c)(i).

585 (2) A reserve study required under this section shall include:

586 (a) a list of the components identified in the reserve analysis that will reasonably
587 require reserve funds;

588 (b) a statement of the probable remaining useful life, as of the date of the reserve
589 analysis, of each component identified in the reserve analysis;

590 (c) an estimate of the cost to repair, replace, or restore each component identified in the
591 reserve analysis;

592 (d) an estimate of the total annual contribution to a reserve fund necessary to meet the
593 cost to repair, replace, or restore each component identified in the reserve analysis during the
594 component's useful life and at the end of the component's useful life; and

595 (e) a reserve funding plan that recommends how the system may fund the annual
596 contribution described in Subsection (2)(d).

597 (3) If a person seeking water infrastructure fund money under this part establishes a
598 need to the satisfaction of a relevant agency, the relevant agency may provide the person:

599 (a) water infrastructure fund money to assist the recipient in complying with the
600 planning, reserve analysis, and capital asset management requirements of this part; or

601 (b) technical assistance with the planning, reserve analysis, or capital asset
602 management requirements of this part.

603 **Section 17. Repealer.**

604 This bill repeals:

605 Section **73-10-17, State water plan -- Authority of other agencies not impaired.**

606 **Section 18. FY 2025 Appropriation.**

607 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
608 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
609 fiscal year 2025.

610 Subsection 18(a). **Business-like Activities.**

611 The Legislature has reviewed the following proprietary funds. Under the terms and
612 conditions of Utah Code **63J-1-410**, for any included Internal Service Fund, the Legislature
613 approves budgets, full-time permanent positions, and capital acquisition amounts as indicated,
614 and appropriates to the funds, as indicated, estimated revenue from rates, fees, and other

615 charges. The Legislature authorizes the State Division of Finance to transfer amounts between
616 funds and accounts as indicated.

617 ITEM 1 To Department of Natural Resources - Water Infrastructure Fund

618 From General Fund, One-time \$5,000,000

619 Schedule of Programs:

620 Water Infrastructure Fund \$5,000,000

621 Section 19. **Effective date.**

622 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.