

Fiscal Highlights

Dredging the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake - Ivan D. Djambov

The low water levels at the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake motivated the 2015 Legislature to appropriate \$3 million one-time from restricted accounts (\$2.5 million from the Sovereign Lands Management Account and \$500,000 from the State Park Fees Account) for the dredging of the marinas of the two lakes. The Division of Facilities and Construction Management (DFCM) is overseeing these projects. DFCM has contracted with an engineering firm, J-U-B Engineers, to do the design and secure the necessary permits. As of May 2016, the status of the two dredging projects is as follows:

The Great Salt Lake

The Army Corp of Engineers has just issued the necessary permit (after 10 months instead of the projected 18 months) and the construction contract is planned to be awarded by the end of May or early June, 2016. The total budget for this project is \$1.5 million: \$100,000 for J-U-B Engineers, \$60,000 for DFCM's 4% fee, and the remaining for dredging.

The engineers have determined that the best method for this project is to use Suction Dredging. The plan is to dredge 75% to 90% of the marina three-feet deep, starting at the marina entrance and working east. The dredging spoils will be placed at the parking lot of the old Saltair building, about two miles to the east of the marina.

Utah Lake

The permitting process for this project is not yet completed. The Army Corp of Engineers has not issued the permit. At Utah Lake there are additional permitting requirements that have to be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the endangered June Sucker. It is anticipated that all permits and approvals will be secured and the construction will begin this fall. The total budget for this project is also \$1.5 million: \$100,000 for J-U-B Engineers, \$60,000 for DFCM's 4% fee, and the remaining for dredging.

The best method for this dredging project determined by the engineering firm is to use a coffer dam. The plan is to excavate three-feet deep most of the main channel and the main part of the marina. Local residents have expressed interest in obtaining the dredging materials from Utah Lake.