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# Utah State Legislature

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Senator Lyle Hillyard, Senate Chair  
Representative Dean Sanpei, House Chair  
Senator Jerry Stephenson, Senate Vice Chair  
Representative Brad Dee, House Vice Chair  
Executive Appropriations Committee

**From:** Senator David Hinkins, Senate Chair  
Representative Mike McKell, House Chair  
Representative Kay Christofferson, House Vice Chair  
Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations  
Subcommittee

**Date:** December 13, 2016

**Subject:** Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Interim  
Meetings Report

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The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee (NRAEQ) held three meetings during the 2016 interim. The subcommittee discussed the issues identified in a letter from the Senate President and House Speaker to the subcommittee chairs dated June 21, 2016. The following sections summarize the subcommittee's interim meetings.

1. **In-depth Review of Fees** – reviewed detailed information for all fees (over 1,300) and received feedback from agencies and stake holders. The subcommittee requested the agencies provide additional information during the 2017 General Session.
2. **Conservation Commission Employees follow-up** – the Department of Agriculture provided a report on the process, challenges, and results of bringing UACD employees under the Department of Agriculture. This item was informational only and the subcommittee took no action.
3. **State Fairpark** – the director briefed the committee on changes for better utilization of the property and for sustainability of the fair operations. This item was informational only and the subcommittee took no action.

4. **The Great Salt Lake tour** – the subcommittee spent two afternoons this interim traveling to visit sites and businesses at the Great Salt Lake to better understand the issues involving the lake: brine shrimp harvesting and mineral extraction activities, spread of invasive species, impact of low water level on recreation, tourism, migratory birds, and wildlife. This item was informational only and the subcommittee took no action.
5. **Air Quality** – the Department of Environmental Quality provided a summary of the research results and identified practical applications/benefits of that research along with improvement in air quality from those efforts. This item was informational only and the subcommittee took no action.
6. **Office of Energy Development** – LFA staff provided an assessment of the agency specific, direct contributions to the State’s economy. This item was informational only and the subcommittee took no action.
7. **Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office** – the agency provided their performance measures for the subcommittee to review. This item was informational only and the subcommittee took no action.

The letter requested the NRAEQ coordinate with the Infrastructure and General Government Appropriations (IGG) on S.B. 80, “Infrastructure Funding Amendments” and on the State Fair. The IGG reviewed this interim the changes in sales and use tax earmarks due to S.B. 80, and the estimated impact of the changes to the Transportation Investment Fund from FY 2017 through FY 2023. The State Fair was on the agenda of both committees with NRAEQ focusing on the operations and the IGG on the capital facilities of the fairgrounds.