

**Agency's Response**  
**to Questions for Accountable Budget Review**  
**Division of Water Resources**

**1. What are the statutory requirements?**

**a. Should the statute/scope of the entity be adjusted?**

*Existing statutes cover the Division and its programs well. The programs we have are tied specifically to our mission, goals and objectives. There are no other things we believe would be important for us to do that we do not already have statutes for.*

**b. Does each program have a mission, goals, and objectives that are meaningful and tied to the enabling statute?**

Yes

**2. How well has this "investment" performed in the past? What are the goals for the future?**

**a. What value does this division/program add to society?**

*The Division of Water Resources and its programs work for the orderly and effective planning, conservation, development and protection of Utah's water resources. Given the importance of water to our growing population, our citizens' livelihoods, lifestyle, health and well-being, as well local and regional economies, the Division's work will be more needed than ever. The Division's programs are designed to accomplish its mission, goals and objectives.*

**b. Are there meaningful performance measures?**

*Yes, For 1. Water conservation and development projects funded, 2. Reduction of per capita water use, and 3. Precipitation increase due to cloud seeding efforts.*

**c. How well do they tie to the organization's mission, goals, and objectives?**

*These programs are good representative examples of how the Division's work ties to its mission, goals and objectives.*

**d. Are the targets reasonable?**

Yes

**e. Are the results acceptable?**

Yes

**3. What programs should be funded for FY 2021? How much?**

**a. Why is state government providing these services? Could this function be done by a local government or the private sector?**

*The Division's programs span the state and spectrum of topics, issues and work that must be addressed. The Division serves as an umbrella support to water users, water suppliers and the citizens of the state, offering data, information, financial resources, program support and other valuable resources. This helps provide statewide consistency which could not be provided by local government or the private sector working for local entities.*

**b. What will happen if the division/program is eliminated or downsized? Who will notice? Who will be affected the most?**

*The most notable things would be a reversal of progress made in getting and reporting consistent water data sets statewide needed for state and local decision-makers; water conservation and education messaging and assistance would be reduced; water infrastructure funding would be reduced. Additionally, the state's Colorado and Bear rivers interstate representation would be reduced or eliminated opening up large vulnerabilities to our water supplies and helpful cloud seeding projects would be eliminated or reduced.*

*Water suppliers, water users, planners, state legislators and Governor's Office representatives would see the impacts of eliminating or reducing the Division's work.*

*State and local decision-makers and water suppliers and users of water from Colorado and Bear rivers would be affected most by a reduction or elimination of the Division's services.*

**c. Can the taxpayers' investment be reduced by implementing or increasing user fees?**

*Proposals to collect statewide fees or taxes on water use have been proposed in the past and have gone down after heated debate.*

**d. Should the funding mix be adjusted?**

*Currently about half of the Division's ongoing operating budget comes from restricted funds and half from the General Fund. Shifting that further toward the restricted funds would reduce critical funding needed for water development and infrastructure projects.*

**e. Are some of the past building blocks no longer a high priority?**

*The Division has received building blocks for dam safety and for water conservation. These two items are still a high priority for the Division.*

**f. Can some of the expenditures be reduced or eliminated?**

*We can't think of any funds that are not needed. We only see the need growing in the future. In order to deliver the level of service now provided, funding would need to not be reduced or eliminated.*