

### UTAH FOUNDATION

**RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM** 

# Water and Property Taxes





# Focus on Public Community System

Municipal and Industrial Use

0.95 maf

blic

Com-

nitv

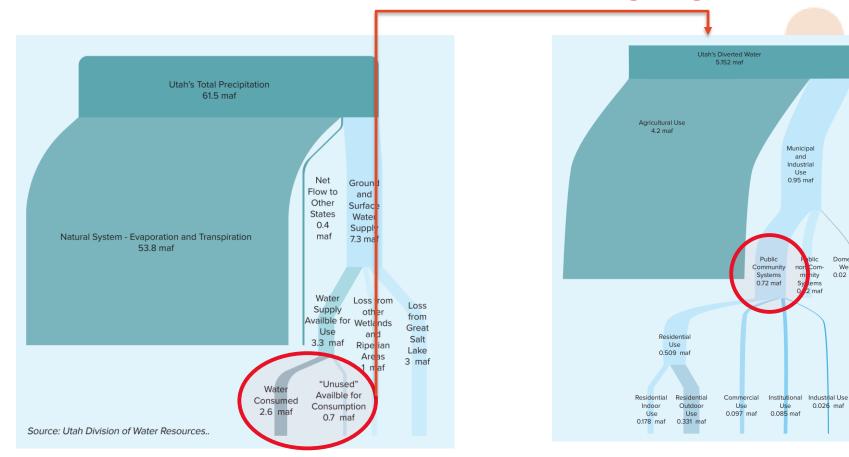
0.026 maf

Use

Domestic

Wells

0.02 maf



# Wholesalers and Retailers



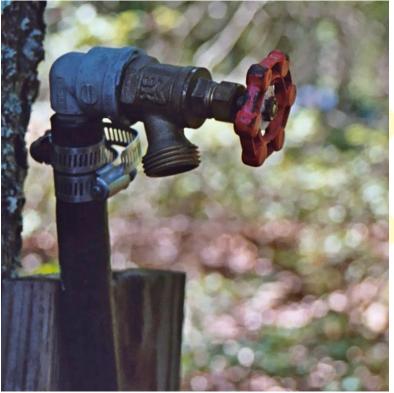
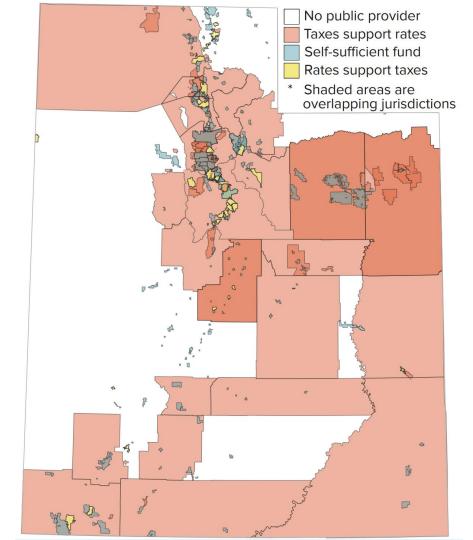


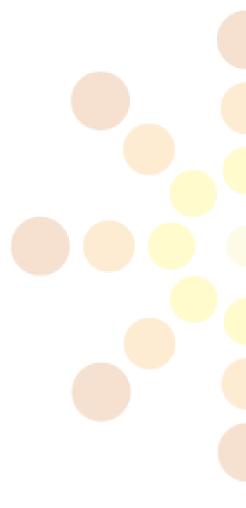
Photo Credit – Murray Foubister – CC BY-SA 2.0 https://www.flickr.com/photos/mfoubister/8124258929/

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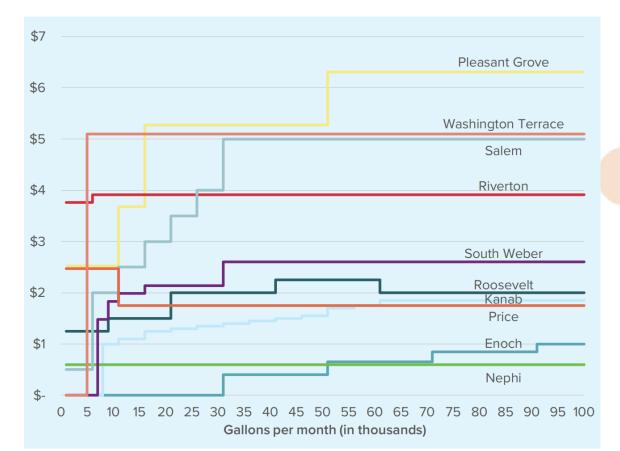
## Who Collects Property Taxes

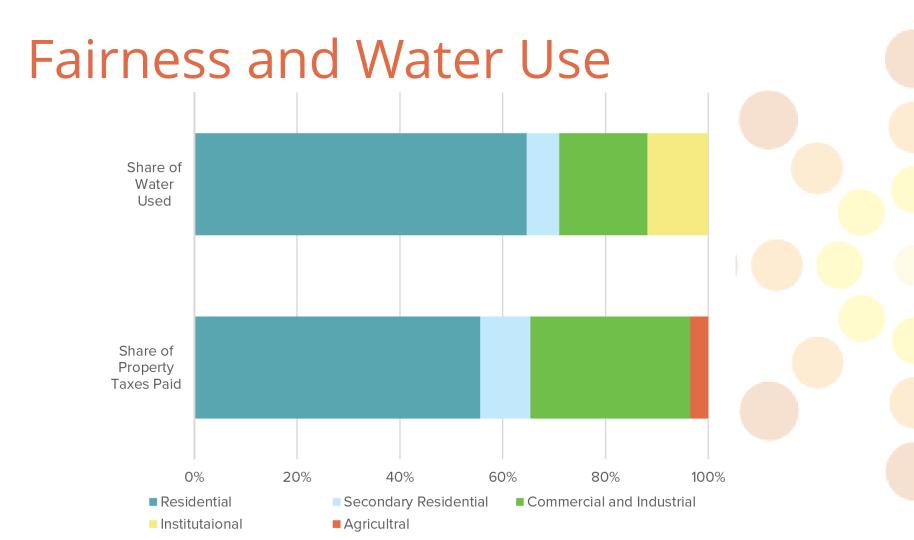
Type of water provider	Water rates support taxes	Self-sustaining water rates	Taxes support water rates
City department	42	161	14
Improvement district	0	19	24
Water conservancy distric	t O	1	20
Metropolitan water distric	t O	3	3



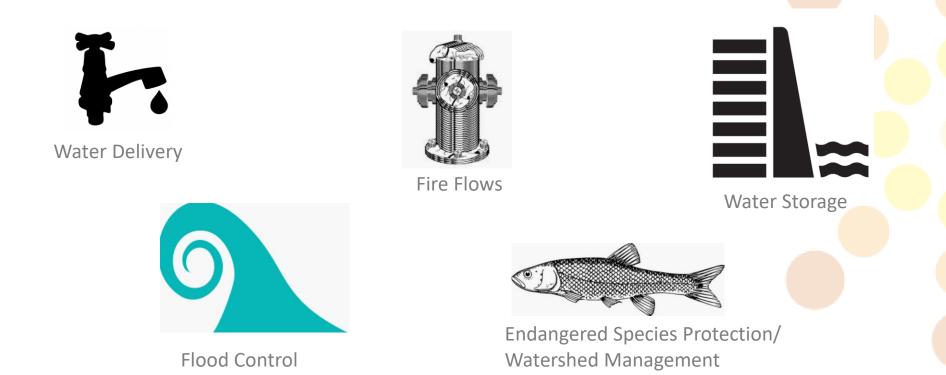


# Conservation





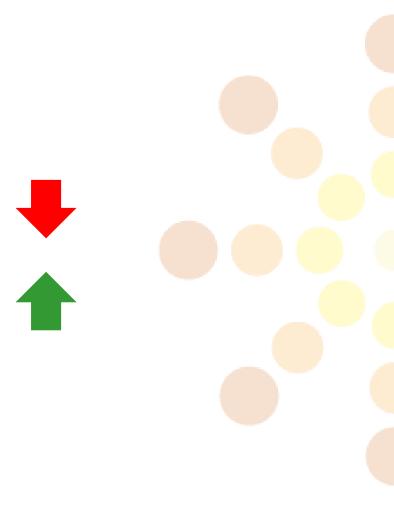
### Fairness – Services Provided



# **Revenue Stability**



#### 5%-8% increase 2013-2017



## Cost of Water for Consumers

Market Distortion

Conservation

Cost of Borrowing

# A Higher Reliance on Water Rates May...

- Increased transparency all the costs of water from a single source
- Reduce transparency of rate increases (when compared to property tax rate increase)
- Reduce the flexibility of diverse providers to use different tools to meet local needs

# Rates or Taxes? – A lot of room for compromise

- Steeper tiers or water budgets to increase conservation
  Differential pricing for those who contribute differently
- Enterprise accounts to separate water and general services
- Water budgets to ensure cheap basic water
- Decoupling and reserves to stabilize water revenues
- Central bonding agency or guarantee to lower costs of borrowing



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