



WATER PROJECTS & ARPA FUNDS

February 2022



CRITERIA



FEDERAL PARAMETERS



**LONG-TERM GAINS
(GENERATIONAL INVESTMENTS)**



**LEVERAGE (MATCHING
FUNDS)**



PUBLIC BENEFIT (AVOID PROFITEERING)



**BANG FOR OUR BUCK (COST/AF
CONSERVED)**



**ALL PROJECTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE
AFTER MARCH 3, 2021 (DATE OF ARPA
ACT)**

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

In the May Special Session, the Legislature allocated \$100 million to DNR to be allocated to the most extreme needs:

- **\$50 million** for pressurized secondary irrigation providers to install water meters on existing systems. Installing secondary meters yields the biggest bang for the buck when comparing the amount of water saved to the cost of the meters. Savings up to 30% are realized in areas where meters have been installed.
- **\$25 million** for rural drinking water infrastructure. Drinking water is essential for all communities and their economic growth.
- **\$20 million** for agricultural optimization projects that allow farmers to increase efficiency and significantly reduce water usage while increasing crop yields through irrigation improvement projects.
- **\$5 million** for Great Salt Lake preservation and restoration that will provide money for critical infrastructure for low water levels and address rising salinity.

The legislature also set aside \$280 million in May 2021 to be used on future water projects.

GOING FORWARD

Critical water needs remain past the \$280 million set aside which includes \$100 million already allocated. The legislative working group, along with representatives from DNR, DEQ, and UDAF are asking for consideration of an additional \$170 million of ARPA funding to address Utah's most critical needs, particularly focusing on conserving, preserving, and optimizing our most valuable growth asset – WATER.

These funds would be used for...



SECONDARY WATER

- Additional **\$200 million** for secondary water metering
- Providers of pressurized secondary irrigation would provide meter installation on existing systems

Legislation:

- H.B. 242 Secondary Water Metering Amendments (Rep. Val Peterson)



DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Additional **\$25 million** for rural drinking water infrastructure
- Drinking water is essential for all communities and their economic growth
- With the extreme drought, rural communities are experiencing significant need to drill wells and improve their drinking water systems



AG WATER OPTIMIZATION

- Additional **\$50 million** for agricultural water optimization projects that allow farmers to significantly reduce water usage while increasing crop yields through irrigation improvement projects.



GREAT SALT LAKE

- Additional **\$45 million** for Great Salt Lake
- Improve and enhance water flow into lake
- Invest in water control infrastructure
- Protect natural infrastructure and habitats
- Incorporate Great Salt Lake into water budgeting plan

Legislation:

- H.B. 33 Instream Water Flow Amendments (Rep. Joel Ferry)
- H.B. 157 Sovereign Lands Revenue Amendments (Rep. Tim Hawkes)
- Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Program (Speaker Wilson)



UTAH LAKE

- **\$30 million** for Utah Lake
 - \$25 million water quality infrastructure improvements
 - \$5 million to reduce nonpoint sources through the Ag VIP Program
- Provide funding to reduce algal blooms
- Increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat

