10-14 15:23 0662.hv. .2 DRAFT

1

## **Water Usage Amendments**

## 2025 GENERAL SESSION

## STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens** 

2

## 3 LONG TITLE

- 4 General Description:
- 5 This bill addresses the use of overhead spray irrigation under specified circumstances.
- **Highlighted Provisions:**
- 7 This bill:
- 8 defines terms;
- 9 directs a municipality or county to require compliance with a prohibition on use of
- 10 overhead spray irrigation as part of land use approvals;
- requires a municipality or county to give notice of the prohibition on use of overhead
- 12 spray irrigation;
- encourages a municipality or county to review certain plans, act on the plans, inspect for
- 14 compliance, and address noncompliance; and
- prohibits for new development and redevelopment overhead spray irrigation except
- under certain circumstances related to outdoor activity areas.
- 17 Money Appropriated in this Bill:
- None None
- 19 Other Special Clauses:
- None None
- 21 Utah Code Sections Affected:
- 22 ENACTS:
- 23 **10-8-85.11**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 24 **17-50-342**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

25

- 26 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
- Section 1. Section **10-8-85.11** is enacted to read:
- 28 <u>10-8-85.11</u>. Regulation of use of overhead spray irrigation.
- 29 (1) As used in this section:
- 30 (a) "Active use" means regular use for playing, exercise, recreation, or regular outdoor
- 31 <u>activities, such as:</u>

0662.hv. .2 DRAFT 10-14 15:23

32		(i) a sports field;
33		(ii) a social gathering area;
34		(iii) an amphitheater;
35		(iv) a park;
36		(v) the playing area, including roughs, driving ranges, and chipping and putting
37		greens of a golf course; or
38		(vi) a cemetery.
39	<u>(b)</u>	"Agricultural land" means "land in agricultural use" as defined in Section 59-2-502.
40	<u>(c)</u>	"Common interest community" means the same as that term is defined in Section
41		<u>57-25-102.</u>
42	<u>(d)</u>	"Great Salt Lake drainage" means the area within:
43		(i) the surveyed meander line of the Great Salt Lake;
44		(ii) the drainage areas of the Bear River or the Bear River's tributaries;
45		(iii) the drainage areas of Bear Lake or Bear Lake's tributaries;
46		(iv) the drainage areas of the Weber River or the Weber River's tributaries;
47		(v) the drainage areas of the Jordan River or the Jordan River's tributaries;
48		(vi) the drainage areas of Utah Lake or Utah Lake's tributaries;
49		(vii) other water drainages lying between the Bear River and the Jordan River that are
50		tributary to the Great Salt Lake and not included in the drainage areas described in
51		Subsections (1)(d)(ii) through (vi); and
52		(viii) the drainage area of Tooele Valley.
53	<u>(e)</u>	"Landscaped area" means those portions of specified land that are not, or will not be,
54		occupied by:
55		(i) a permanent structure; or
56		(ii) an impervious surface associated with vehicular or pedestrian access or use, such
57		as a driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot.
58	<u>(f)</u>	"Land use application" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-9a-103.
59	<u>(g)</u>	"Land use permit" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-9a-103.
60	<u>(h)</u>	"New development" means a project for the conversion in use of previously
61		undeveloped land into a developed state.
62	<u>(i)</u>	"Outdoor activity area" means a landscape area that is:
63		(i) dedicated to active use; and
64		(ii) installed or maintained on an area with a slope of not more than 25%.
65	<u>(j)</u>	"Overhead spray irrigation" means above ground irrigation heads that spray water

10-14 15:23 0662.hv. .2 DRAFT

66	through a nozzle.
67	(k) "Park strip" means the area between the back of a curb, or if there is no curb, the
68	edge of pavement and the sidewalk.
69	(1) "Redevelopment" means a project for renovation, alteration, improvement, or repair
70	of developed land that affects more than 25% of the landscaped area existing before
71	the redevelopment.
72	(m)(i) "Specified land" means real property within the Great Salt Lake drainage on
73	which the owner proposes new development or redevelopment, including real
74	property:
75	(A) in a common interest community; or
76	(B) in a commercial, industrial, institutional, mixed use, or multifamily project.
77	(ii) "Specified land" does not mean:
78	(A) agricultural land;
79	(B) a landscaped area within a common interest community that is not a common
80	area;
81	(C) new development or redevelopment of a single-family detached residential
82	dwelling;
83	(D) local entity property as defined in Section 11-39-108;
84	(E) school property as defined in Section 53G-7-224;
85	(F) state government grounds as defined in Section 63A-5b-1108; or
86	(G) landscaping in a highway construction project governed by Section 72-7-111.
87	(2)(a) A municipality shall:
88	(i) require an owner of specified land to comply with Subsection (3) as a condition of:
89	(A) approval of a land use application; or
90	(B) issuance of a land use permit; and
91	(ii) include a notice on or with a land use approval or land use permit for specified
92	land stating, "Utah law prohibits the use of overhead spray irrigation for your
93	project except in outdoor activity areas."
94	(b) A municipality is encouraged to:
95	(i) review and either approve or disapprove plans for outdoor activity areas proposed
96	for specified land for which the municipality approves a land use application or
97	issues a land use permit;
98	(ii) inspect specified land for compliance with this section upon completion of new
99	development or redevelopment; and

0662.hv. .2 DRAFT 10-14 15:23

100	(iii) address noncompliance with this section.
101	(3) An owner of specified land who undertakes new development or redevelopment of
102	specified land on or after January 1, 2026, may not:
103	(a) install, maintain, or use overhead spray irrigation in a landscaped area of the
104	specified land unless the landscaped area is an outdoor activity area;
105	(b) install, maintain, or use overhead spray irrigation to irrigate the following within an
106	outdoor activity area described in Subsection (3)(a):
107	(i) a park strip;
108	(ii) an area with a width of less than eight feet; or
109	(iii) an area that is a planting bed; or
110	(c) include within an outdoor activity area under Subsection (3)(a) an area that is sized
111	larger than reasonably required for the anticipated use the outdoor activity area is
112	intended to accommodate.
113	Section 2. Section <b>17-50-342</b> is enacted to read:
114	17-50-342. Regulation of use of overhead spray irrigation.
115	(1) As used in this section:
116	(a) "Active use" means regular use for playing, exercise, recreation, or regular outdoor
117	activities, such as:
118	(i) a sports field;
119	(ii) a social gathering area;
120	(iii) an amphitheater;
121	(iv) a park;
122	(v) the playing area, including roughs, driving ranges, and chipping and putting
123	greens of a golf course; or
124	(vi) a cemetery.
125	(b) "Agricultural land" means "land in agricultural use" as defined in Section 59-2-502.
126	(c) "Common interest community" means the same as that term is defined in Section
127	<u>57-25-102.</u>
128	(d) "Great Salt Lake drainage" means the area within:
129	(i) the surveyed meander line of the Great Salt Lake;
130	(ii) the drainage areas of the Bear River or the Bear River's tributaries;
131	(iii) the drainage areas of Bear Lake or Bear Lake's tributaries;
132	(iv) the drainage areas of the Weber River or the Weber River's tributaries;
133	(v) the drainage areas of the Jordan River or the Jordan River's tributaries;

10-14 15:23 0662.hv. .2 DRAFT

134	(vi) the drainage areas of Utah Lake or Utah Lake's tributaries;	
135	(vii) other water drainages lying between the Bear River and the Jordan River that a	<u>re</u>
136	tributary to the Great Salt Lake and not included in the drainage areas described	in
137	Subsections (1)(d)(ii) through (vi); and	
138	(viii) the drainage area of Tooele Valley.	
139	(e) "Landscaped area" means those portions of specified land that are not, or will not be	2
140	occupied by:	
141	(i) a permanent structure; or	
142	(ii) an impervious surface associated with vehicular or pedestrian access or use, suc	<u>h</u>
143	as a driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot.	
144	(f) "Land use application" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17-27a-103	<u>.</u>
145	(g) "Land use permit" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17-27a-103.	
146	(h) "New development" means a project for the conversion in use of previously	
147	undeveloped land into a developed state.	
148	(i) "Outdoor activity area" means a landscape area that is:	
149	(i) dedicated to active use; and	
150	(ii) installed or maintained on an area with a slope of not more than 25%.	
151	(j) "Overhead spray irrigation" means above ground irrigation heads that spray water	
152	through a nozzle.	
153	(k) "Park strip" means the area between the back of a curb, or if there is no curb, the	
154	edge of pavement and the sidewalk.	
155	(1) "Redevelopment" means a project for renovation, alteration, improvement, or repair	
156	of developed land that affects more than 25% of the landscaped area existing before	
157	the redevelopment.	
158	(m)(i) "Specified land" means real property within the Great Salt Lake drainage on	
159	which the owner proposes new development or redevelopment, including real	
160	property:	
161	(A) in a common interest community; or	
162	(B) in a commercial, industrial, institutional, mixed use, or multifamily project.	
163	(ii) "Specified land" does not mean:	
164	(A) agricultural land;	
165	(B) a landscaped area within a common interest community that is not a common	<u>)n</u>
166	area;	
167	(C) new development or redevelopment of a single-family detached residential	

0662.hv. .2 DRAFT 10-14 15:23

168	dwelling;
169	(D) local entity property as defined in Section 11-39-108;
170	(E) school property as defined in Section 53G-7-224;
171	(F) state government grounds as defined in Section 63A-5b-1108; or
172	(G) landscaping in a highway construction project governed by Section 72-7-111.
173	(2)(a) A county shall:
174	(i) require an owner of specified land to comply with Subsection (3) as a condition of:
175	(A) approval of a land use application; or
176	(B) issuance of a land use permit; and
177	(ii) include a notice on or with a land use approval or land use permit for specified
178	land stating, "Utah law prohibits the use of overhead spray irrigation for your
179	project except in outdoor activity areas."
180	(b) A county is encouraged to:
181	(i) review and either approve or disapprove plans for outdoor activity areas proposed
182	for specified land for which the county approves a land use application or issues a
183	land use permit;
184	(ii) inspect specified land for compliance with this section upon completion of new
185	development or redevelopment; and
186	(iii) address noncompliance with this section.
187	(3) An owner of specified land who undertakes new development or redevelopment of
188	specified land on or after January 1, 2026, may not:
189	(a) install, maintain, or use overhead spray irrigation in a landscaped area of the
190	specified land unless the landscaped area is an outdoor activity area;
191	(b) install, maintain, or use overhead spray irrigation to irrigate the following within an
192	outdoor activity area described in Subsection (3)(a):
193	(i) a park strip;
194	(ii) an area with a width of less than eight feet; or
195	(iii) an area that is a planting bed; or
196	(c) include within an outdoor activity area under Subsection (3)(a) an area that is sized
197	larger than reasonably required for the anticipated use the outdoor activity area is
198	intended to accommodate.
199	Section 3. Effective date.
200	This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.