



Public  
Utilities

Salt Lake City Council Work  
Session

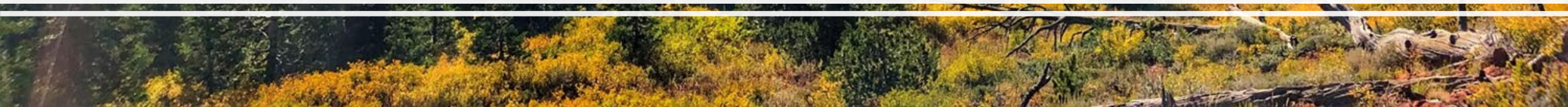
January 11, 2022

Salt Lake City Water  
Resources and  
Watershed Policies





## Salt Lake City's Water Resources



# Sources of Drinking Water

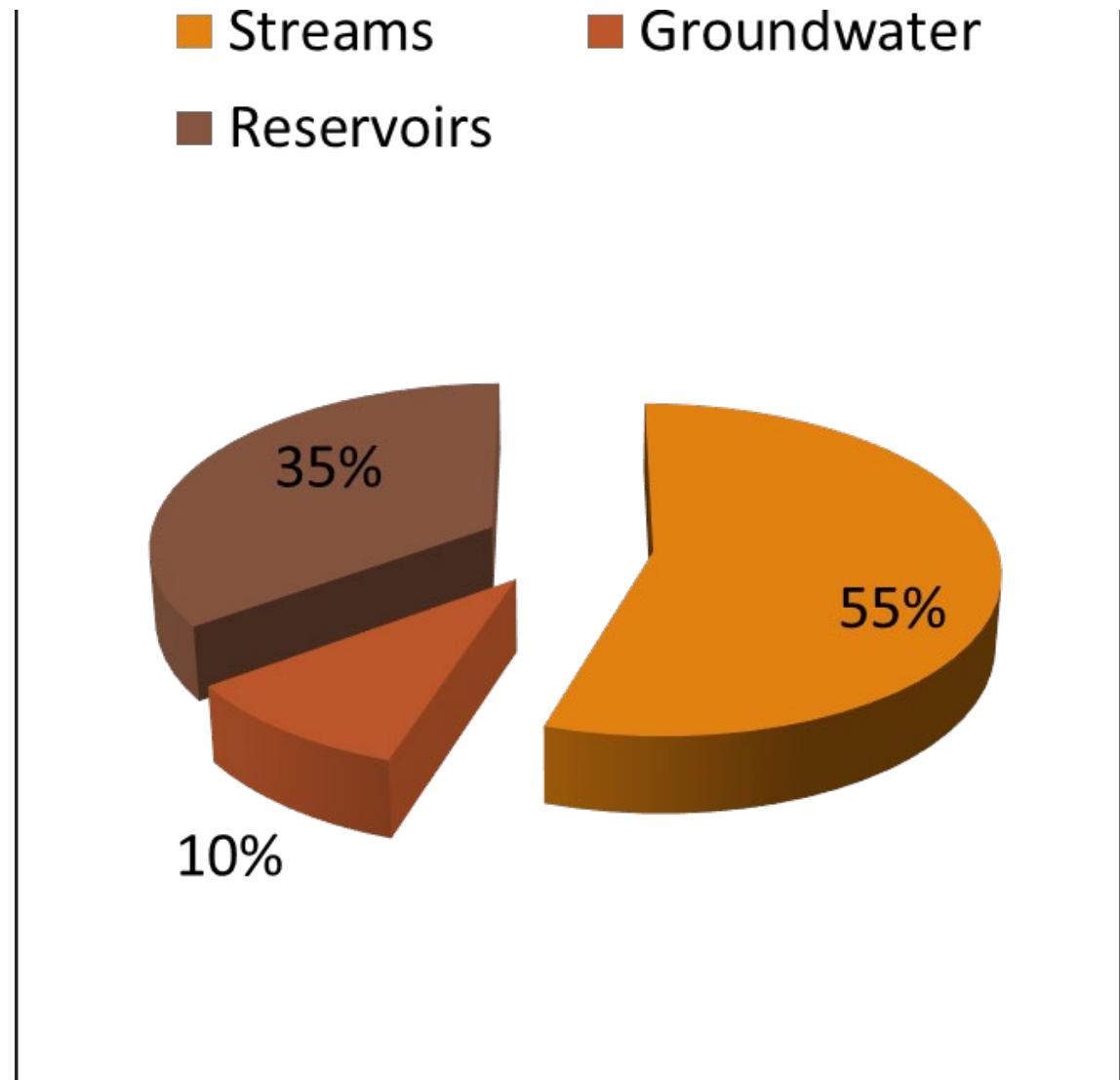
- **Streams**

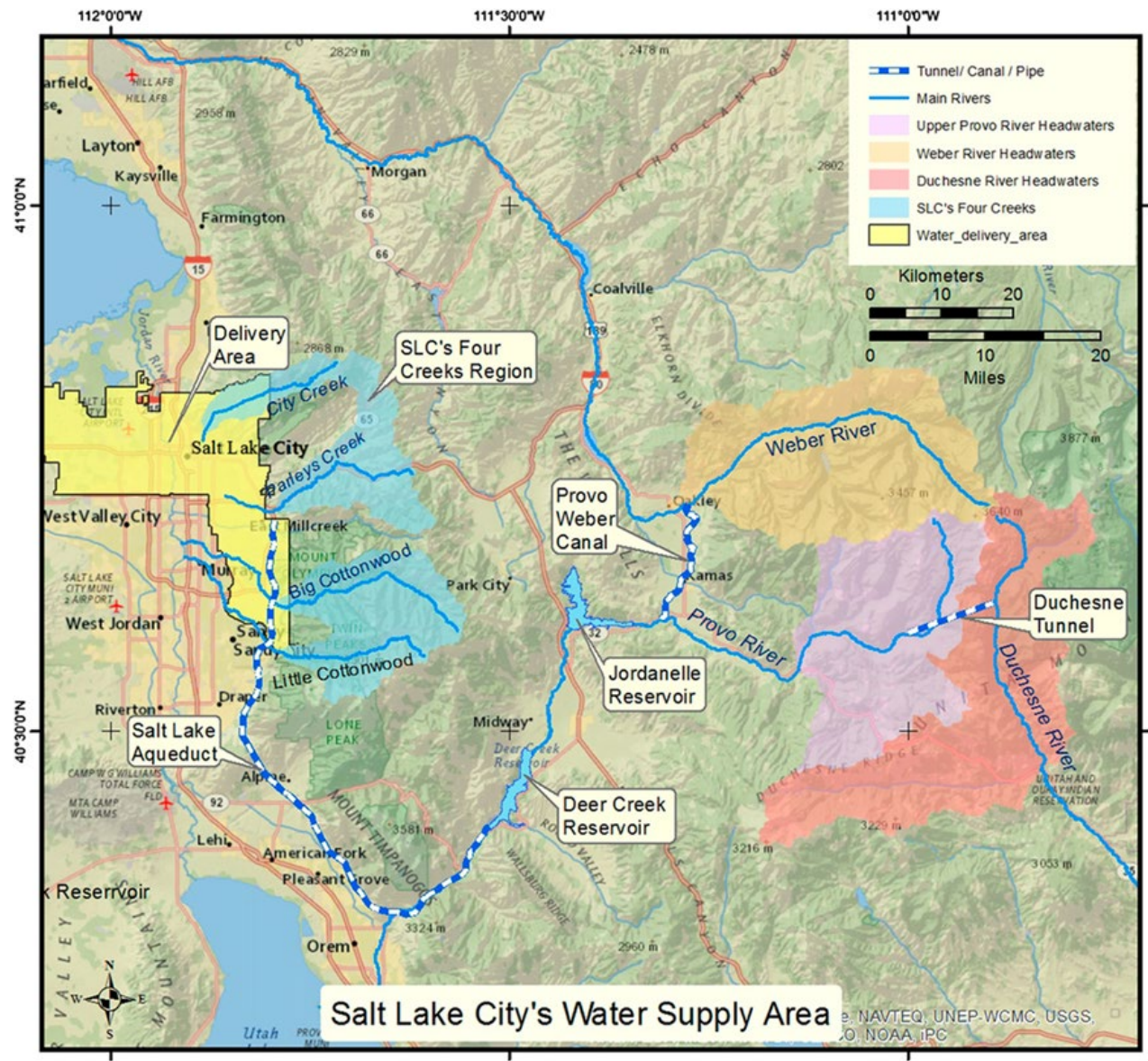
- Little Cottonwood Creek
- Big Cottonwood Creek
- City Creek
- Parleys Creek

- **Reservoirs**

- Deer Creek
- Jordanelle
- Mountain Dell/Little Dell

- **Groundwater**

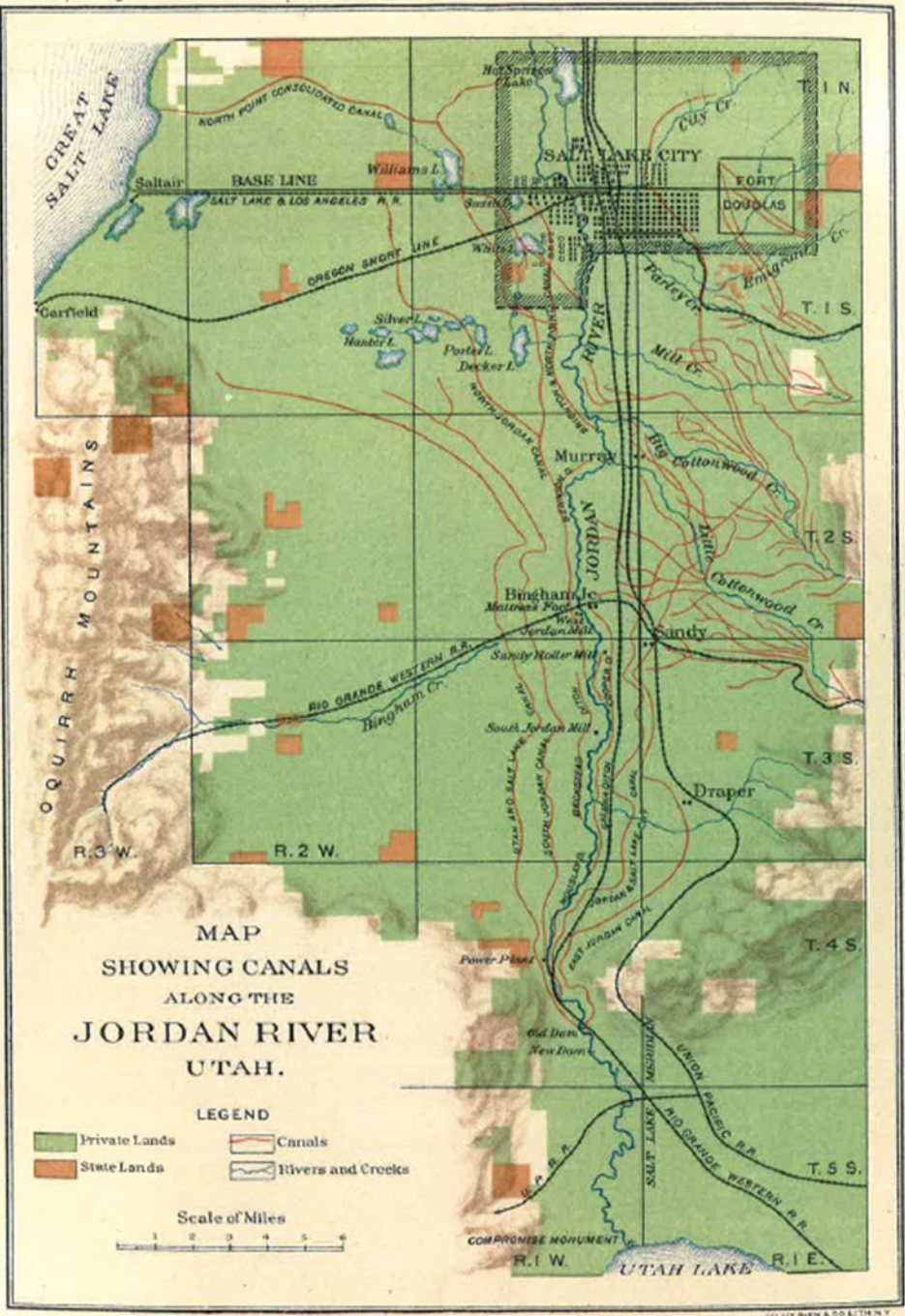






# Foundation and History of Salt Lake City's Water Supply

- **July 1847:** First diversion of City Creek
- **By 1860:** All mountain streams appropriated for agriculture
- **1865-1930's:** Utah Lake exchanges for Wasatch mountain streams; water storage projects in Wasatch watersheds
- **1928 – 1929:** First long-range water planning effort
- **1935:** Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy formed to provide a long term water supply to Salt Lake City
- **1930's-'40's:** Major storage projects/water imports (Deer Creek, Provo River Project, Duchesne Tunnel) per 1929 planning effort. Also development of groundwater resources.
- **1950's:** Water treatment facilities constructed for Wasatch Front streams



# Water Right Exchange Contracts

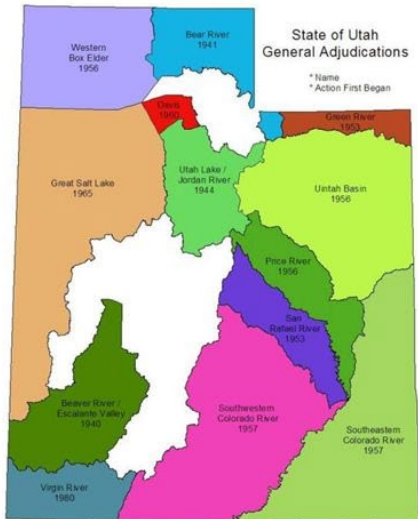
- In the mid-1800's the growing population of the City and County needed reliable water sources.
- At the same time, farmers who had appropriated Wasatch streams needed a firm and reliable supply of water to mature crops.
- City constructed the Jordan and Salt Lake Canal in 1882 to convey Utah Lake water rights to meet exchange agreements.
- First exchange was in 1888 between the City and Parleys Water Users Association – City provided Utah Lake water for irrigation through the JSL Canal, in exchange for water rights to Parleys Creek.
- Other exchanges followed through the 1930's for Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek.
- About 50 exchanges in place today.

# Utah Lake Jordan River State Water Right Adjudication

## What is a General Stream Adjudication?

### What it IS...

- Action in District Court
- Binds water users and the State Engineer (Division of Water Rights)
- Governed by Utah State Code: Title 73, Chapter 4.
- The first General Stream Adjudications took place in the 1920s – Sevier and Weber Rivers



**FILING FOR WATER IN THE STATE OF UTAH**

APPROVED NOV 05 1987 CITY RECORDER

RECEIVED AMENDED DILIGENCE CLAIM NOV 24 1987

Rec. by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fee Rec. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Microfilmed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roll # \_\_\_\_\_

Claim to surface water by right of use, prior to March 22, 1903, is hereby made and filed with the State Engineer, as prima facie evidence of a water right in accordance with requirements of the Laws of Utah.

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\* WATER USER CLAIM NO. 57-8840 \* DILIGENCE NO. D 5298

**1. PRIORITY OF RIGHT:** July 23, 1847 \* FILING DATE: June 30, 1987

**2. OWNER INFORMATION**  
 Name: Salt Lake City Corp. (Public Utilities Dept.) Interest: 100 %  
 Address: 1530 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

**3. QUANTITY OF WATER:** 163.0 cfs and/or \_\_\_\_\_ ac-ft

**4. SOURCE:** City Creek \* DRAINAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 which is tributary to Jordan River  
 which is tributary to Great Salt Lake

POINT(S) OF DIVERSION: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Salt Lake  
Treatment Plant - N. 900' and E. 920' from Southwest corner Section 15, T.1N.R.1E.  
SLB & M Pleasant Valley Res.-S. 2400' and W. 900' from NE Corner Sec. 20, T.1N.R.1E.  
SLB & M Memory Grove-N. 2700' & E. 1850' from SW Corner Sec. 31, T.1N.R.1E. SLB & M  
 Description of Diverting Works: Concrete Dams and Intake Structures



## Watershed Protection and Jurisdiction





## Salt Lake City's Protected Watersheds

- City Creek Canyon
- Parleys Canyon
- Big Cottonwood Canyon
- Little Cottonwood Canyon



Keep It Pure.

# Watershed Statistics

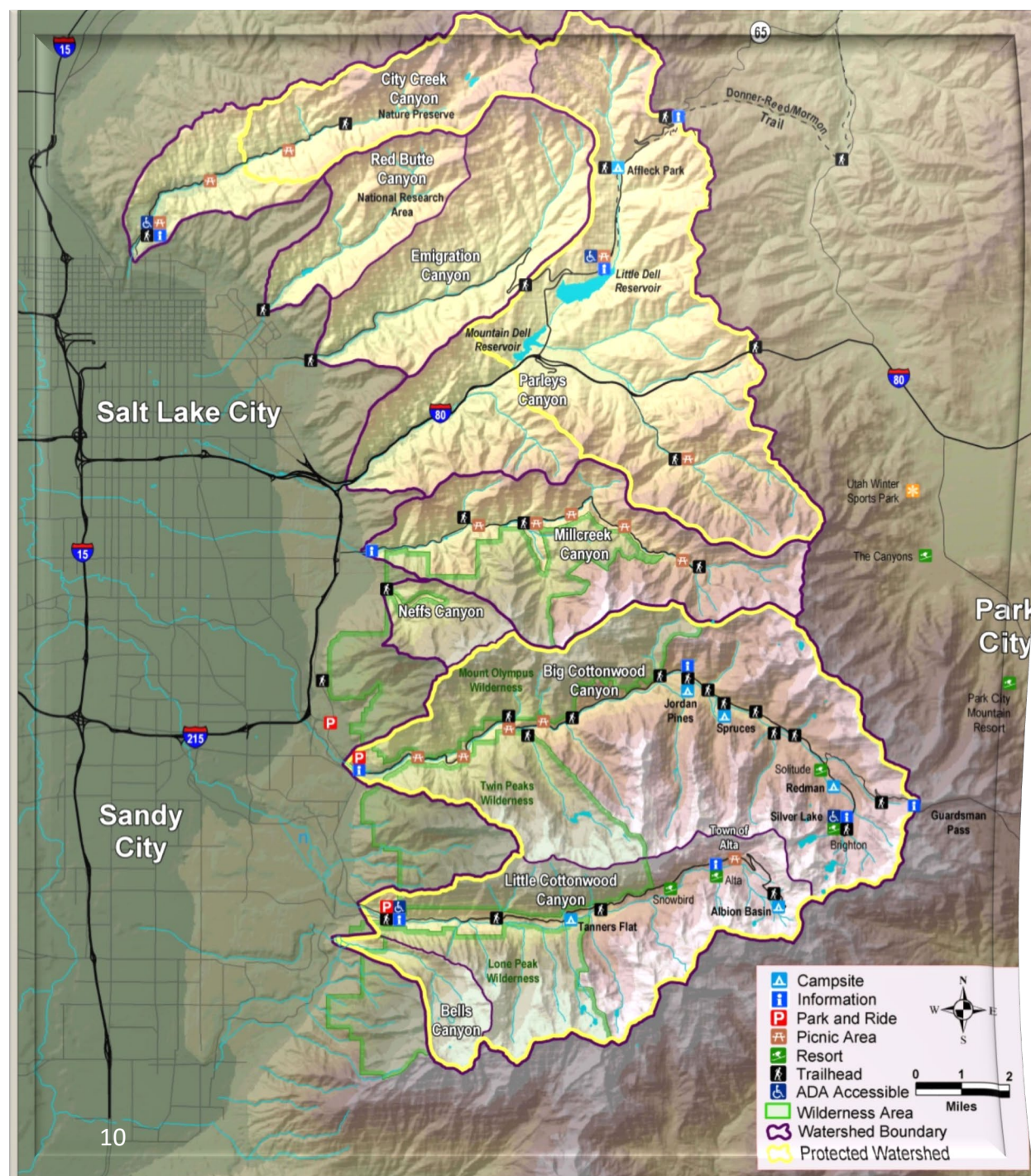
190 square miles in area; elevations from 5,000 to 11,500 feet

Within minutes to urban core; less than 24 hours to a tap

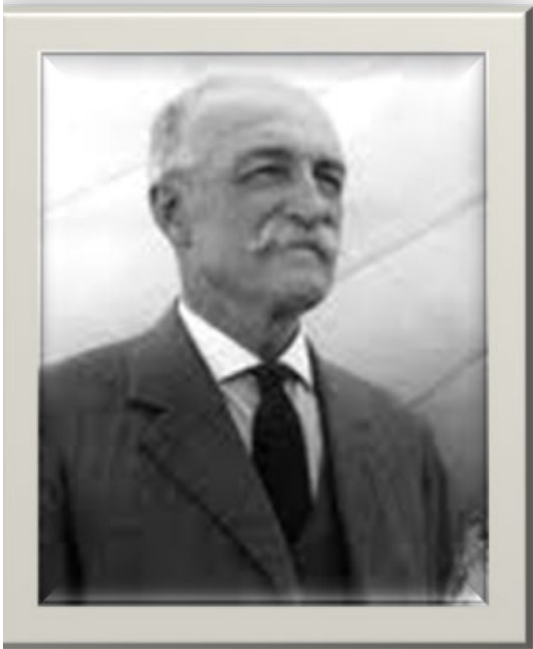
50%- 60% of water supply

Multiple government jurisdictions

Recreation visitation greater than Yellowstone National Park ~5 million people/year



# Historical Watershed Context – Typhoid, Runoff Flu, and Rehabilitation



**GOVERNMENT IS TO PLANT TREES**

Project Will Be Recommended for Salt Lake Forest Reserves.

**TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY**

**MAXIMUM FLOW OF STREAMS MADE LATER IN YEAR.**

A forestry project important to Salt Lake valley and to Salt Lake City particularly, in view of her recent acquisition of water rights in Big Cottonwood, is to be recommended to the United States department of agriculture this winter in a report to be filed by Walter B. Hadley and J. M. Fetherof of the forestry service. Messrs. Hadley and Fetherof are now stopping at the Cullen hotel, the former having arrived yesterday and Mr. Fetherof joining him this morning.

They have been making a careful study of the Salt Lake forest reserve for the government during the entire summer and will not complete their labors until snow begins to fly. Their special mission has been to study the best means of remedying the timber scarcity on the lower western slopes about Parley's, Mill Creek and Big and Little Cottonwood canyons.



# Regulatory and Policy Context for Watershed Protection

Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Statutes and Rules

Salt Lake City Watershed Ordinance (17.04 and 17.08) and Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan

Salt Lake County Health Department Regulations and Land Use/Zoning

US Forest Service 2003 Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan and federal laws

State Law (10-8-15 – Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)

# Managing our Watersheds

**KEEP IT PURE™**  
From your Mountains  
to your Tap

Salt Lake City  
Department of Public Utilities

Water Quality Report 2021

PWSID# UTAH 18026

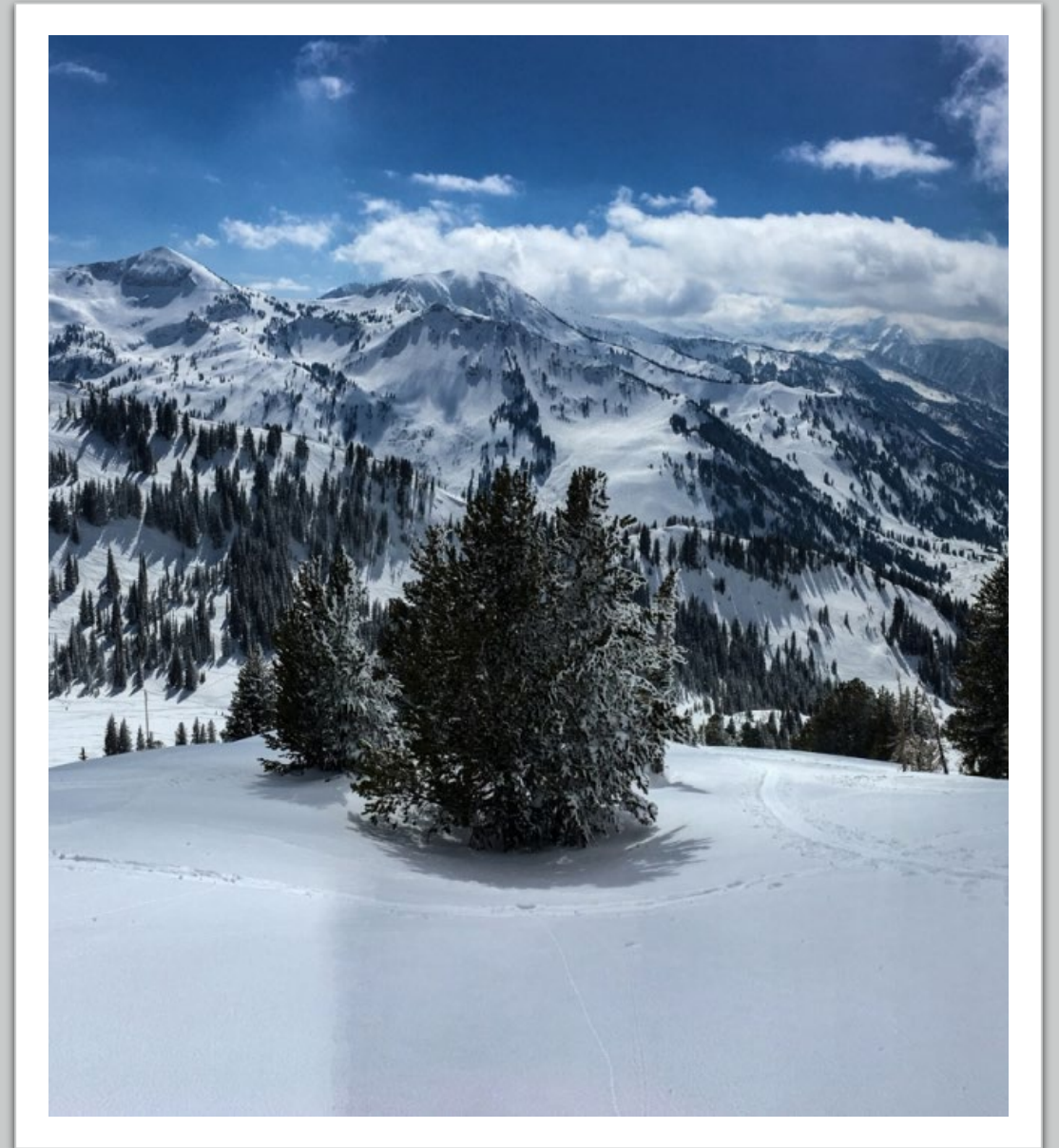


## Key Strategies

- Land Conservation and Stewardship
- Partnerships
- Public Education
- Regulation
- Purchase of Irrigation Shares
- Monitoring

# Interrelated Resource Plans and Studies Inform Management and Policy

- Watershed Management Plan (currently being updated)
- Water Supply and Demand Plan (updated 2019)
- Water Conservation Plan (updated 2020)
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan (currently being updated)
- Water Rate Studies (updated 2018, proposed for FY 23)
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Community Financial Capability Study (in process)
- Water Loss Audit (in process)
- Integrated Watershed Plan (in process)



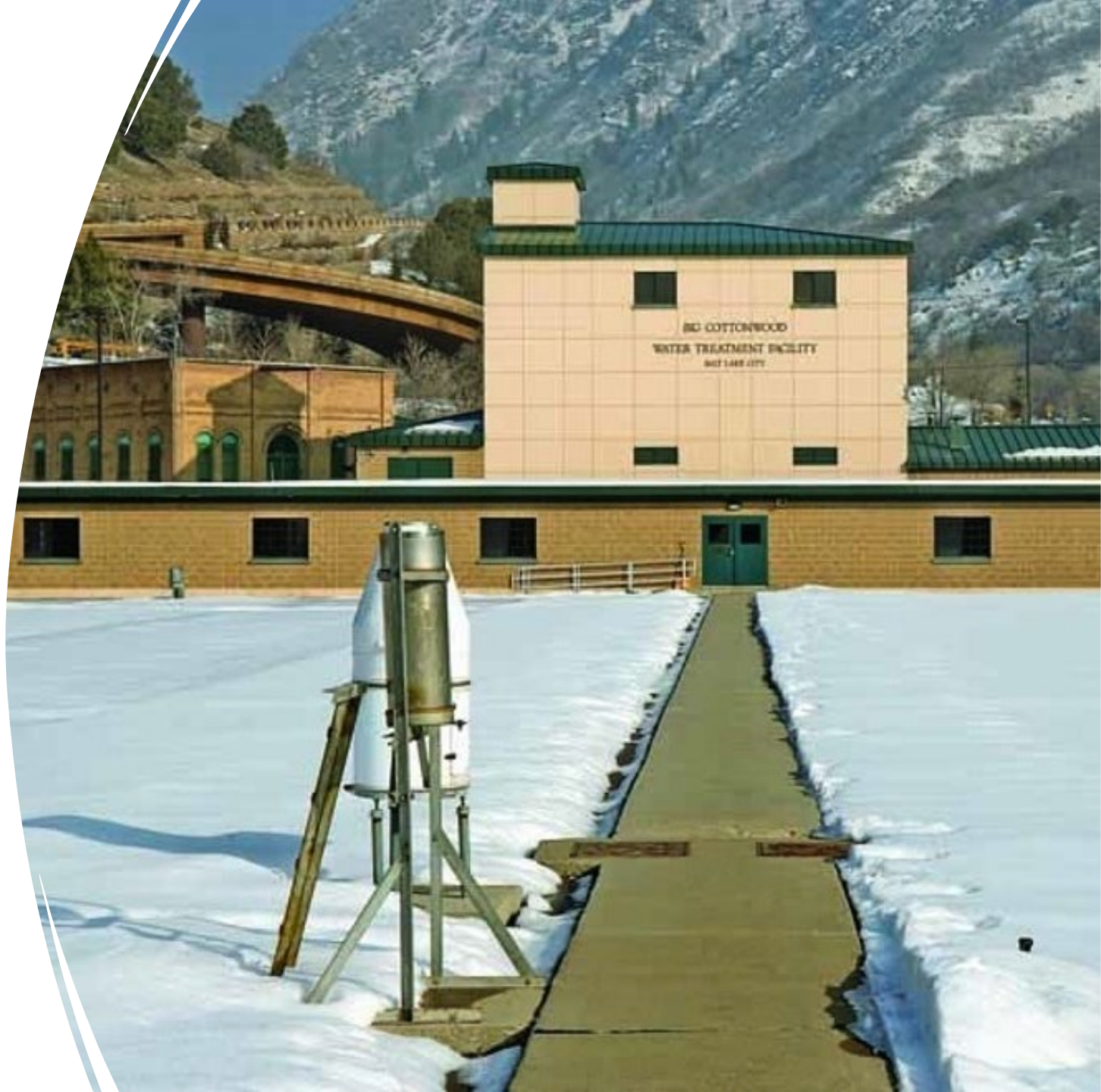
# Water Legislation in 2022 Session

We expect to see quite a few water-related bills related to water conservation, Great Salt Lake, and regulatory needs. Here is the list so far:

- HB 21 – School/childcare water testing requirements for lead
  - HB 33 – Instream Water Flow Amendments
  - HB 37 – State Water Policy Amendments
  - HB 64 – Drinking Water Amendments (per ERU charge)
  - SB 31 – Water Rights Proofs
- 
- Also watching for legislation impacting watersheds.

Salt Lake City  
Designated Water  
Service Area  
Ordinance  
Salt Lake City Council  
Work Session  
1-11-22

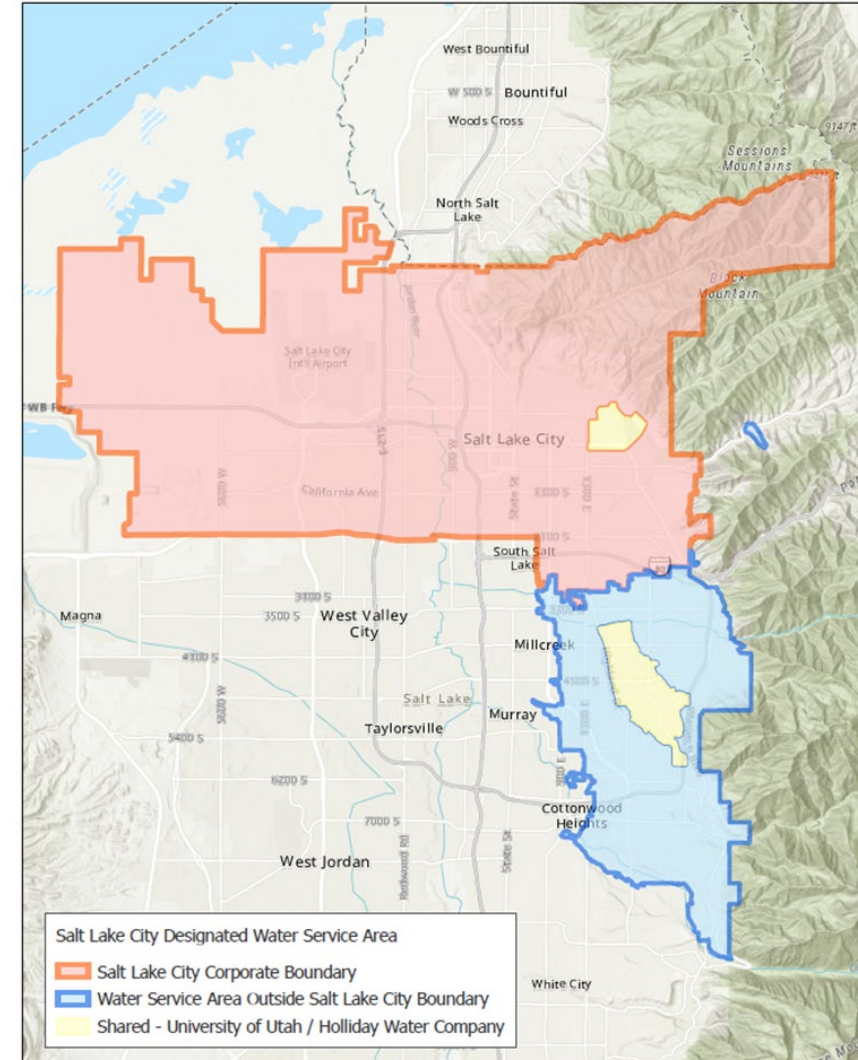
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# Salt Lake City's Water Service Area

- SLC's water service area developed over the last century through unincorporated Salt Lake County
- Annexations to Salt Lake City considered where water was served but not carried out historically
- Several cities incorporated on top of the system over time
- Does not include the canyon areas
- We currently serve portions of Millcreek, Holladay, Cottonwood Heights, Murray, Midvale, and South Salt Lake as well as all incorporated Salt Lake City
- Public Utilities Advisory Board comprised of three residents of service area outside of City boundaries and six within Salt Lake City boundaries.



# State Legislation Driving Creation of Designated Water Service Area

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Shall the Utah Constitution be amended to:

- rewrite a provision relating to municipal water rights and sources of water supply;
- allow a municipality to define the boundary of the municipality's water service area and to set the terms of water service for that area;
- state that a municipality is not prevented from:
  - supplying water to water users outside the municipality's boundary; or
  - entering into a contract to supply water outside the municipality's water service area if the water is more than what is needed for the municipality's water service area; and
- modify the basis upon which a municipality is allowed to exchange water rights or sources of water supply?

# D

### Ballot Title

FOR

AGAINST

### Legislative Votes

**Utah Senate**  
27 Yes 0 No 2 Not Present

**Utah House of Representatives**  
71 Yes 0 No 4 Not Present

### Bill Title & Session

2020 Legislative General Session  
House Joint Resolution (H.J.R.) 3  
*Proposal to Amend Utah  
Constitution -- Water Resources of  
Municipalities*

- **HJR 3 (2020)** resolves ambiguity regarding municipal authority to provide water outside city boundaries

- **HB 31 (2019)** requires cities to create a map showing its designated water service area upon passage of constitutional amendment

# Thank you

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Utilities

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