

## Message from WRF Administrator Jamey West



# THE PIPELINE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

I am the Administrator overseeing all operations at Salt Lake City's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). The WRF is the only wastewater treatment plant in Salt Lake City and it serves over 200,000 people. Our Water Reclamation team do a lot of different things:

- Oversees permitting and monitoring of businesses and industries who discharge into our sewer system to ensure they do not discharge anything that might be harmful to the public, our employees, our sewer collection system, the WRF, or have the potential to pass through our systems and have a detrimental impact on the environment.
- Responsible for operating and maintaining the WRF 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The treatment processes at the WRF literally remove pollutants from the wastewater to produce an effluent suitable for discharge to Great Salt Lake.
- Samples and analyzes wastewater to provide accurate and timely analytical data for regulatory compliance and process control purposes.

The activities listed above are only a fraction of those for which we're responsible here at the WRF. However, I hope this small glimpse into the varied tasks we do each day indicates how critical our WRF is to Salt Lake City as a whole.

Our current facility is over 60 years old. It was originally constructed before the US's Clean Water Act became a reality (that legislation was passed in 1972). It has had some upgrades over the years to keep up with evolving water quality standards. Our team does everything possible to ensure the facility operates at its best. In fact, we've been recognized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for "Peak Performance" 29 years running. This is no small feat, especially when considering the age of the facility and the fact we're four years into building a new, state-of-the-art facility next door.

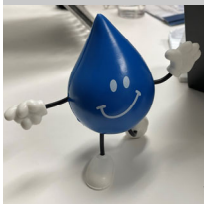
The New WRF project is truly one for history books. It's the second-largest public infrastructure project in the City's history (with the new SLC International Airport claiming the top spot). The New WRF is strategically designed to meet new and stringent water quality standards, so we can continue safely treating the City's wastewater before returning it to Great Salt Lake for years to come.

Constructing a new water reclamation facility is a massive undertaking, no matter how you look at it. Sundt/PCL, a joint venture, provides construction management and general contracting services for this project. If I had to choose just one word to characterize our entire team's approach, it would be "collaborative." The entire process, from planning and design to construction, has been the result of innovative thinking and partnership between SLCDPU's team; AECOM, the designer; Sundt/PCL; and, Jacobs, the program manager. We broke ground in 2019 and construction is scheduled to proceed through 2026. At peak points throughout the project so far, we have had nearly 400 local craft service laborers on site.

We've reached numerous milestones throughout the project, but the latest stands out as a testament to the collaboration required for a project of this magnitude. Just this past month (December 2023), we completed one million hours worked. The New WRF is roughly halfway complete, so there may very well be a celebration of two million hours worked once all is said and done. In the meantime, I want to take a moment to recognize the commitment to quality, cooperation, and dedication that are foundational to each one of those million hours worked so far

## Droplet's Phrase of the Month

**Hey Droplet - what does "color temperature" mean?**



When we talk about 'color temperature' here at SLCDPU, we're almost always talking about street lighting. Color temperature, measured in Kelvins (K), characterizes the color of a street light.

A warmer light (perhaps 1800K) looks amber in color, and is used in environmentally sensitive areas. Warmer light sources minimize the impact of light on surrounding plants and animals.

A cooler light (such as 3000K) looks white or even blue in color, and is used in high density urban areas. Cooler light sources support color rendering, color contrast, and object detection. They are used when it's important to prioritize visibility at night.

SLCDPU's Street Lighting team works to determine whether amber or white lighting is appropriate to areas throughout our City, while also working to maintain the character of certain light fixtures and to balance environmental and public safety needs.

SLC Street Lighting Master Plan

## Get Involved!

- **Join the team!** We're hiring. Explore career opportunities and submit your application on [Salt Lake City's Careers website](#).

Join SLCDPU's Team



*Our 2023 Annual Report is published and available for review. Click the image above to view it and reports from previous years online.*

## Project Updates

Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities manages a number of construction projects to maintain and improve our system. Many of these projects are smaller in scale but we've highlighted a few of our larger projects below. If you're interested in learning more about other SLCDPU projects, please [visit our website](#).

- **2100 South Sewer Upgrades:** Crews working on the 2100 South Sewer Upsize moved to the far east end of the project in December 2023. Work is currently in progress on 2100 South between Yuma Street and 2200 East, and traffic restrictions are active in that area. Crews anticipate resuming work between 1200 East and 1100 East shortly, and we advise all to heed traffic and posted signage.



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Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities  
Administrative Offices: 1530 S. West Temple Street | Salt Lake City, UT | 84104  
Customer Service: 801-483-6900 | Report a utilities emergency: 801-483-6700