



2020

- HB41 **State Water Policy Amendments:** Outlined state water policies and explicitly required promoting strategies and practices to address declining Great Salt Lake levels and protect lake water quality and quantity, incorporating lake health into the official state water policy framework.
- HB130 **Water Use Amendments:** Implemented new water-use efficiency guidelines, including requirements for water-saving fixtures and practices in residential and commercial properties.
- HB166 **Statewide Watershed Councils:** Created state and local councils to discuss water policy and management.
- SB26 **Utah Water Banking Act:** Amended state water policy to add new guidelines for water management and conservation.
- SB51 & HB40 **Secondary Water Requirements and Water Loss Accounting Act:** Improved water measurement and efficiency through metering secondary water use and accounting for water loss, enabling conservation that ultimately allows more water to flow to the lake.

2021

- Utah Watershed Councils Act (created via legislation like HB166 in 2020):** Established watershed councils statewide as forums for discussing water policy and resource issues, improving water management and coordination in the watersheds that feed Great Salt Lake.
- HCR10 **Concurrent Resolution to Address Declining Water Levels of the Great Salt Lake:** Non-binding resolution that acknowledged declining lake levels and laid out a roadmap and recommendations for studies and projects, setting the stage for more substantial bills in 2022 and beyond.

2022

- HB33 **Instream Flows:** Updated Utah water law to ensure Great Salt Lake is a “beneficial use,” authorizing the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to hold instream flow rights benefiting state sovereign lands (including Great Salt Lake) and allowing private entities to hold instream flow rights on a temporary and fixed-time basis.
- HB121 **Statewide Turf Buyback Program | \$5,000,000:** Appropriated \$5 million for a statewide turf buyback, making Utah the first state with a statewide rebate program, and required water conservation at state facilities.
- HB157 **Sovereign Lands Revenue Amendments:** Created a dedicated funding source for lake protection by targeting royalties from minerals not being mined on the lake as of July 1, 2020 (capturing future expansion/new extraction), prioritized sovereign lands revenue to benefit sovereign lands, and moving other funding items from the Sovereign Lands Management Account to the general fund.

HB242	Statewide Installation of Secondary Water Meters \$250,000,000: Appropriated \$250 million in grants to purchase and install secondary water meters on pressurized secondary water systems because unmetered residential secondary water for outdoor irrigation is difficult to track and conserve.
HB381	Agricultural Optimization (2018 legislation; 2022 funding) \$70,000,000: Noting agriculture is about 75% of Utah’s total water use amid critical long-term reliable supply issues, the Legislature appropriated \$70 million to improve agricultural practices, benefit farmers, optimize water use, and protect water quantity and quality for all uses in the system.
HB410	Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancements \$40,000,000: Established a water trust to spend \$40 million on projects to maintain or improve water quantity and quality to Great Salt Lake, fund wetland habitat protection/restoration, studies, and natural infrastructure, and tasked the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands with updating and enacting a comprehensive plan for Great Salt Lake.
HB423	Department of Agriculture and Food Amendments \$3,000,000: Modified the use of the Agricultural Water Optimization Account, specifically providing \$3 million in loans to support optimization projects.
HB429	Integrated Water Assessment / Great Salt Lake Amendments \$5,000,000: Required the Division of Water Resources to develop the Great Salt Lake Watershed Integrated Water Assessment.
SB3	Current Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations \$50,000,000: Appropriated \$50 million in one-time federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds directed toward the Agricultural Water Optimization Program.
SB89 and SB110	Integrated Land Use and Water Planning: SB 89 required water suppliers to meet regional conservation goals and SB 110 required a water use and preservation element in municipal/county general plans to better plan for growth and development with less water.

2023

HB137	State Crustacean Designation: Designated brine shrimp as the state crustacean.
HB217	School Energy and Water Reductions: Authorized the state board to issue grants related to energy and water reductions.
HB220	Emissions Reduction Amendments: Tasked the Utah Division of Air Quality with conducting an emission inventory in the counties surrounding the Great Salt Lake; this inventory will become the basis for recommended halogen emission standards and an air pollutant reduction plan (halogens contribute to wintertime inversion conditions and negatively impact the respiratory system).
HB307	Utah Water Ways \$1,000,000 ongoing and \$2,000,000 one-time: Created a new nonprofit statewide partnership to optimize water use and provided \$2 million one-time and \$1 million ongoing to establish and run it.

HB349	Water Reuse Projects Amendments: Prohibited water reuse projects after Nov. 1, 2023 unless federally owned, supplying water to Great Salt Lake, or subject to a replacement plan delivering an equivalent amount to Great Salt Lake.
HB450	Landscaping Requirements: Required HOAs to use waterwise landscape materials and prohibited them from requiring more than 50% non-water-wise plant coverage.
HB491	Amendments Related to the Great Salt Lake \$20,000,000: Created a Great Salt Lake Commissioner to develop a strategic plan and coordinate aligned agencies and interests; annually inform the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House; serve a renewable 6-year term unless removed by the governor; report annually to the Executive Appropriations Committee on expenditures and to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on activities; requires state agencies to cooperate; established a Great Salt Lake Advisory Council to advise the commissioner.
HB513	Great Salt Lake Amendments: Set an emergency trigger allowing regulators to halt mineral extraction and manage the railroad causeway berm when salinity reaches a certain concentration, incentivized non-depletive mineral extraction by modifying lithium severance tax/royalties, encouraged water-saving and depletion reductions, and ensured extraction value is available to protect the resource.
SB92	Special License Plate Designation \$12,500 per year: Created a Great Salt Lake license plate with funds going to the Sovereign Lands Management Account to conserve the Great Salt Lake watershed and ecosystem.
SB118	Water-efficient Landscaping Incentives: Added funds to the statewide landscape conversion incentive program, noting outdoor use is about 60% of municipal and industrial water use and encouraging grass where actively used rather than default ground cover.
SB251	Secondary Water Metering Requirements: Addressed secondary water metering, allowed grants under certain conditions, and provided alternative metering requirements under certain conditions.
SB277	Agricultural Water Optimization \$200,000,000 (total outlined in bill): Appropriated \$200 million to expand the Department of Agriculture and Food matching-grant irrigation efficiency program and allowed change applications to quantify saved water with the Division of Water Rights.
HCR7	Concurrent Resolution Supporting the Creation of the Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape: Formally expressed legislative support for the Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape and its partnership structure, signaling state endorsement to federal partners and stakeholders.

2024

HB11	Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements: Prohibited overhead spray irrigation for new construction and reconstruction in Great Salt Lake Basin cities, schools, and state facilities unless in an active recreation area.
HB61	Water Measuring & Accounting Amendments: Added telemetry promotion to State Water Policy and gave the State Engineer rulemaking authority on telemetry requirements and distribution accounting.
HB62	Utah Water Ways Amendments: Directed Utah Water Ways to coordinate with the State Board of Education to create K–12 resources and professional development opportunities.
HB275	Water Amendments: Prevented HOAs from prohibiting waterwise landscaping, allowed the state engineer to require electronic data submission, and clarified grant eligibility for water conservation funding.
HB280	Water-Related Changes: Addressed long-term planning by creating a process and funding mechanism (Water Infrastructure Fund) to plan for and implement water infrastructure projects.
HB453	Great Salt Lake Revisions \$500,000: “Great Salt Lake Conservation Act” set parameters for responsible mineral extraction when lake levels fall below healthy levels and ensuring the state is fairly compensated. It also established safeguards for the lake in relation to the development of new minerals and rare earth elements from the brines of GSL.
SB18	Water Modifications: Granted the State Engineer rulemaking authority related to saved water, allowing farmers to sell or send conserved water downstream without losing water rights.
SB125	Secondary Water Amendments: Modified who may meter at strategic points of a system, as approved by the state engineer; changes certain caps on grants for secondary water metering.
SB211	Generational Water Infrastructure Amendments: Created the Water District Water Development Council and a water agent to look ahead on Utah’s water supply and connect with other states to bring water in, described as critical to Utah’s future.
SB242	Utah Lake Modifications: Repealed the Utah Lake Restoration Act and provisions related to the Utah Lake Diking Project.
SB270	Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake Study Amendments \$1,500,000 real-located funds: Required the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to study Utah Lake habitat enhancement, water conservation, water quality improvement, and recreation enhancement.

2025

HB243	Agricultural Water Optimization Amendments: Allowed funds from the agricultural optimization fund to be used to study the program’s effectiveness to ensure “saved” water actually reaches the lake.
HB244	GSL Wildlife Management Area Amendments: Bear River Bay WMA.
HB285	Water Infrastructure Modifications: Modified the Water Rights Restricted Account to allow the Division of Water Rights to use funds for installing and maintaining water measurement infrastructure and stream gauges.
HB274	Water Amendments: Required municipalities and secondary water suppliers to implement tiered water rates based on usage to encourage conservation.
HB311	Watershed Amendments: Expanded the authority of the Utah Water Agent to negotiate water importation and augmentation projects.
HB446	Great Salt Lake Amendments: Made comprehensive Great Salt Lake amendments covering management, mineral extraction, and water rights by modifying statutes to set more detailed mineral leasing, royalty, and environmental protection guidelines.
HB520	Water Entity Amendments: Established a Great Salt Lake Trust Council to oversee watershed enhancement and moved the Great Salt Lake Commissioner role into the Department of Natural Resources.
HB1001	Great Salt Lake Amendments: Passed in October 2025, this bill allowed the adaptive management berm to be raised to an elevation of 4,192 feet to manage salinity in the lake’s southern arm.

2026

HB247	Great Salt Lake Amendments \$125,000: Modified the Brine Shrimp tax and expended \$125k for the benefit of the Great Salt Lake through water leasing programs and funding projects that benefit the health of the Great Salt Lake brine shrimp population.
HB296	Water Commitment Amendments: Permitted “commitment of available water use to the Great Salt Lake” to be included in a water conservation plan for water providers.
HB348	Dedicated Water Amendments: Prioritized dedicated water leasing applications for the Great Salt Lake or Colorado River by creating an exemption from filing proof of beneficial use.
HB410	Water Leasing Amendments: Established the Great Salt Lake Preservation Program, which allows water leasing to benefit the Great Salt Lake with a board that oversees the program and sets lease rates.
HCR9	Concurrent Resolution Regarding the Great Salt Lake: Urged the federal government to financially support the restoration of the Great Salt Lake.

Additional miscellaneous appropriations/ substantial funding items

2021

\$5,000,000 Great Salt Lake Marina Dredging and Berm Modification (one-time)

2022

\$27,287,000 Great Salt Lake Visitor Center (one-time)
 \$600,000 Management plans (one-time)
 \$150,000 Dedicated operating budget for Sovereign lands (ongoing)
 \$3,000,000 GSL Film Production (one-time)
 \$3,000,000 Agriculture Optimization Projects (one-time)
 \$50,000,000 Agriculture Water Optimization Program (one-time)

2023

\$5,000,000 Great Salt Lake Tributary stabilization/improvement (one-time)
 \$100,000,000 Great Salt Lake Salinity Management ((one-time))
 \$1,800,000 Great Salt Lake Bathymetric LIDAR (one-time)
 \$44,000 Ongoing GSL Dust Monitoring (ongoing)
 \$232,000 GSL Dust Monitoring (one-time)
 \$6,000,000 GSL Wetland Acquisition (one-time)
 \$12,000,000 Cloud Seeding (one-time)
 \$5,000,000 Cloud Seeding (ongoing)

2024

\$5,000,000 Wetland Enhancement (one-time)
 \$500,000 Adaptive Management Berm (ongoing)
 \$500,000 GSL Revisions (HB453) (one-time)
 \$500,000 Causeway Engineering (one-time)
 \$2,000,000 Phragmites (one-time)
 \$170,000 Split Season Leasing (one-time)
 \$5,000,000 Water Savings Program Seed Money (\$50,000,000 Federal)
 \$720,000 Staffing Dedication for Sovereign Lands (ongoing)
 \$1,000,000 Water Measurement (ongoing)

2025

\$1,000,000 Wetland Enhancement (ongoing)
 \$3,000,000 Bear River Cloud Seeding Program (one-time)

2026

\$30,000,000 Purchase of U.S. Magnesium (one-time)
 \$2,750,000 Great Salt Lake (ongoing)
 \$5,000,000 Water Litigation (ongoing)



Governor Cox