



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

July 17, 2023

Colorado River Authority of Utah

Gene Shawcroft, P.E.
Chair

Amy I. Haas
Executive Director

The Honorable Mike Lee
U.S. Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitt Romney
U.S. Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Curtis
U.S. House of Representatives
2323 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Stewart
U.S. House of Representatives
166 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Burgess Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Blake Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act (H.R. 4094/S. 1955)

Honorable Members of the Utah Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Colorado River Authority of Utah (Authority), I write to express our full support for the *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act*. The Authority was created in 2021 by the Utah legislature to “protect, conserve, use and develop Utah’s waters of the Colorado River system.” Section 63M-14-21 UCA. In accordance with our statutory mandate, the Authority supports the conservation initiatives undertaken by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District through the Water Conservation Credit Program which have yielded significant benefits to the Central Utah Project. However, the proposed expansion of this Program to include water conservation projects to benefit the Great Salt Lake would provide enormous benefit to the state by both enhancing resiliency in Utah’s Colorado River water supply and restoring the Great Salt Lake—arguably the two most pressing water issues facing the Wasatch Front. This legislation provides access to additional funding resources needed to increase water conservation efforts and augment water flows into the Great Salt Lake basin, which have significantly declined due to sustained drought and have resulted in alarming drops in lake levels. Water conservation is a top priority, and this bill recognizes the importance of advancing projects that will help to replenish the Great Salt Lake.

The *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act* will enhance access to federal funding for water conservation projects by adding a new provision to the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA - Public Law 102-575). This change gives the Secretary of Interior the flexibility to reallocate unspent budget authority within Title II of CUPCA and to put funds towards water conservation activities. Also, the bill expands the scope of the CUPCA water conservation program to now include the Great Salt Lake basin, which will greatly benefit the lake. Finally, the CUPCA program enjoys annual funding support from Congress providing a stable source of future funding for water conservation initiatives.

Thank you introducing *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act* and for your work in advancing it through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Amy I. Haas
Executive Director

