



Environmental Mission Statement

Actively promote the long term, sustainable development and wise use of water, energy and other resources under the stewardship of the Metropolitan Water District through conserving water and energy, protecting water quality and the watershed and assuring regulatory and environmental compliance. All actions will take into consideration the relevant goals and activities of the member cities, associated districts, and the state.

Water and Energy Conservation

Support water conservation and best management practices for energy and water conservation

- 1) Support our member cities' implementation of effective water conservation measures
 - a) Participate in the Utah State University water audits program
 - District continued to support the Utah State University (USU) Water Audits program during 2023.
 - The annual contract amount for water checks and analysis is \$116,000.
 - b) Support member cities' conservation programs
 - Support of member cities' conservation programs was through the USU Water Audits program and participation in the Governor's Water Conservation Team.
 - c) Participation in the Governor's Water Conservation Team
 - District is a member of the Governor's Water Conservation Team (GWCT) and Annalee Munsey is the District representative on this team.
 - The current annual cost for the District to participate in the GWCT as a funding member is \$36,400.
 - d) Implement the District's water conservation plan
 - The District's Water Conservation Plan was adopted in December 2005 and the plan was updated in December 2010. Recommended updates to the plan were considered in 2015 but have not been finalized. The District is not required to have a water conservation plan unless it is applying for grant funds that would require a conservation plan. The Environmental Committee did not see the need to update the plan but supported posting the District's Environmental Mission Statement and Objectives on the District's website.
 - e) Provide annual Utah Lake System reporting
 - Since 2000, the District has tracked per capita water use which documents conservation performance by the District and its member cities. This information is used to track the District's progress in meeting the ULS conservation goals of a 25% water use reduction by 2050. The District completed its annual conservation report and submitted it to Central Utah Water Conservancy District in March.

f) Support regional water conservation goals

- In 2019, the Utah Division of Water Resources established regional water conservation goals for Utah's nine municipal and industrial (M&I) areas. The 2030 goals vary by region due to the unique characteristics and needs of Utah's diverse climates and ecosystems. The regional goals constitute a 16% water reduction in per capita use from the new 2015 baseline. The 2015 Salt Lake County baseline is 210 gallons per capital per day (GPCD) and the 2030 Salt Lake County regional goal is 186 GPCD. The regional goals replaced the State's water conservation goals of a 25% reduction by 2025 goal. [County Water Conservation Goals](#)

2) Implement effective supply-side conservation measures

- Bowen Collins & Associates completed a comprehensive water supply and demand study in February 2019. Salt Lake City and Sandy City were involved in similar efforts. The District coordinated efforts with the member cities.

3) Plan and participate in Aquifer Storage and Recovery efforts

- Consistent with the District's Fiscal and Budget policy, when revenue is available, the District has contributed to the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Reserve fund. The current fund balance is \$4,460,487.
- The Managed Aquifer Recharge Design and Construction capacity improvement project is in progress. The District's 2021 Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Implementation Plan includes a six-phase approach to storing up to 8,790 ac-ft of water annually in the ground. The District successfully obtained funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to construct portions of the first two project phases (pilot and Phase 1) which are anticipated to include surface infiltration basins and an aquifer injection well. Construction of five monitoring wells, one injection well, and two surface infiltration basins are nearing completion.

4) Adopt best management practices for energy and water conservation at all District lands, properties, and facilities

a) Implement the District's Energy Management Plan

- Consistent with recommendations from the Emergency Management Plan, the District created an Energy Management Team. The team includes staff from Engineering, Maintenance, I&E, and Operations. The team meets quarterly to evaluate and consider the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar, either as independent capital improvement projects, or in conjunction with the implementation of other capital improvement projects.

b) Evaluate other energy and water conservation BMPs

- The District will continue to improve energy conservation through proactive operational/maintenance changes and through replacing failing equipment with energy efficient options.
- The District is eligible to receive funding from Rocky Mountain Power for proactive projects that improve energy conservation.

- 5) Promote public education regarding water conservation
 - a) Participate in public outreach through events such as Water Week
 - Water Week activities were not planned in 2023. However, tours of the LCWTP resumed. On April 14, 2023, staff provided a tour to participants in Salt Lake Chamber's leadership program called "Leadership Utah." Other small groups have toured the plant.

Water Quality Protection

Support District's mission to provide high quality water to our customers

- 1) Monitor and respond to harmful algal blooms in source water reservoirs
 - The District's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and Cyantoxin Response Plan, last updated in October 2021, continues to direct efforts to prevent HABs through source protection endeavors, to monitor for HABs through a cooperative effort with the Provo River Watershed Council, and to respond to reports of HABs when they occur.
- 2) Monitor and respond to aquatic invasive species such as quagga mussel
 - District continues to monitor aquatic invasive species, especially quagga mussels. As a part of this effort, the District provides funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program through the PRWC. Casey Silva, the new AIS Coordinator, provided an update on the AIS program at the most recent PRWC Stakeholder Meeting.
- 3) Monitor and respond to the introduction of new water supplies in District conveyance and distribution systems
 - District has coordinated quarterly meetings with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to discuss potential water quality issues or concerns with deliveries through the Jordan Aqueduct facilities to 21st South. The most recent meeting was held on October 27, 2023.
- 4) Monitor and respond to introduction of PFASs (perfluoroalkyl substances)
 - Since October 2019, the District conducts quarterly testing for PFASs (perfluoroalkyl substances) in Little Cottonwood Creek. The District has also been conducting PFAS monitoring as part of a project lead by the Division of Drinking Water. There have been a few detections of PFAS compounds in the source waters but no PFAS compounds have been detected in the finished water. On March 14, 2023, the EPA announced the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for six PFASs substances.

Watershed Planning and Protection Program

Support District's mission to effectively manage valuable resources and promote the sustainable use of water resources

- 1) Implement and maintain the District's source water protection plans
 - The District maintains source water protection plans for the following water sources: Provo River, Little Cottonwood Creek, Southeast Mountain Streams, Battle Creek, and Grove Creek.
 - The District has coordinated efforts with Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District on the Provo River source water protection plan. Every six years the source water protection plans are reviewed. These plans were updated in December 2019.
- 2) Participate in watershed planning programs and efforts to protect the watershed
 - a) Support Provo River Watershed Council
 - District is a member of the Provo River Watershed Council (PRWC). Eric Sorensen is the District representative on this council.
 - The current annual cost for the District to participate in the PRWC as a funding member is \$100,000.
 - b) Support Central Wasatch Commission (formerly Mountain Accord) efforts
 - District continues to support the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) efforts.
 - In 2022, Annalee was elected as an ex-officio board member of the CWC and represents the District on the board. The annual contribution is \$15,000.
 - The CWC funded a Central Wasatch Visitor Use Study to evaluate Millcreek Canyon, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood canyons. After two years of study and multiple phase reports, the Central Wasatch Commission released the final phase report associated with its Visitor-Use Study.
 - The data collected through the Visitor Use Study have been integrated into the Central Wasatch Commission's Environmental Dashboard, serving as the foundation for a sixth, "human" element, providing insight to any impact that human recreation in the Central Wasatch Mountains may have on the environment. The human element incorporates data that reflect the temporal and spatial dynamics of outdoor recreation use within Little Cottonwood Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, and Millcreek Canyon. The online tool is available at [CWC Environmental Dashboard \(utah.gov\)](https://www.utah.gov/cwc-environmental-dashboard)
 - c) Monitor and respond to legislative threats to watershed protection
 - District staff continues to monitor potential legislation that relates to protection of drinking water sources. Staff and the District's lobbyist track these bills and attend meetings, as needed.
 - The District has representation at The Utah Water Task Force (UWTF) monthly meeting. UWTF has provided input on water banking, watershed councils, watershed protection, water conservation, water rights, and other water-related legislation.

- d) Monitor and respond to developments in the watershed
 - District continues to monitor development in the watershed areas. On a monthly basis, District staff develop a report on potential development activity in the Provo River watershed and provide it to Sandy Wingert, Upper Provo and Jordan River Coordinator at the Division of Water Quality. This report is also shared with the Provo River Watershed Council.
- e) Consider monitoring other watershed areas that have a potential impact on District source water supplies
 - The council utilizes SWCA Environmental Consultants to provide engineering services for Provo River Watershed Water Quality Analysis. SWCA developed an interactive Provo River Watershed Story Map.
 - Also, Barr Engineering provides professional engineering services for the review of development (construction) plans. Barr Engineering is also conducting routine observations of stormwater collection systems for the purpose of protecting surface water quality.
- f) Consider and understand the implications of climate change to the District and its customers
 - District engaged Bowen Collins & Associates to complete a comprehensive water supply and demand study, which included an analysis of climate change implications. This study was completed in February 2019. Salt Lake City and Sandy City were involved in similar efforts. The District coordinated efforts with the member cities.

Regulatory Compliance

Recommend practices and programs that ensure regulatory compliance with the Division of Drinking Water and EPA

- 1) Monitor and respond to changes in water quality regulatory compliance requirements that may impact water treatment processes as well as practices of the District's certified lab
 - a) District completed Sanitary Survey
 - The IPS rule (Improvement Priority System) is an approach to evaluating and rating water systems. Ratings are in accordance with the Rule R309-400 – Water System Rating Criteria. The three possible ratings are: Approved, Correction Action (system deficiencies are in the process of being corrected), and Not Approved (significant deficiencies exist).
 - The District's water system was evaluated on June 20, 2023. A copy of the survey is available if board members are interested. The current rating is "Approved" and we received a 0 point score, the best score available. The next survey will be conducted in 2026.

Environmental Compliance

Recommend action to the Board regarding environmental compliance

1) Participate in NEPA compliance reviews as needed

- District has participated in two UDOT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. The Parley's Interchange EIS (near Terminal Reservoir) has been completed. The District has provided comments as well as Salt Lake City and Sandy on the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS.
- In July 12, 2023, UDOT released the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Record of Decision for transportation improvements. UDOT selected Gondola Alternative B with phased implementation of components of the Enhanced Bus Service Alternative. Staff provided comments throughout the EIS process.
- Staff provided comments on the Wasatch Front Regional Council draft 2023 Regional Transportation Plan.