

# Memo on Operating Budget for the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council

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06/20/2012

## **Mission of the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council**

Through adoption of House Bill 343 during the 2010 general session of the Utah Legislature, the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council was created to advise on the sustainable use, protection, and development of the Great Salt Lake.

## **Duties of the Council**

The duties of the council are to advise the Governor; the Department of Natural Resources; and the Department of Environmental Quality on the sustainable use, protection, and development of the Great Salt Lake in terms of balancing: sustainable use; environmental health; and reasonable access for existing and future development. Duties also include assisting the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands in its responsibilities for the Great Salt Lake described in Section 65A-10-8 and the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, and their applicable boards in accomplishing their responsibilities for the Great Salt Lake. The Council reports annually to the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on the council's activities.

## **Annual Work Plan**

The Great Salt Lake Advisory Council holds monthly formal public meetings that provide updates, reports, discussions, and counsel on Great Salt Lake activities. Each year, the Council develops a work plan of activities and tasks to accomplish. An annual report is presented to the Governor; the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, the Department of Natural Resources; and the Department of Environmental Quality.

## **Need for an Operating Budget**

In 2010, the Council identified four critical areas of immediate inquiry (i.e., economic significance, lake health, water budget and research needs) and in 2011, commissioned two studies in order to advise, assist and report on the sustainable use, protection, and development of the Great Salt Lake. The reports; "Economic significance of the Great Salt Lake to the state of Utah" and "Definition and Assessment of Great Salt Lake Health" has allowed the Council to advise on future benefits and cost savings to the state. To continue inquiry into the four critical areas, the council is requesting an operating budget equivalent to 1 full time employee (FTE).

Though staff support from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources is currently provided, additional staff time is needed to:

- Prepare proposals for funding needed to accomplish annual work plan goals
- Administrate and maintain all funds
- Initiate, prepare, approve, or carry out any work program studies, policies, planning or other Council requests
- Prepare and administer an annual work plan
- Assist any committees needed