



White City Water Improvement District

999 E. Galena Drive

Sandy, UT 84094

Phone: 801-571-3991

[E-mail: info@wcid.org](mailto:info@wcid.org)

[Website: www.wcid.org](http://www.wcid.org)

Paul H. Ashton, J.D.

General Manager

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

February 1, 2023

Utah Legislature Continues to Consider Water Bills

The 2023 General Session of the Utah Legislature started on January 17, 2023. It will run through March 3, 2023. During that time, hundreds of bills (proposed changes to the law) will be presented, discussed, and debated. Many of those bills will have a direct impact upon the White City Water Improvement District ("WCWID") and the residents we serve. Therefore, as in the past, I will be spending a significant amount of time working with other members of the water community and the Utah Association of Special Districts in reviewing and analyzing the bills filed.

Among the many bills filed, there are a number of bills dealing with conserving water to deal with the consequences of the long term drought Utah and much of the West has been experiencing. The Legislature is especially concerned with the falling levels of the Great Salt Lake and the health and economic implications of that situation. Legislators are hopeful that conserving water in landscaping and other measures will result in more water flowing into the Lake. The "devil is in the details" however, so each bill has to be analyzed to ensure it does not result in "unintended consequences."

For example, SB 118 being debated on the Hill will set up a program to funnel State funds to Conservancy Districts to encourage residents to tear out lawn and turf and replace it with "water efficient landscaping." Thus, a resident could tear out 100 square feet of lawn and get paid \$200 or more from the district. The potential downside of the bill is it will allow the Conservancy Districts to place a legal obligation of the benefitted properties such that owners will never again replant the removed lawn and turf. If such replanting occurs, even if 10 or more years in the future, a tax lien will be placed on the property. It is my concern that the threat of the lien will, in fact, discourage residents from participating in the program.

Part of my job as WCWID's General Manager/General Counsel is to make sure bills that ultimately pass by the Legislature do not harm WCWID and its water users. If you have any questions about the Legislature, please feel free to email me at paulashton@wcid.org

Record Snowfall Is Helping Utah Water Outlook

A week ago, I picked up a son who flew in from North Carolina for a family gathering. The first thing he mentioned to me was how much snow we had in the mountains and how excited everyone on the plane was to land and go skiing. He asked if the snow was the end of the drought. I laughed and said it certainly helped, but it will take more than one year to make up for all the bad years. Nonetheless, this year's snowfall is very good news.

Here are some interesting facts provided to WCWID from the NRCA-Utah Snow Survey put out by the National Water and Climate Center - US Dept of Agriculture:

As of January 18, 2023

- *Statewide, Utah's snow water equivalent (SWE) is 195% of normal. The only years that have had more snow on this date since the SNOTEL network was installed were 1984, 1997, and 2005. We're in good company! That makes this the best winter (so far) that we've seen in almost 20 years!*
- *With 76 days to go until our typical peak snowpack timing in early April, we have already surpassed what a normal peak snowpack would look like in an average year. Our current statewide SWE is roughly 101% of our normal peak SWE, which means that Utah is now guaranteed to have an above-normal snowpack season! From now until the onset of snowmelt, every additional amount of snow we receive will push us farther above normal.*
- *Every major basin in Utah is currently greater than 160% of normal SWE (except the Raft watershed in NW Utah). Nine of our basins are greater than 200% of normal!*
- ***New records are being set!*** *As of January 18th, 16 SNOTEL sites were reporting a record high amount of SWE for this date, and 19 more were second-highest. Of Utah's major basins, 4 have record-high SWE based on current conditions:*
 - *Provo-Utah Lake-Jordan (210% of normal)*
 - *Tooele Valley-Vernon Creek (234% of normal)*
 - *Lower Sevier (239% of normal)*
 - *Beaver (213% of normal)*
- *A range of outcomes is still possible for Utah's snowpack season. From our projections using the range of previous observations, the most probable outcome is that our maximum SWE will be roughly 22" (averaged across all of Utah's SNOTEL sites), reached in early April. That would be 154% of normal. It's also possible that this could be our new record winter for SWE in Utah... Time will tell!*

Refer to the NRCS-Utah Snow Survey [homepage](#) for additional information.

WCWID Is Moving Forward With Capital Improvements

Time moves forward and the Construction Season is fast approaching. WCWID has several projects it will be working on to upgrade and improve the water system. The second phase of the Segó Lily mainline replacement is scheduled for this spring and should be completed before a sidewalk project on the road is commenced by the White City Metro Township. (WCWID tries, whenever possible, to coordinate its work with other governments, such as White City or Sandy City.) Last year, WCWID replaced the water mainline from 730 East up to Barium Lane. This year, the 1100 feet of new 8" Ductile iron pipe will be installed from Barium east to Flint Drive. In addition, old, galvanized service lines from the mainline to residence meters will be replaced by copper. (Some service lines are already copper and will simply need to be connected to the new mainline. Finally, 2 new fire hydrants will be installed increasing fire protection for the homes along Segó Lily Drive.

We anticipate this water replacement project beginning late March or early April and continuing for an estimated 6 weeks from start to completion. We will share more details of the project as we get closer to construction beginning. Questions can be directed to Ryan Johnson, Operations Manager and Assistant Manager.