



# APPLICATION: Reservoir Storage Forbearance

The Colorado River Authority of Utah (the Authority), in accordance with the Authority’s Colorado River Management Plan, is implementing an intrastate Utah Demand Management Pilot Program to begin during irrigation season 2025, as early as March 1, 2025. The Authority is soliciting following projects, lease change or storage forbearance projects, and irrigation system conversion projects. The Authority’s goal with each project is to achieve water conservation through reduced depletion of water. The Authority will work with the Utah Division of Water Rights to distribute and account for the reduced depletion through a change application process on the subject water rights. This will help the Authority test demand management, which includes shepherding/ distribution of conserved water, and accounting for conserved water such that State of Utah could be eligible to receive “credit” for the savings that can be used to maintain 1922 Colorado River Compact compliance.

For more information, contact Lily Bosworth, Staff Engineer, Colorado River Authority of Utah at [lbosworth@utah.gov](mailto:lbosworth@utah.gov) or 801-824-9037.

1. Provide applicant contact information:

Name

Mailing address (not project location)

Telephone number

Email address

Questions 2 through 14 establish whether the proposed project meets the mandatory minimum requirements for Utah Demand Management Pilot Program participation. If the answer to any of these questions is *No*, then the project is not eligible to participate in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program.

2. Is the proposed project located within the Utah portion of the Upper Colorado River System? *Note: The “Colorado River System” means that portion of the Colorado River and its tributaries within the United States of America. In Utah, for example, on the mainstem of the Colorado River or the Green River or any of its tributaries (Figure 1). Yes No*

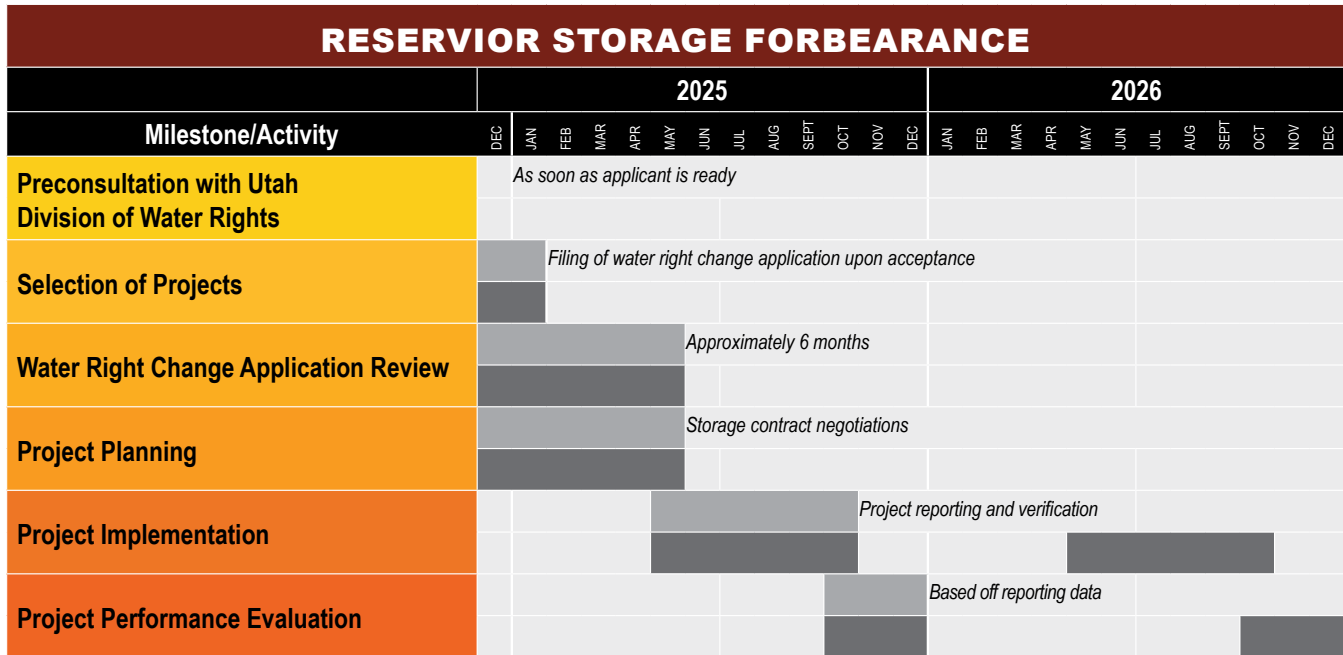
Figure 1. Utah Portion of the Upper Colorado River System





3. The Authority is seeking storage forbearance projects that can begin at the start of irrigation season 2025 and could run either through 2025 (one season) or through 2025 and 2026 (two seasons) (Figure 2). Can the proposed project be implemented within the Colorado River Authority of Utah’s desired timeline taking into account approval of the required change application?    Yes    No

**Figure 2.** Utah Demand Management Pilot Program Timeline for a Reservoir Storage Forbearance Project



■ 1-year project    ■ 2-year project

4. Has applicant completed a change application preconsultation with the Utah Division of Water Rights?  
*Note: Preconsultation with the Utah Division of Water Rights that covers the preconsultation questions in Attachment A is required to apply to the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program. Applicants are encouraged to begin the preconsultation process as soon as interested in participating in the program.*  
 Yes    No
5. Does the applicant declare that all information provided in this application, including information resulting from preconsultation(s) with the Utah Division of Water Rights, is, to the best of their knowledge, true and accurate?    Yes    No
6. Does applicant declare that the subject water right(s) are valid and in good standing?    Yes    No
7. Is applicant authorized to, and either has or is willing to, prepare, file, and defend a change application (to quantify saved water, change storage, or establish an in-stream flow).?    Yes    No
  - a. If Yes, provide the water right number to be changed. If available, please provide a copy of a *DRAFT* change application prepared during preconsultation and, if applicable, any associated shareholder information (for example, copy of share certificate(s); share statement prepared by the Utah Division of Water Rights; evidence of company willingness to sign shareholder change application).
8. Does the applicant have the authority to participate in this Utah Demand Management Pilot Program with the water rights and land proposed in this application?    Yes    No
9. Can participation in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program, including filing a water right change application associated with the proposed project, occur without violating an existing agreement to which the applicant is a party or otherwise bound by?    Yes    No



10. Has applicant filed all required approvals and permits necessary to execute their proposed project and participate in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program (except the approved change application)?  
Yes    No
11. Can the applicant demonstrate consistent, beneficial consumptive water use associated with the subject water right for the previous 7 years? Or, in the case of participation in another conservation program such as **System Conservation Pilot Program**, does applicant have documentation which confirms previous program participation?    Yes    No
12. Is proposed project expected to reduce water depletion in a manner that can be estimated by the Utah Division of Water Rights? *Note: Diversion measurement and field application metering are required for Utah Demand Management Pilot Program participation. Note: If the applicant does not currently have measurement devices then project selection will be conditional on acquiring and installing necessary devices. The Authority will help an applicant identify if and where devices may be needed, and will connect the applicant to resources for funding measurement devices.*    Yes    No
  - a. If yes, provide water depletion reduction volume estimate (in acre-feet) that will be generated by the proposed project. *Note: If reduced water depletion volume is not estimated by the Utah Division of Water Rights, then consultation with the Authority is required before the change application can be scored.*
13. Is applicant currently participating in, or planning to participate in, another conservation program?  
Yes    No
  - a. If yes, indicate the program(s):
14. Is the estimated diversion volume to be enrolled in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program greater than or equal to ( $\geq$ ) 40 acre-feet?    Yes    No
15. Briefly describe the proposed project (including whether or not water will be released from an upstream reservoir to a downstream reservoir and when) and provide the appropriate permissions, maps, and/or any other documentation about the proposed project.
16. Provide the following project cost estimates in whole dollar amount for the proposed project:
  - a. The Authority will pay \$150 per acre-foot of reduced depletion for a storage forbearance/lease change project. The compensation value (\$ per acre-foot of reduced depletion) is for the current application period only and **may be adjusted by the Authority in its sole discretion** during the application and review process to remain competitive with similar water conservation programs. Based on the estimated water depletion reduction volume entered above, provide the annual total requested compensation.
  - b. Is this project receiving any additional funds? If so, what is the purpose and amount requested or received for reimbursement through other conservation program(s) for this project?
  - c. What is the estimated amount, if any, that will be provided by the applicant, including contributions of in-kind such as labor and equipment, administrative fees, or legal fees? Provide additional estimated project costs.

Projects submitted for participation in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program will be evaluated and scored by the Selection Committee using the selection criteria in Attachment B.



# Attachment A:

## Change Application Preconsultation Worksheet

**Questions for Applicant** to Confirm During Change Application Preconsultation with Utah Division of Water Rights.

This information is critical for evaluating Utah Demand Management Pilot Program applications and therefore, applicants are highly encouraged to maintain an accurate record of preconsultation discussions and information obtained. It is recommended that during the preconsultation(s), applicants work with the Utah Division of Water Rights to prepare a non-binding DRAFT change application reflecting applicant's water rights and proposed project. Applicants may invite Colorado River Authority of Utah representatives to attend preconsultations.

### 1. Authority to file change application:

- Does applicant have a legal right to use the subject water right, such as fee ownership or a contractual right of use?
- Does applicant have authority from the water right owner to participate in the proposed project?
- If the applicant is not the owner of the water right, has the owner, such as irrigation company or water user association, agreed to cosign the change application and participate in the change application process?

Yes      No. If yes to any of these questions, please describe.

If the applicant is not the owner of the water right, please attach a written acknowledgment from the owner of the water right allowing the applicant to file a change application on the water right and enroll the water in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program.

### 2. Water right(s) subject to change application: Does the proposed project involve changing one water right or a portfolio of water rights?

### 3. Water right administration: Are there any anticipated complexities associated with the approval of the water right change application? For example, are there challenges associated with title, designated sole supply, or likelihood of impairing other water users?

### 4. Perfected water right: Is the subject water right a perfected water right?      Decreed      Certificated

### 5. Nonuse: Is the water right subject to more than 7 consecutive years of nonuse and, therefore, vulnerable to judicial forfeiture or an administrative finding of quantity impairment in an amount that will jeopardize project goals?



6. **Water supply:** What is the estimated volume (acre-feet) or flow (cubic feet per second) of water that can be diverted and distributed under the subject water right when considering the priority date(s) of the subject water right and anticipated hydrology of the local source?
7. **Depletion reduction:** What is the estimated total reduction in depletion (volume of conserved water) created by the proposed project?
8. Is the change application being filed for instream flow under Utah Code §73-3-30(4).      Yes      No
- a. What is the target reservoir for delivery of conserved water identified in the change application?
- b. If applicable, can subject water right be stored in a desired candidate reservoir(s) to potentially participate in a storage forbearance pilot program (for example, physical feasibility, legal considerations)?  
Yes      No
9. **Distribution considerations:** Can distribution requirements of the Utah Division of Water Rights be met using existing distribution models and/or measurement stations (for example, location of measurement stations and type of instrumentation)? If no, what improvements are needed (for example improved distribution models, measurement instruments, and/or measurement locations)?



# Attachment B: Scoring Criteria (Reservoir Storage Forbearance)

**The Selection Committee will complete** this attachment and score projects submitted for participation in the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program using the selection criteria herein. *Disclaimer: The Selection Committee may reject a project for any reason.*

1. Can the proposed project be implemented within the Colorado River Authority of Utah's timeline following approval of a required change application?    Yes    No
2. For a storage forbearance project, will proposed project occur in 2025 only or 2025 and 2026?  
    2025 only [0 points]  
    2025 and 2026 [5 points]
3. To what extent does the proposed project support the primary goal of the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program, which is to demonstrate feasibility of conserving, distributing, and accounting for reduced water depletion to obtain "credit" for the State of Utah to maintain 1922 Colorado River Compact compliance, though better understanding the following:
  - Degree to which various agricultural water depletion reduction methods are effective and viable for larger scale programs [0 or 5 points]
  - How reduced water depletions will generally be quantified for application in larger scale programs [0 or 5 points]
  - Conditions (hydrologic, economic, social, etc.) under which water users may participate in a demand management program [0 or 5 points]
  - How to best navigate state and federal (regulatory, operational) processes to store conserved water [0 or 5 points]
  - Feasibility, risks, and costs of storing saved water for demand management [0 or 5 points]

*Note: To evaluate this question, the Selection Committee may consider project size, location, scalability, repeatability, administrative accountability, accuracy, representativeness, and any other available factors. More points will be awarded to projects that would help further Utah Demand Management Pilot Program desired outcomes based on best professional judgment of the Selection Committee. [5 points per objective/bullet for up to 25 points]*
4. What types of data are available to support calculating actual depletion reduction? *Note: More points will be awarded for increasing levels of instrumentation or data quality (for example, precision, accuracy, repeatability).* [0, 5, or 10 points]
  - No water use measurement devices or instrumentation data are available. [0 points]
  - Historical crop yield, diversion, or point of application instrumentation are available. [5 points]
  - Diversion or point of application and field measurement instruments (for example, soil moisture sensors, EC towers) are available. [10 points]
5. What is annual expected quantity of depletion reduction<sup>1</sup> associated with the proposed project (acre-feet)?
  - 0 to 500 acre-feet [0 points]
  - 501 to 1,000 acre-feet [10 points]
  - More than 1,001 acre-feet [20 points]

<sup>1</sup> Share should not exceed amount of depletion savings based on available budget.



6. Does the applicant having a preexisting contractual relationship with the reservoir operator where the subject water rights or water shares exist? [0 or 5 points]

**The Selection Committee will consider the following information provided by applicant from preconsultations with the Utah Division of Water Rights:**

7. **Water right eligibility:** Is the water right eligible to be stored in a candidate reservoir and/or be the subject of an exchange in a candidate reservoir as determined by the Utah Division of Water Rights?  
Yes      No
8. **Water right availability (priority date):** Will water be available for the proposed conservation activity based on the priority date of the subject water right(s)? *Note: additional points awarded to projects if there is a higher likelihood the priority date of the subject water right or reservoir operational criteria will ensure water is regularly available for the conservation activity.* [0, 5, or 10 points]
9. **Water right availability (storage risks):** By evaluating feasibility and risks of storing conserved water, what is the likelihood that the conserved water will be available? [0, 5, or 10 points]
10. **Distribution system:** Can distribution requirements of the Utah Division of Water Rights be met using existing distribution models and/or measurement stations? *Note: Additional points will be awarded to projects in a location with a local distribution system model or in a distribution system with similar types of data to track storage accounting or distribution and delivery of water to the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program's desired location.* [0 or 5 points]
11. **Change application.** Are any complexities associated with the approval of the water right change application anticipated? [Yes 0 points or No 10 points]

12. Is a relevant reach gain or loss study available? [0 or 5 points]

### Other Considerations

13. Are there other considerations that strengthen or weaken this project?
- a. Additional project strengths: [Selection Committee to document] [0 or 10 points]
  - b. Additional project weaknesses: [Selection Committee to document] [subtract 0 or 10 points]

### Total Points

out of 115 possible points