

**SUNSET RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
2022 UACD CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2022**

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UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 NEW LU #1

TITLE: **State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)
Land Transfers**

SPONSOR: San Juan Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

ADOPT _____ ADOPT WITH CHANGES X REJECT _____

WHEREAS, San Juan Conservation District values our School and Institutional Trust Lands within San Juan County and the importance of that land to support economic growth and stability locally and statewide,

WHEREAS, as stated in Utah State Code **53C-1-102, 2.(b)** As trustee, the state must manage the lands and revenues generated from the lands in the most prudent and profitable manner possible, and not for any purpose inconsistent with the best interest of the trust beneficiaries, **2.(c)** The trustee must be concerned with both income and the current beneficiaries and the preservation of trust assets for future beneficiaries, which requires a balancing of short and long-term interests so that long- term benefits are not lost in an effort to maximize short-term gains.

WHEREAS, within the San Juan Conservation District boundaries and other areas within Utah, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is trading parcels of land with other federal sections outside of the counties they originated in.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts recommends SITLA land remain in the county it originated in, if there is a transfer made, and that SITLA land continues to support growth and stability in the future for that county. We oppose SITLA controlled land leaving the county which it originated in.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #1

TITLE: Wild Horse Management

SPONSOR: E&I and Twin M Conservation Districts

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, Utah's Conservation Districts support, protect and champion the importance and value of the state's agriculture, including grazing and watershed management, and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Districts are concerned about increasing numbers of wild horses in Utah and that excessive numbers of wild horses continue to cause increasing deterioration of range conditions, and soil and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Districts are concerned with the escalation of the cost of the BLM's Wild Horse Program and the inability, under current guidelines, to adequately manage populations of wild horses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the UACD advocate for national NACD policies that support existing legislation in the 1971 Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act that provides the BLM the ability to:

1. Maintain local population levels at or below herd objectives established for the Herd Management Area and Herd Areas through periodic gatherings and/or fertility control, and
2. Sell or dispose of unwanted and/or unadoptable horses without restrictions including humane euthanasia.
3. Compensate private landowners for range degradation caused from wild horses that occupy adjacent federal lands and
4. Prohibit extension of existing designated lands for wild horses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UACD support efforts by the Secretary of the Interior to revise management guidelines for wild horse and burros, and encourage authorities of existing legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, federal land management agencies should bear all costs of maintaining range improvements damaged by wild horses.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #2

TITLE: Allowance of Wild and Domestic Horse Processing

SPONSOR: E&I and Twin M Conservation Districts

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, Utah's Conservation Districts support, protect and champion the importance of the state's agriculture, including grazing and watershed management, and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Districts are concerned about increasing numbers of wild horses in Utah and that excessive numbers of wild horses continue to cause increasing deterioration of range conditions and soil and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the effective end of wild horse slaughter has dramatically increased the cost, at tax payers' expense, to feed and care for unwanted or unadoptable animals for the remainder of their lives.

WHEREAS, without processing facilities for domestic horse slaughter and USDA inspection of horse meat, all horses, including wild horses have little value. This contributes to domestic horses being abandoned.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the UACD advocate for national NACD policy that supports existing legislation and management provisions that allow the sale and/or processing of unwanted animals as a resource for protein, food sources for humans and animal agriculture without the unnecessary restrictions by Congress or the U.S. administration or other agency of the federal government and the Utah Congressional Delegation.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #3

TITLE: Utah Partners for Conservation and Development
Watershed Restoration Initiative

SPONSOR: Northern Utah Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, the Greater Sage Grouse has been petitioned for listing under the protection of the Endangered Species Act, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in denying these petitions in 2006, recognized the efforts of local sage grouse working groups to conserve the species, and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is addressing this issue through the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development Watershed Restoration Initiative, and, Utah Sage Grouse Strategic Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, this is a voluntary proactive approach to work together to benefit ecosystems, wildlife, and domestic livestock;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts to prevent the listing of the Sage Grouse as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act by providing staff support for the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development Watershed Restoration Initiative and by assisting local sage grouse working groups efforts to restore habitat.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #4

TITLE: Grazing and/or Agricultural Practices as Management Tools for Lands Acquired
for Habitat Protection

SPONSOR: UACD Board of Directors

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, public agencies and private interests have, and are, acquiring private lands to preserve critical lands for wildlife habitat, plant habitat, and/or, to prevent soil erosion, and,

WHEREAS, often these new land managers do not have the experience with livestock and farm practices that have been used to maintain and improve the health of the desired habitats, and,

WHEREAS, when livestock and/or farming are removed from acquired properties, over time, the quality and value of desired habitats often decline, or are lost;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that UACD work with the State Legislature, National Congress, Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, private organizations, the Utah Grazing Improvement Program Board and others, to educate national leaders on the benefits of livestock grazing and farming to maintain critical habitats and increase forage and water production.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #5

TITLE: Archaeology Studies on Utah State Owned Lands

SPONSOR: Land Use Committee

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, archaeology studies are required by Utah State law for properties owned by the State of Utah, and,

WHEREAS, the leaseholder presently has to bear the expense of archaeological studies on Utah State owned lands, and,

WHEREAS, improvements made by the leaseholder, increases the value of the Utah State property, making it an asset to the State of Utah;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts opposes the leaseholder being held financially responsible for archeological studies on Utah State owned lands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Utah bears the cost of needed studies.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #6

TITLE: Support of RS 2477 to maintain local control of granting right-of-way across public lands.

SPONSOR: Land Use Committee

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, access to our natural resources on public lands is important to their proper use and conservation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, UACD supports RS 2477 and other rights of way across public lands.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #7

TITLE: State Institutional Trust Lands Administration Land Trades

SPONSOR: San Juan Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) was created in 1894 and the Constitution of the State of Utah requires the administration “to act with undivided loyalty in the best interest of the schools;”

WHEREAS, the Trust Lands Administration owns 3.3 million acres scattered around the State of Utah, a parcel of land which, if combined, would be about the same size as the state of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, these lands are held by the state, acting as a trustee for the public schools, and all net revenue is saved in the permanent State School Fund, which now has over \$1 billion dollars.

WHEREAS, there are surface leases that allow for grazing on the majority of SITLA lands and many producers rely on grazing on the state owned sections as part of their ranching operations.

WHEREAS, there are many instances when it would be in “the best interest of schools” to consolidate these scattered parcels into a continuous block of land and to create the blocks of land, land trades must occur.

WHEREAS, the land that is traded for SITLA land is typically owned by the Federal Government under the management of the Bureau of Land Management and usually has grazing rights attached as well.

WHEREAS, land trades could adversely affect producers whether they have SITLA leases being traded to BLM permits, or if they have BLM permits that will be traded to SITLA leases.

WHEREAS, SITLA leases, although much easier to make range improvements on, are not considered an asset in a producers balance sheet, can have higher grazing fees and are not considered as secure and stable as BLM permits.

WHEREAS, SITLA leases are subject to renewal, by an open bid process, every fifteen to twenty years and a producer can be outbid and lose the lease during the renewal process.

WHEREAS, although BLM permits are subject to management by frequently changing personnel and deep levels of bureaucracy, they typically have lower grazing fees than SITLA leases, and have traditionally been considered secure and stable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Utah Association of Conservation Districts strongly suggests that each land trade that is negotiated between SITLA and any other federal agencies be done only after weighing and valuing the opinion of the individual grazers currently using the land and that when possible all measures be taken to insure the perpetual continuance of grazing on traded lands.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #8
TITLE: Support for Noxious Weed Control
SPONSOR: Price River Watershed Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, noxious and invasive weeds are a continued threat to Utah's watersheds;

WHEREAS, the spreading of noxious and invasive weeds is prolific and is approaching critical levels where control may not be possible without everyone's help;

WHEREAS, every possible method should be used to reduce the spread of noxious and invasive species;

WHEREAS, observation shows that noxious and invasive species are being transported from area to area by recreational vehicles, cars, trucks and heavy equipment from one site to another making it critical that everyone take responsibility to reduce the spread of noxious and invasive species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts by county, state and federal governments and agencies that would require heavy equipment to be washed and cleaned, on-site, before being transported to another job site outside of the current work area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Utah Association of Conservation Districts support educational efforts to encourage recreational vehicle users to clean their machines thoroughly before taking them from one watershed to another.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET LU #9

TITLE: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to Help Pay for Weed Control

SPONSOR: San Juan Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, wildlife are free to roam from property to property mostly unrestrained;

WHEREAS, wildlife eat noxious and invasive weed plants and seeds and transport that seed supply to other areas within their habitat by the dropping of their feces and other means;

WHEREAS, observations from landowners point to major weed infestations occurring in many new areas because of the spread of weed seeds by wildlife;

WHEREAS, the cost to control noxious and invasive weeds in the State of Utah is increasing along with the spread of these weeds and local governments and landowners feel they are losing the battle for control because of the increased costs and limited budgets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts requiring the DWR to help finance the fight against noxious and invasive species statewide; either by funding coming directly from each license fee or a direct budget payment to county weed boards and/or Cooperative Weed Management Areas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports efforts by county weed boards and CWMA's to distribute these funds in a manner that would have the greatest impact on noxious and invasive weed control on public and private lands.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 NEW SD #1
TITLE: Regain Control of the Envirothon
SPONSOR: Timp-Nebo Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

ADOPT _____ ADOPT WITH CHANGES X REJECT _____

WHEREAS, the Utah Envirothon Steering Committee transferred control of the Envirothon to Utah State University,

WHEREAS, Utah State University has not included local Conservation Districts in the planning, development, and execution of the Envirothon,

WHEREAS, the Envirothon is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD),

WHEREAS, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts is a support network for local conservation districts and was once in control and a large part of the Envirothon,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts Will meet with the Utah Envirothon Steering Committee and the USU Envirothon team to determine a path forward.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 NEW SD #
TITLE: Support for I&E for UACD Resolutions
SPONSOR: Sanpete Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

ADOPT X ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ REJECT _____

WHEREAS, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) is a voluntary association of conservation district officials representing Utah's 38 conservation districts.

WHEREAS, the purpose of UACD is to facilitate the conservation and orderly development of Utah's natural resources through local conservation district supervisors and their conservation partners so farmers/ranchers can continue to produce, in harmony with the environment, the food and fiber we all need to have to enjoy a healthy life.

WHEREAS, one goal of UACD is to empower Utah's 38 districts to fulfill their legislated duty to address local conservation and natural resource needs.

WHEREAS, UACD holds an annual convention where new and sunset resolutions are discussed during the standing committee meetings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts hold trainings at least once a year on the UACD resolutions that are passed.

THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that trainings can be held during annual Zone meetings, CD meetings, and other gatherings of the local conservation districts.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET Strengthening Districts #1
TITLE: Notifying Local Conservation Districts of Research, Testing, or Surveying Taking Place
within the District
SPONSOR: Fremont River Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Rewrite

RE-ADOPT _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE X _____

WHEREAS Utah's CDs identify local resource needs and provide support in obtaining the resources to address those needs. Districts work in partnership with state and federal land management and conservation agencies to obtain educational, technical, and financial resources to plan and complete conservation projects;

WHEREAS the purpose of the CD is to focus attention on private and public land, water, and related natural resource problems; develop programs to solve those problems; and, enlist the cooperation of the various public and private natural resource agencies and groups who can contribute to the accomplishments of the district's goals and plans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local CDs require any entities coming to do any type of research, testing or surveying of any natural resource within the local District to contact the local CD Board and inform them of the type of research, test, or survey being performed, the date, the time, and the place that the research, test, or survey will be done;

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that by notifying the local CD Board of the research, test, or survey being done on any natural resource, will allow the CD Board to work in coordination with the entity to contribute to the district's goals and plans.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET Strengthening Districts #2
TITLE: Conservation Districts as Coordinating Agencies for Federal, State and Local Planning
SPONSOR: Sanpete Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES RETIRE

WHEREAS Utah's Conservation Districts (CDs) identify local resource needs and provide support in obtaining the resources to address those needs. Districts work in partnership with local, state and federal land management and conservation agencies to obtain educational, technical, and financial resources to plan and complete conservation projects;

WHEREAS federal law (40 CFR & 1501.6.) allows for agencies to ask federal, state, and local government entities to be coordinating agencies to assist with NEPA, resource planning, etc. and allows interested state, local or tribal entities to request coordinating agency status;

WHEREAS, federal agencies are mandated to coordinate planning and management actions with local government by statute including the Federal Lands Management and Policy Act, the Forest Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Homeland Security Act, and by regulations and rules implementing those statutes, and by Executive Orders of our President directing intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. Most federal, state and local land management agencies or organizations adhere to this coordination process. This coordination assists these agencies and organizations in accounting for and considering the state and/or local government's proposed management for lands under their jurisdiction, and vice versa. Coordination is a process that requires federal, state and local governments to resolve conflicts and reach consistency with local plans and policies;

WHEREAS Conservation Districts are often overlooked by federal and state agencies to participate as coordinating agencies;

WHEREAS Conservation Districts are directed by State Code to make recommendations governing land use within the district, including: the development and/or restoration of range, forest lands or other natural resources, whether in private, state, or federal ownership;

WHEREAS a Coordinating Agency is charged with participating in scoping processes, assisting to develop information and prepare environmental analyses and share pertinent data and information to facilitate fact-based decision making.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local Conservation Districts work with their federal, state and local partners to coordinate conservation efforts and projects,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all federal, state and local entities are informed of the importance of inviting local Conservation Districts to participate in these discussions,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UACD educate, work and network, in coordination with Conservation Districts, at the state, regional (Southwest Region), and national (NACD) levels to help implement this process for all Conservation Districts.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET SD #3

TITLE: Support of Agriculture Protection Area Law

SPONSOR: North Cache and Blacksmith Fork Conservation Districts

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, Utah's Conservation Districts support and champion the importance and value of agriculture in Utah and are in favor of protecting the state's agricultural industry, and,

WHEREAS, the Conservation Districts recognize the value of the Agriculture Protection Area (APA) law enacted by the Utah Legislature in 1994 as an important tool for protecting the state's agricultural industry, and are committed to supporting and promoting agriculture in Utah through local APA laws,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts encourage any legislation to support and strengthen the Agriculture Protection Area law and work with other organizations and legislators to maintain the integrity and strength of the law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts oppose any legislation that would weaken the Agriculture Protection Area law and work with other organizations and legislators to maintain the integrity and strength of the law.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 NEW WR #1
TITLE: Transferring of Water Rights
SPONSOR: Kamas Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

ADOPT_____ ADOPT WITH CHANGES X REJECT_____

WHEREAS, the Utah Code section 73-1-10 states that a water right shall be transferred by deed in substantially the same manner as is real estate,

HOWEVER, water rights are tied to a physical watershed within the State of Utah, and transferring those water rights outside of its geographical location in a non-physical manner would result in water rights in name only,

WHEREAS, water rights of a higher class should not be converted into a lower class at the same value, such as live water to well water,

WHEREAS, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts has a stewardship responsibility to protect the natural resources of the State of Utah,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts is opposed to any future water right transfers to leave their associated service area.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support water right values according to their class and value.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 NEW WR #2

TITLE: Support of the Sanpete County Narrows Project

SPONSOR: Sanpete Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

ADOPT _____ ADOPT WITH CHANGES X REJECT _____

WHEREAS, The Narrows has been discussed and promised to Sanpete County for over 80 years. When complete, it will provide a means of storing water that runs out of the mountains to the east for use as mid and late summer irrigation and culinary water,

WHEREAS, The State of Utah agrees that the Narrows should be built. Utah's House of Representatives and State Senate passed Resolutions in 2008 and 2009. The State's Natural Resources experts and the State Engineer agree that the Narrows should be built.

WHEREAS, On March 29, 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation's Provo office released a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The publication of this document was a major milestone in the process of getting the Narrows built.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts along with interested conservation districts, not only support Sanpete County in their pursuit of the Narrows Project, but also support the critical need for water storage facilities throughout the State of Utah.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 NEW WR #3

TITLE: Support for on-going funding for Water Optimization

SPONSOR: Sanpete Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

ADOPT X ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ REJECT _____

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Agricultural Water Optimization Program is to:

- Improve Water Optimization by reducing consumptive water use while maintaining or improving agriculture production and profitability, and providing increased operational flexibility for agriculture water users moving forward.
- Improve Water Quantification by showing accurate, real-time measurement of diverted water to demonstrate actual water savings in CFS and acre foot.
- Document the availability of water after implementation of a Water Optimization Project.
- Improve and protect surface and ground water quality by reducing overwatering of crops.

WHEREAS, the funding for the Agricultural Water Optimization Program was received under the American Rescue Plan Act and given to UDAF as one-time with multiple application periods.

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is listed as the second driest in the nation and water is valuable.

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is committed to optimizing the use and management of finite water supplies to preserve the state's agricultural economy and sustain future growth opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts along with the 38 Conservation Districts support the need for on-going funding from the Utah Legislature for Agricultural Water Optimization Program.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET Water Resources #1
TITLE: Support Efforts to Overturn the Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corp of Engineers Rule “Waters of the U.S.” also known as WOTUS
SPONSORS: Price River Watershed Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT X RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES _____ RETIRE _____

The information contained in this resolution is gathered from documents generated by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the California Cattleman Association.

WHEREAS: “The FINAL WOTUS RULE is even broader than the PROPOSED RULE and creates even more risk and uncertainty for farmers, ranchers and other who depend on their ability to work the land.”

WHEREAS: “The definition of ‘TRIBUTARY’ has been broadened to include landscape features that may not even be visible to the human eye, or that existed historically but are no longer present, and that can be conclusively identified by remote bureaucrats using “desktop tools”. In the PROPOSED RULE a tributary required the “presence of a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark” (OHWM). Plus some flow that sometimes reaches a navigable water. In the FINAL RULE, there is no need for the presence of an actual bed, bank and OHWM, but only the “presence of physical indicators of a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark”. (Final Rule at 204). This means that the agencies can conclusively establish the presence of a tributary based on “indicators” found in mapping, aerial photos, LIDAR, NRCS soil surveys, etc., were the human eye cannot discern either water or any physical channel or evidence of flow. AND;

WHEREAS: The ADJACENT WATERS standard is confusing, hard to apply and lacks clarity. All water within certain distance thresholds are deemed “adjacent” and therefore are automatically regulated. (Final Rule starting at 103) Many water previously viewed as isolated (e.g., on industrial sites, farmlands, etc.) will now be deemed adjacent, and therefore WOTUS, unless they fall within one of the narrow exclusions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts along with its 38 supporting Conservation Districts, support any efforts by US Congress, US Supreme Court, State Legislative Bodies, Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s groups, and others, to overturn the Water of the US Rule or make changes that are less regulative to landowners, farmers and ranchers, in the United States of America.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET WR #2
TITLE: Funding for Watershed Planning Efforts
SPONSOR: Price River Watershed Conservation District

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT _____ RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES X RETIRE _____

WHEREAS, watershed plans involve a comprehensive study of watersheds and identify critical areas and targeted goals for improvement of watersheds and involve all users: Including agriculture producers, water right holders, and landowners in the watershed service area.

WHEREAS, watershed plans may be required for watershed user to receive funding from certain grants for watershed improvements and management methods to maintain healthy watersheds.

WHEREAS, watershed plans need to be comprehensive and detailed requiring experts to perform the research and coordinate data.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts that would make funds available to assist in the development of watershed plans throughout the state of Utah, in order that improvements and maintenance of our watersheds can continue to take place and progress.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2022 SUNSET WR #3

TITLE: Continued support for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

SPONSOR: Duchesne Conservation District

Uintah Conservation District (Co-sponsor)

Daggett Conservation District (Co-sponsor)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RE-ADOPT RE-ADOPT WITH CHANGES RETIRE

BACKGROUND –The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program operates in a close partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (CRBSCP)/Basin States Control Program and local Conservation Districts. This program currently removes approximately 855,000 tons of salt per year (including 224,600 from Utah) from the Colorado River, reducing the TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) of the river in the lower basin by 65 mg/l saving downstream users over \$88 million in water treatment costs. There is still much work to do. Utah has over 136,000 more acres that could be treated in currently approved salinity control areas, reducing further the salinity load to the Colorado River. In addition, the improved irrigation efficiency has conserved water while at the same time increased crop production

WHEREAS, the salinity control program has significant benefits to soil and water in the Colorado River Basin, and;

WHEREAS, Utah needs to comply with Minute 242 of the Mexican treaty, and provide usable water for the Lower Basin, and;

WHEREAS, there is a need to utilize the local workgroups to give direction to the program, and;

WHEREAS, it needs to remain a national priority and receive earmark funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (1) encourage the continued earmark funding and support for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, (2) encourage NRCS and the CRBSCP/Basin States Control Program to maintain the 75% equivalent payment rates for landowners throughout the life of the program, and (3) utilize the local workgroups in making program rules and recommendations, (4) support system upgrades and replacement of systems that have completed their life expectancy.