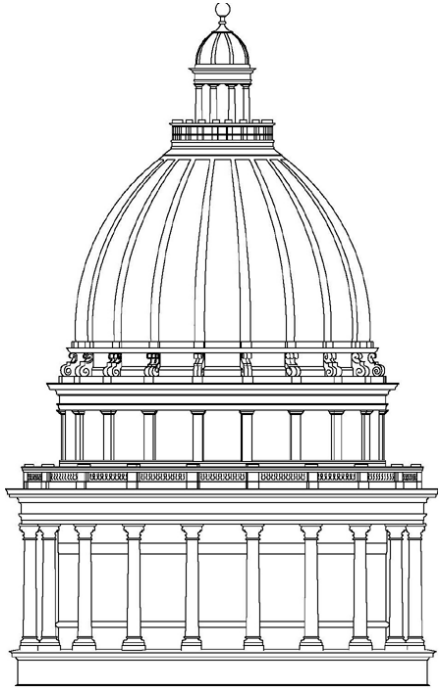
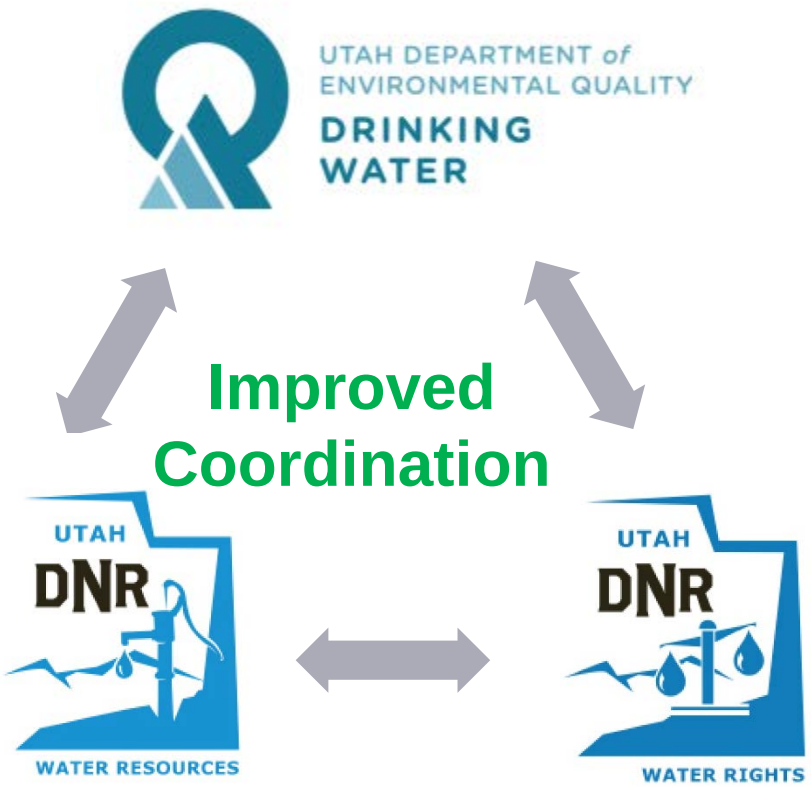
An In-depth Follow-up of Projections of Utah's Water Needs

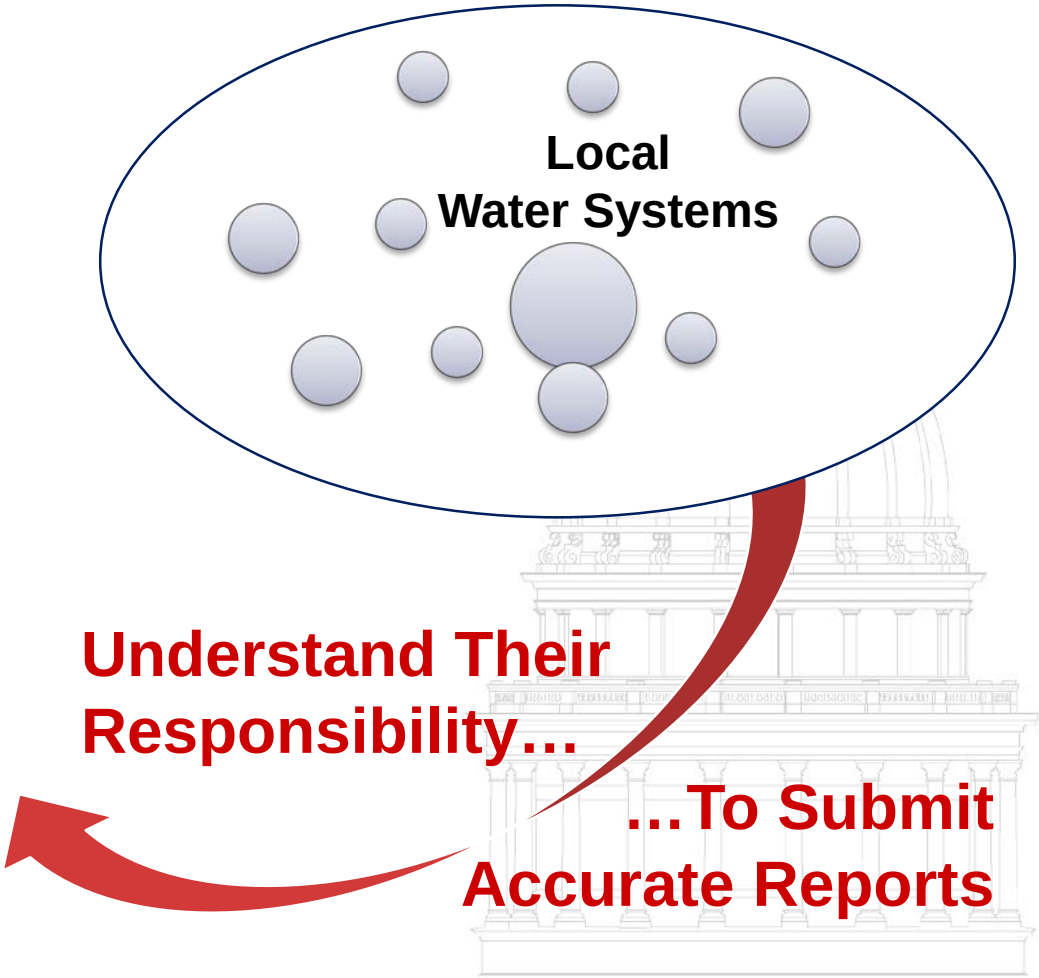


Presentation to the
Executive Water Finance Board

January 19, 2018

Several Entities Are Involved in Implementing Prior Recommendations





FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter I, Pages 1-4

Chapter II

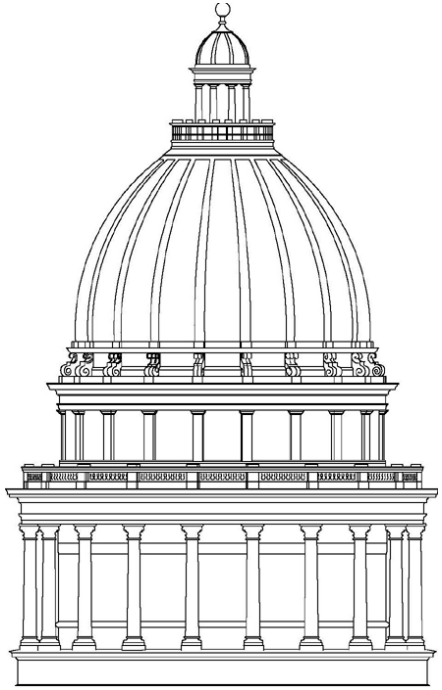


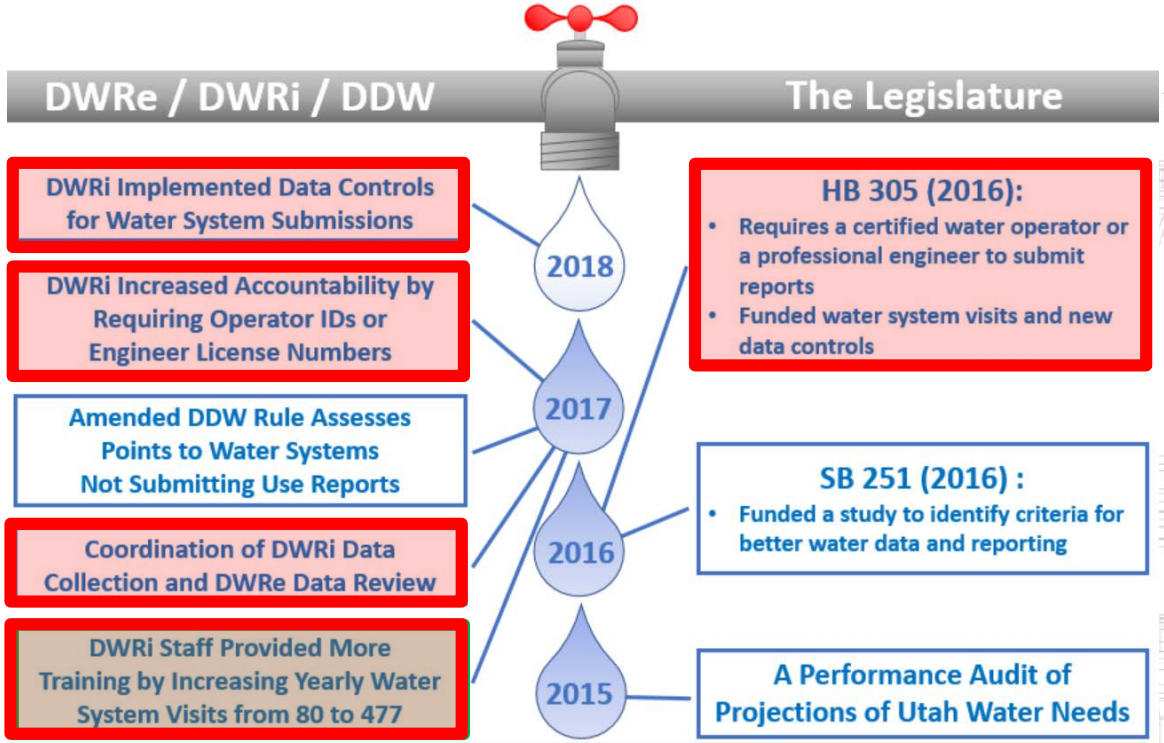
Figure 2.1

Chapter II Recommendations	Status
1. We recommend that the Division of Water Resources review water use data annually to perform trend analysis.	In Process
2. We recommend that the Department of Natural Resources work with state water agencies to develop an efficient and effective system of collecting accurate water use data from public water providers. Methods that should be considered include:	
a. Making local water managers responsible for submitting accurate water use data more accountable by requiring them to sign their report and identify their position and credentials.	Implemented
b. Incorporating a routine data edit check feature in the online data collection form that is used to validate the accuracy of the data submitted by public water providers.	Implemented
c. Validating the accuracy of water use data by comparing it to other sources with similar information.	In Process
d. Conducting data validity checks, periodic audits, and training of local water systems to verify the accuracy of water supply and use data.	Implemented
e. Committing additional staff and resources to improving the state's water use database.	Implemented
3. We recommend that the Legislature consider giving statutory authority to the Division of Water Resources to validate the annual water use reported by public water providers.	Implemented

Source: A Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs (Legislative Audit Report 2015-01)

Water Divisions Have Taken Steps to Improve the Data Accuracy

Figure 2.2



UTAH DNR WATER RIGHTS

1 FTE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter II, Pages 6-13

Questionable Trends Raise Concerns About Data Accuracy and Estimates

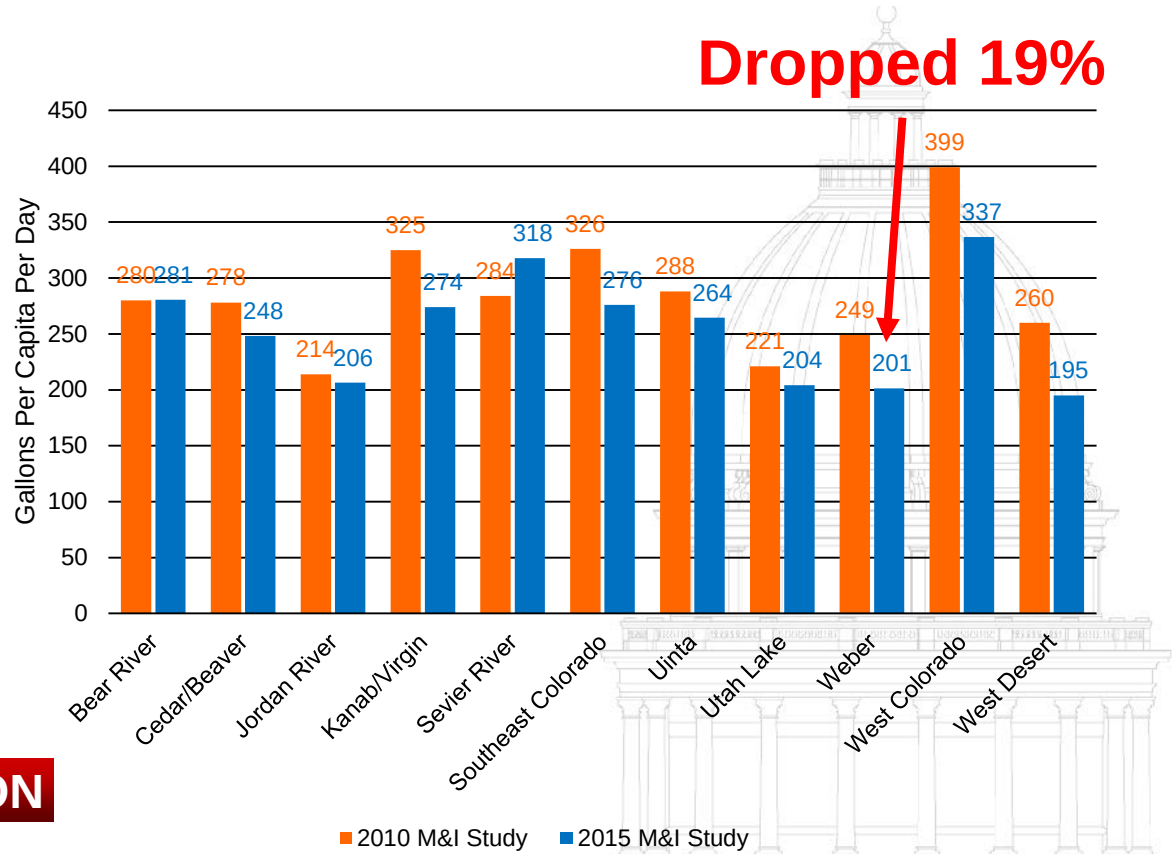
Prior Audit Recommendations:

"…perform trend analysis."

"Validating the accuracy of water use data…"

"Conducting validity checks…"

Figure 2.6



FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter II, Pages 14-20

Chapter III

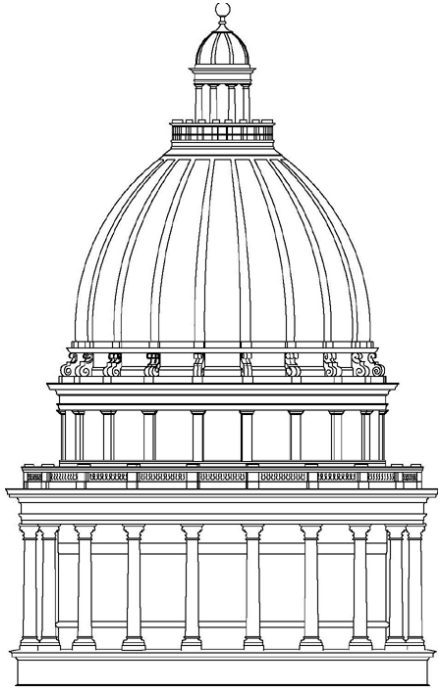


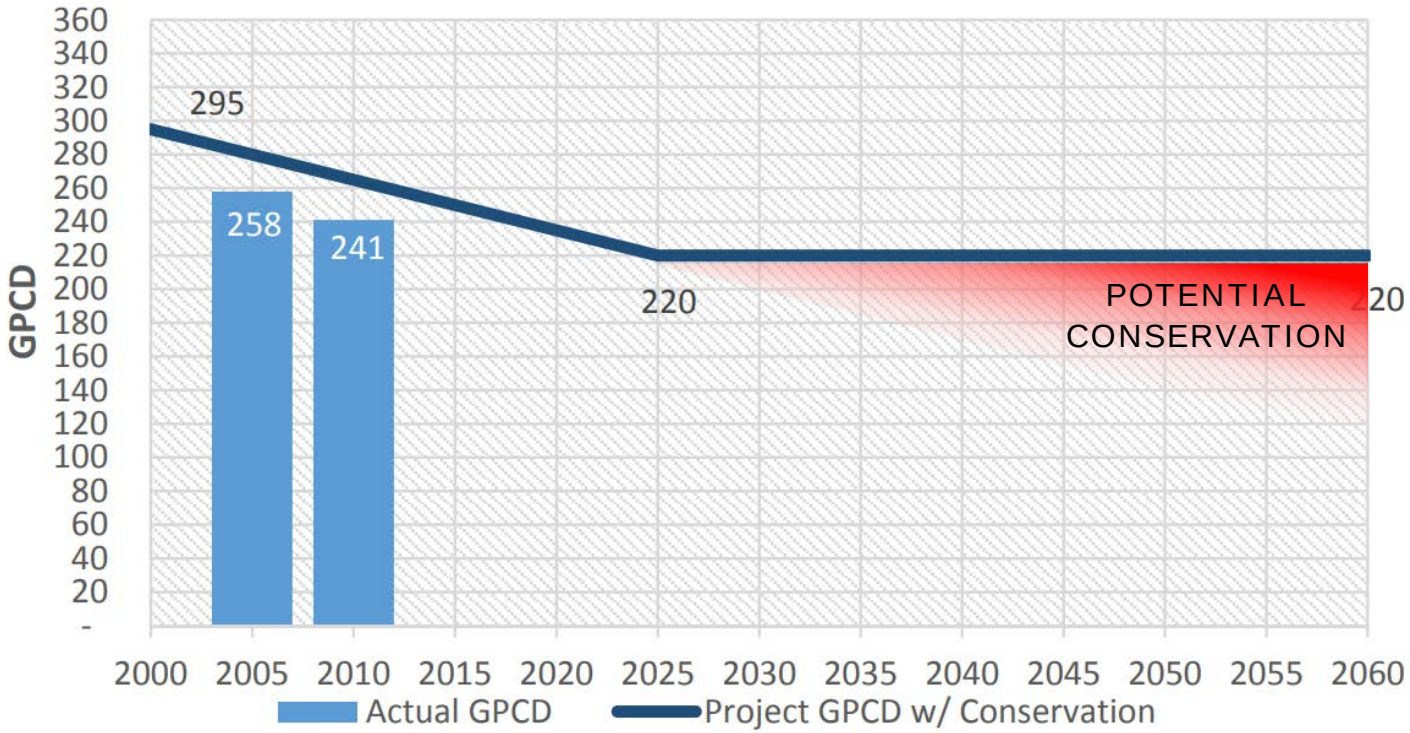
Figure 3.1

Chapter III Recommendations	Status
1. We recommend that the Division of Water Resources work with local water providers to create conservation goals for each river basin. The new goals should reflect each basin's individual capacity to conserve and account for their unique mix of residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses.	In Process
2. We recommend that the Division of Water Resources regularly update its projections of future demand as new information becomes available and provide a range of options that includes investment, conservation, or supply development under a range of demand scenarios.	In Process
3. We recommend that the Legislature consider adopting policies that will require the phasing in of universal metering.	Implemented
4. We recommend that the Legislature consider the following pricing policies to encourage efficient water use: a. Reduce water provider reliance on property taxes currently used to subsidize water system costs. b. Require that water providers create reserve funds to cover the cost of infrastructure repair and replacement. c. Promote the use of conservation pricing structures.	Implemented

Source: A Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs (Legislative Audit Report 2015-01)

DWRe Is Working on Demand Modeling and Basin-Level Conservation Goals

Figure 3.6

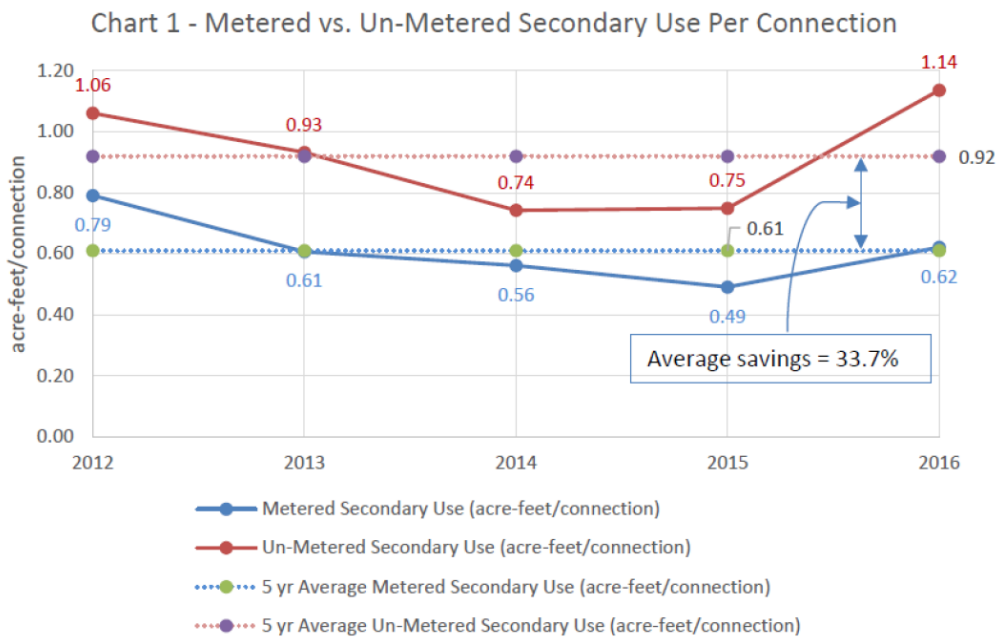


FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter III, Pages 31-34

The Legislature and Governor Support Universal Metering

Figure 3.2

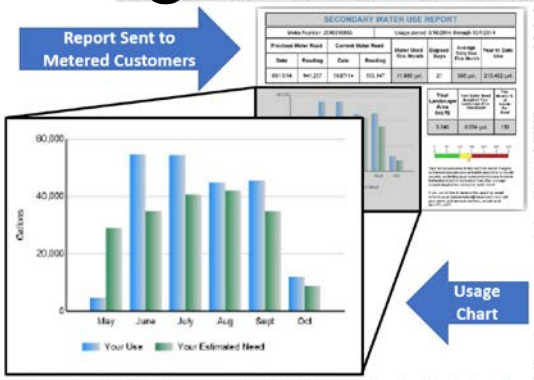


Source: Weber Basin Water Conservancy District – Saving Water through Secondary Water Metering and Increased Consumer Awareness (March 2017)

Figure 3.4

Source: Weber Basin Water Conservancy District – Saving Water through Secondary Water Metering and Increased Consumer Awareness (March 2017)

Figure 3.3



Source: Weber Basin Water Conservancy District – Saving Water through Secondary Water Metering and Increased Consumer Awareness (March 2017)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter III, Pages 23-26

The Legislature Considered Various Conservation Policies

Prior Recommendation:

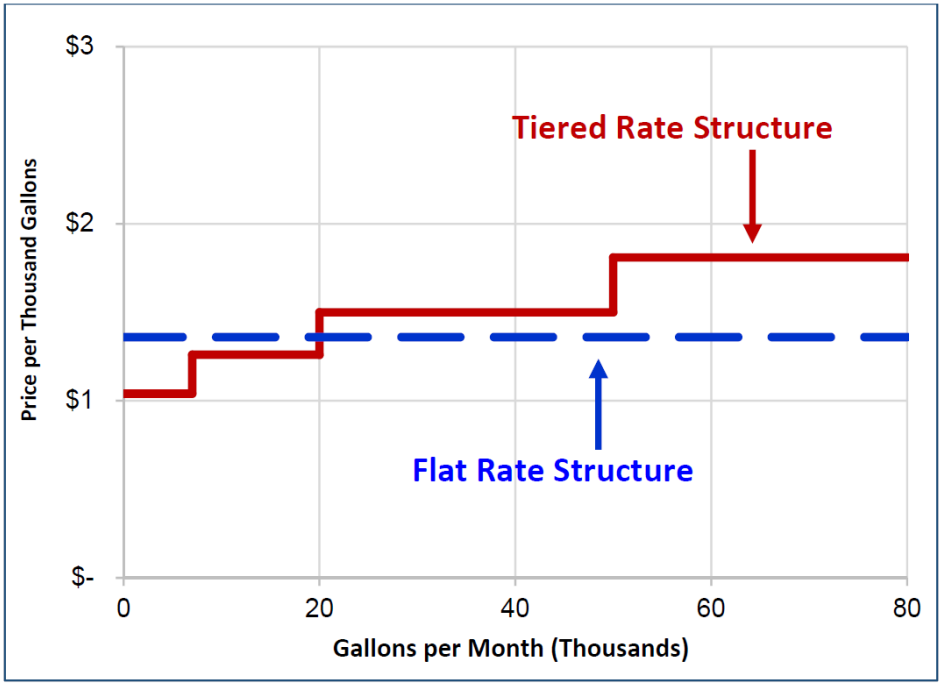
The Legislature Consider:

A. Reduce water provider reliance on property taxes

B. Require that water providers create reserve funds

C. Promote conservation pricing structures

Figure 3.5



Source: Flat Rate: As reported to Division of Drinking Water in 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter III, Pages 27-29

Managing Unaccounted for Water Use Can Increase System Efficiency

Total Water Produced = Billed Water + Unaccounted for Water

Such as:
- Leaks
- Flushing Fire Hydrants

Water Audits Focus on Minimizing Unaccounted for Water

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Chapter III, Pages 29-30

Chapter IV

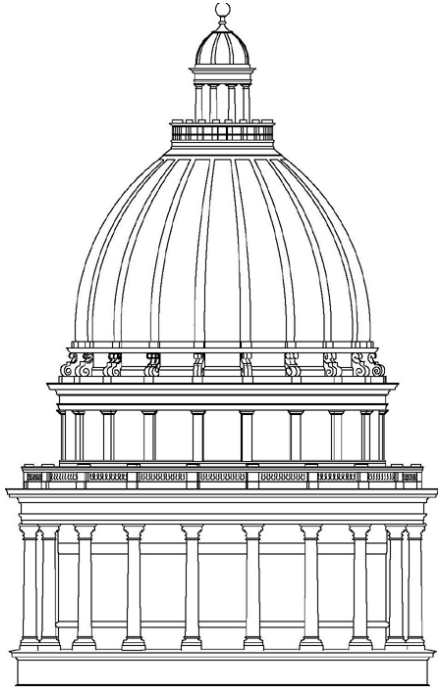
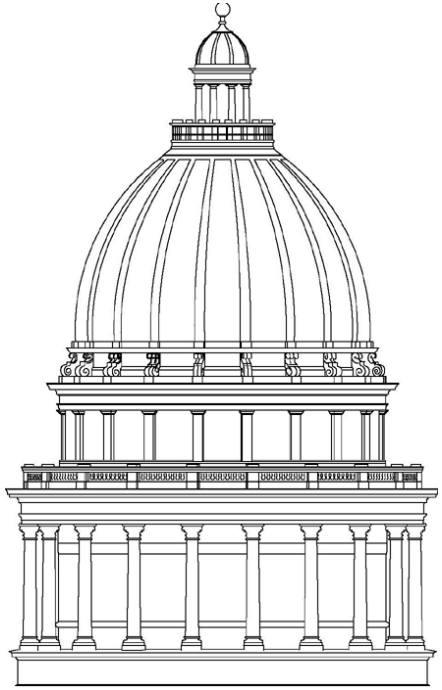


Figure 4.1

Chapter IV Recommendations	Status
1. We recommend that the Division of Water Resources begin estimating added supply in their M&I studies to account for water made available through the conversion of agricultural water and other locally developed sources of supply.	In Process
2. We recommend that the Division of Water Resources update state and basin plans on a regular basis as new information is gathered to ensure plans are relevant.	In Process
3. We recommend that the Division of Water Resources base its future estimates of the agricultural water available for municipal use on the actual historic data of past transfers.	In Process

Source: A Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs (Legislative Audit Report 2015-01)

An In-depth Follow-up of Projections of Utah's Water Needs



Presentation to the
Executive Water Finance Board

January 19, 2018