

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE  
PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND BENEFICIAL USE  
OF UTAH'S COLORADO RIVER COMPACT ALLOCATION**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Bradley G. Last**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution addresses Utah's use of its Colorado River compact allocation.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ acknowledges Utah's status as signatory of certain Colorado River compacts and other documents;
- ▶ acknowledges the need for future use of Utah's Colorado River compact allocation;
- ▶ acknowledges Utah's efforts related to Drought Contingency Plans and Colorado River Interim Guidelines;
- ▶ encourages the state to expeditiously develop and place to beneficial use, the water apportioned to Utah under the Compacts, consistent with the Law of the River;
- ▶ encourages the state and local water users to continue to explore and implement practices that promote water efficiency; and
- ▶ encourages the state to coordinate and cooperate with the specified federal agency and the other Colorado River basin states to implement the Drought Control Plans and to engage in the re-consultation on the Colorado River Interim Guidelines.

**Special Clauses:**



28 None

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30 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

31 WHEREAS, as used in this resolution, "Compact" means the following compacts to  
32 which Utah is a signatory, the Colorado River Compact of 1922 and the 1948 Upper Colorado  
33 River Compact;

34 WHEREAS, Utah is a signatory to numerous documents in addition to the 1922 and the  
35 1948 Compacts commonly referred to as the Law of the River;

36 WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Compacts, Utah is entitled to the beneficial  
37 consumptive use, wherever in the state the need may arise, of 23% of the Upper Basin's  
38 allocation under the 1922 Compact;

39 WHEREAS, to date, Utah has not fully developed and placed to beneficial consumptive  
40 use its portion of the Compact allocation;

41 WHEREAS, the future development and use by Utah of the state's portion of the  
42 Compact allocation will be necessary to meet the needs of an expanding economy and growing  
43 population;

44 WHEREAS, Utah intends to use both its currently available and future water supplies  
45 in an efficient and responsible manner;

46 WHEREAS, Utah is also aware of the need to account for, and adapt to, changing  
47 climatic conditions, including the impact of such conditions on future water supply availability  
48 within the Colorado River basin;

49 WHEREAS, Utah has worked cooperatively with the other Colorado River basin states  
50 in the drafting and recent adoption of the Drought Contingency Plan agreements and associated  
51 federal legislation;

52 WHEREAS, Utah intends to coordinate and cooperate with the other Colorado River  
53 basin states and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, in the implementation  
54 of the Drought Contingency Plans; and

55 WHEREAS, Utah also intends to coordinate and cooperate with the Department of the  
56 Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and the other Colorado River basin states in the  
57 re-consultation on the Colorado River Interim Guidelines;

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

59 Governor concurring therein, encourage:

60 (1) the state, through its agencies with water supply responsibilities, including the  
61 Division of Water Resources and the Division of Water Rights, to expeditiously develop and  
62 place to beneficial use wherever within the state the need may arise, the water apportioned to  
63 Utah under the Compacts, consistent with the Law of the River;

64 (2) the state, through its agencies with water supply responsibilities, and local water  
65 users, to continue to explore and implement practices that promote water efficiency and water  
66 conservation; and

67 (3) the state, through its agencies with water supply responsibilities, to coordinate and  
68 cooperate with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and the other Colorado  
69 River basin states in the timely implementation of the Drought Control Plans and the  
70 completion of the re-consultation on the Colorado River Interim Guidelines, while ensuring  
71 that the state's lawful interest in Colorado River waters is fully protected.