

## **MEETING UTAH'S URBAN WATER DEMANDS NEW REPORT & WATER FORUM HIGHLIGHT CONSERVATION**

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006- Western Resource Advocates released a new report today on ways to meet increasing urban demands for water along Utah's Wasatch Front. The report—called *Urban Water on the Wasatch Front: Past, Present, and Future*—highlights the potential for meeting Utah's urban water supply through conservation and efficiency instead of by building expensive new dams and other water projects.

Utah's water use is increasing in fast-growing cities—especially those along the Wasatch Front. As these cities grow, residents and planners must figure out how to meet demand while also upholding the economic, ecological, and quality-of-life benefits of Utah's healthy rivers and lakes.

While historically large dams and massive diversions were the “go-to” way to bring water to farms, towns, and industry, things are changing as municipalities seek quicker, less expensive, less environmentally damaging, and less controversial options.

*Urban Water on the Wasatch Front* explores several viable options for meeting Utah's urban water demands including: (1) conservation; (2) transfers of water from agriculture; and (3) re-use. While these three sources of water are still largely in their infancy, the report concludes that they could meet the needs of 2 to 3 million new residents over the next four decades.

“*Urban Water on the Wasatch Front* demonstrates that water conservation and efficiency are the quickest and easiest ways to deliver new water to urban areas,” said Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi, an Urban Water Efficiency specialist for Western Resource Advocates. “Smart conservation strategies can help people in Utah meet their water needs while also protecting the rivers and streams that they cherish.”

“Utah is entering a new era in water supply,” said Bart Miller, Water Program Director for Western Resource Advocates. “There is a huge potential to meet future water needs through conservation, reuse, and transfers from agriculture. There is a lot of low hanging fruit out there. We need to work on a path to harvest it.”

“Thursday's Water Forum is a great opportunity to hear about some creative, modern, and cost-effective approaches to meeting our future water needs,” says Mark Danenhauer, River Solutions Coordinator with Utah Rivers Council. “We've designed the workshop to allow plenty of time for questions and dialogue. We encourage people to attend and help shape Utah's water future.”

On Thursday, December 7, Utah Rivers Council will join Western Resource Advocates in hosting a half-day water forum at the Salt Lake City Public Library, Conference Room B (lower level 1) from 2-5 p.m. The event is free of charge. Conservation experts from

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the Salt Lake City area will describe recent successes and discuss the path forward for meeting water demands. Water planners and interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Download a free copy of the report at [www.westernresources.org](http://www.westernresources.org)  
For print copies please contact Western Resource Advocates directly.

*Western Resource Advocates* is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the Interior West's land, air, and water.

The *Utah Rivers Council* seeks to protect Utah's rivers and clean water sources for today's citizens, future generations, and wildlife.

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