# Loan Programs

## Funding Section
## Utah Division of Water Resources

**Water Funding Program History:** In 1947, the Utah Legislature established the Utah Water & Power Board and granted the board the ability to administer loans for water and power projects. The Water & Power Board became the Board of Water Resources in 1967 when the Department of Natural Resources and Division of Water Resources were established.


**Contact:**
**Marisa Egbert**
**801-538-7252**
marisaegbert@utah.gov


**Who can apply for funding?** Board funds can be obtained by most private or public water service providers in Utah. Over the past 70 years, over 1,485 private water companies, irrigation companies, municipalities and water districts have sought and received financial assistance from the board.

**How does a project get funded?** Entities initiate the funding process by submitting an application online at water.utah.gov/funding. A division staff member will be assigned to work with the entity to determine if the potential project qualifies. If the project qualifies, the assigned staff member prepares a feasibility report to present to the board for approval and work with the project applicant throughout the process. Funding of a project depends on the availability of funds at the time the project comes before the board for committal, repayment ability and economic analyses.

**Why do water providers utilize the Board of Water Resources loan program?** The Utah Legislature established these revolving funds to benefit Utah citizens. The board has provided low-interest or zero-interest loans for water projects statewide. Repayments of these loans (including all interest paid) return to the board and fund additional projects. Entities seeking loans from the board, will work with professional staff who work to make the funding process as simple as possible.

**What is an eligible project?** To be eligible for funding, a project cannot be routine operation and maintenance, cannot be sponsored by a developer or an individual/family, and cannot be for a domestic water system where less than half of the residents live in the service area year-round. All other water projects will be considered for funding.

**New Secondary Water Meter Funding Program:** The board has reserved specific funds to encourage secondary water metering. The metering of secondary water combined with educational and/or tiered rate components has resulted in significant efficiency in the areas where meters have been installed. This stretches water supplies and reduces the impact on water delivery infrastructure. An interest rate of 1% has been approved for secondary water metering projects.

## Some examples of board-funded projects include:

**Alpine Irrigation Company** – Pressurized Irrigation Project ($27,200): Construction of three diversion structures on Chipman, Dry, and Box Elder Creeks, installing 1.3 miles of pipeline to deliver water for sprinkler irrigation of farmland. (1960)

**Weber-Box Elder Conservation District** – Secondary Water System ($1.5M): Installed 77,250 feet of 3- to 18-inch pipe, and constructed two pump stations. The project also included lining two existing regulating reservoirs. (1990)

**Magna Water Company and Improvement District** – Water Treatment Plant ($7.1M): Construction of a new 5 million gallon per day water treatment plant to successfully remove arsenic from the water supply and meet drinking water standards. (2011)

**Provo River Water Users Association** – Murdock Canal enclosure ($26.7M): Installation of 21.5 miles of 120-inch steel pipe to replace the Murdock Canal from Orem to Point of the Mountain. The enclosure reduces water leaking from the canal and largely eliminates canal safety and liability concerns. Water conserved by this project is being released to provide instream flow for the endangered June Sucker in the lower Provo River. (2012)
**Cache Highline Water Association** – Canal Efficiency Project ($2.6M): Combine the diversion works & canals of Logan and Northern Irrigation Company with those of Logan, Hyde Park, and Smithfield Irrigation Company. The canals were enclosed in concrete box culverts and HDPE pipe. (2015)

**Beaver City** – Canal Safety Project ($442,000): Constructed a new diversion structure, sluice gate, and improved stabilization to prevent erosion damage. (2016)

**Ferron Canal and Reservoir Company** – Millsite Dam Safety Upgrade ($8.58M): In conjunction with NRCS, the project will rehabilitate Millsite Dam to bring it into compliance with current dam safety standards. It raises the dam crest to restore the reservoir capacity that had been lost due to sediment deposition from the upstream drainage basin (currently under construction).

Riverton City – Secondary Metering Installation ( $11.9M): Installation of secondary water meters on all 10,200 customer connections. This will conserve approximately 3,000 ac-ft and will help stretch existing secondary supplies to satisfy build-out conditions. (approved in 2020)

M & M Irrigation Company – ($1.8M): Replace 3.5 miles of canal with 30-inch HDPE pipe and install a SCADA system and metering devices at each pipe outlet along the pipeline. This will reduce seepage losses, allow better management of deliveries, and create a pressurized system to enable on-farm improvements. (approved in 2020)