Utah Lake Authority

Request for Proposals (RFP)
Water Impact Plan for Development around Utah Lake

1. Introduction

The Utah Lake Authority (ULA), the Utah Department of Natural Resources (Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands), and the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity invite proposals from multidisciplinary teams to develop a Water Impact Plan for the region. The primary goal of this study is to determine how the watershed can sustain an expected population increase of nearly one million residents and concomitant economic growth and opportunities in the coming decades while minimizing ecological harm and diversion of water from Utah Lake and the broader Great Salt Lake Watershed.

This RFP is structured as a challenge-based procurement, prioritizing outcome-driven solutions rather than prescriptive methods. We seek teams that integrate expertise in urban planning, ecology, economics, economic development, land use, transportation, infrastructure development, and public policy to propose innovative yet feasible strategies to sustain anticipated growth and foster a vibrant economy.

2. Project Scope

The selected team will be responsible for completing the following **required** tasks:

- Population Impact Modeling: Assessing how increments of 100,000 residents (up to 1,000,000) on the less populated west and south sides of the lake will impact water consumption, stormwater and wastewater effluent, and nutrient inputs into Utah Lake and the watershed. Including possible variations on impacts based on different development patterns (e.g., relative population concentrations, location of growth, suburban vs urban growth patterns, transportation alternatives, etc.). Transportation, given the way the lake separates populations on the west and south sides of the lake, is a major consideration. Further, regardless of other factors, how might the limiting effect of water rights and shares affect growth.[1]
- Economic Incentives for Sustainability: What policies, development approaches, or other tools may be utilized to align landowner and developer interests with

[1] Significant data and secondary research is available through agency partners. We will work with you access necessary data for project completion. Doubtless, some analytical work and data gathering will need to be done by the contract awardee.

sustainable practices through market-based solutions and incentives that promote both profitability and conservation

- Economic Development Impact: How can different approaches, strategies, and patterns of economic development in the region help promote growth and transportation usage that minimizes negative impacts on our water supply.

The following tasks are **optional but highly desirable** as part of this study:

- Outcome-Based Urban Design & Infrastructure: Identifying strategies adapted to our particular geographic, cultural, political, and economic context to mitigate negative impacts on water supply and lake health, incorporating multidisciplinary approaches from a variety of fields and approaches.
- Sustainable Development Strategies: Proposing policies at state, local, and micro levels (e.g., landscaping regulations, water conservation incentives) that balance economic growth with water supply, lake health, and ecological resilience.
- Community Guidance Framework: Developing an actionable roadmap for community stakeholders to guide responsible and sustainable growth.
- Challenge Framing: Refining the key sustainability challenges with input from relevant experts and proposing scalable, innovative solutions.

3. Required Deliverables

The final product should include:

- A Preliminary Draft of the Development Plan (including essential findings and projections) by January 1, 2026.
- A Final Development Plan by July 1, 2026.

4. Optional Deliverables

- GIS maps, predictive models, and scenario-based policy recommendations.
- A public-facing summary document with clear, practical guidance for community leaders.

- A Risk Mitigation Strategy, outlining contingencies for uncertainties in population growth, climate impact, and infrastructure feasibility.
- Such other deliverables as determined in agreement with the contracting agencies.

5. Budget & Timeline

- Anticipated Budget: $400,000 to $650,000.
- Timeline: Work to begin upon contract award, with a draft due by January 1, 2026, and final deliverables due July 1, 2026.

5. Proposal Requirements

Proposals should be succinct (maximum of 10 pages, not including the budget (which should be a separate document)) and include:

1. Abstract: An introduction to your team and a brief answer *to why should we contract with you?*
2. Team Composition & Expertise: Identification of key personnel and partners and their respective roles relevant areas of expertise, with emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration.
3. Relevant Experience & Innovation Capacity: Examples of past work related to sustainability, watershed management, urban resilience, and regional planning. Proposals should demonstrate a track record of creative problem-solving to solve wicked problems.
4. Project Approach & Methodology: A concise outline of the team's innovative yet feasible approach, emphasizing outcome-driven strategies rather than prescriptive solutions. If your proposal includes any of the optional deliverables, be sure to indicate these.
5. Proposed Budget & Timeline: A high-level cost breakdown and schedule. If your proposal includes any of the optional deliverables, please provide pricing for the project with and without these optional elements.
6. References & Case Studies: Contact information for past clients on similar projects and any success stories in implementing innovative public solutions.
7. **Budget: The proposed budget should be submitted as a SEPARATE document. If not submitted separately, the proposal will be disqualified from evaluation.**

6. Evaluation Criteria

Selection will be based on:

- Innovation & Technical Quality (30%) – How effective, novel, adaptable, and insightful is the proposed approach?
- Feasibility & Implementation Strategy (20%) – Are the approaches technically and financially viable and realistic?
- Demonstrated Experience & Past Performance (20%) – Has the team successfully tackled comparable challenges?
- Multidisciplinary Team & Collaborative Approach (20%) – Does the team bring together complementary skills across disciplines to effectively address the challenge?
- Cost-Effectiveness & Value Proposition (10%) – Does the budget reflect efficiency while ensuring quality outcomes?

7. Submission Process

- Deadline: Proposals must be submitted by May 10, 2025.
- Pre-Proposal Questions: Interested parties may submit questions through April 20 via an email **to shelby@utahlake.gov with email subject: "Development_Plan_Question".**
- Submission Format: PDF format, emailed **to shelby@utahlake.gov with email subject: "Development_Plan_Final_Proposal"**

We look forward to receiving innovative, practical, and high-impact proposals that will shape sustainable, economically viable growth while preserving the environmental integrity of the Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake watershed.