



State of Utah

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Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Water Quality Board

THROUGH: Walter L. Baker P.E.
Director 

FROM: Carl Adams
Watershed Protection Manager

DATE: February 23, 2015

SUBJECT: Grant to Utah Open Lands for South Eden Ranch Conservation Easement

Utah Open Lands, a non-profit land trust conservation association, is requesting \$100,000 in grant funds to establish a conservation easement on 50 acres of shore land on the east side of Bear Lake. This grant will be leveraged by a grant from NRCS and other private sources already secured as well as a donation in value from the family owning the 50 acres and the donation in full of a conservation easement on 50 adjacent acres, resulting in the preservation of 100 acres of Bear Lake shoreline property.

The timing of this easement is important as the land is adjacent to a parcel currently slated for the subdivision and development. While separate from the easement parcel, the prospect of dozens of onsite wastewater treatment systems adjacent to Bear Lake prompted the grant of \$24,000 in State Nonpoint Source funds to the Bear Lake Special Services District in December 2014 to conduct a preliminary engineering report on extending a sewer line to instead service this area. This study is currently underway and will be completed in March 2015.

The establishment of a conservation easement on South Eden Ranch will help address water quality concerns associated with future development along the shores of Bear Lake. Conserving the land from intensive development is the most effective strategy to protect the existing high quality waters of Bear Lake.