



State of Utah

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WATER QUALITY BOARD
REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP GRANT FUND RESERVE
AUTHORIZATION

APPLICANT: Tooele County
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PRESIDING OFFICIAL/CONTACT: Wade Bitner, Commission Chair

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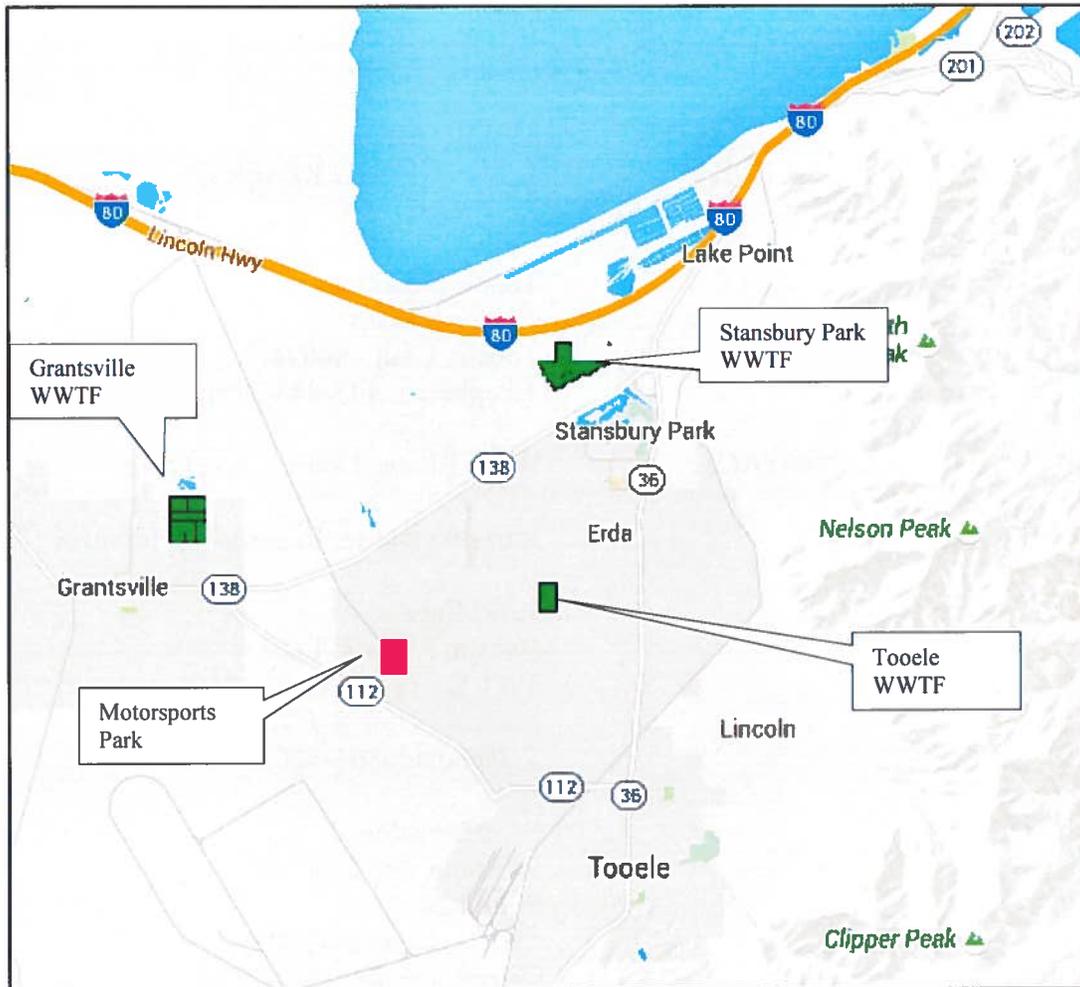
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APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

Tooele County is requesting a **planning grant** in the amount of **\$95,000** to update its 1998 septic tank density study and develop a regional sewer master plan for the growing north county unincorporated area bounded by Grantsville City, Lake Point, and Tooele City.

APPLICANT’S LOCATION

The Northern Tooele County study area is located approximately 60 miles due west of Salt Lake City.



PROJECT NEED

The Utah Geological Survey completed a septic tank density evaluation of the northern Tooele Valley in 1998. This study concluded that to protect underground drinking water quality from nitrate contamination, onsite wastewater disposal should be limited to 3,000 homes across the study area. Although development (with onsite systems) has not yet met this number, the growth that has occurred has been relatively concentrated, particularly in the Erda area. Several important public water supply wells are located in these more developed areas along with many private wells. The Tooele County (Health Department) is concerned that the concentrated development in proximity to these wells creates a high risk to the public and has suspended issuing new onsite system permits until the risk can be resolved.

Tooele County is proposing to update its 1998 septic tank density study for the northern valley to

guide and inform the Health Department in its decisions to permit additional septic tanks in concentrated development areas and the study area as a whole. The Health Department has developed a database that locates all of the onsite systems in this county. The county now needs to integrate these data with ground water quality data from the area to assess the outlook for continued development both with and without onsite wastewater disposal systems. This planning effort will provide the County and the Health Department with updated and modern tools with which it can assess both the impacts and trends of study area development on ground water quality. This analysis is critical for County planners in developing effective policies for growth and protection of the water supplies.

In conjunction with the above onsite wastewater planning study, Tooele County intends to develop a Regional Sewer Master Plan to guide growth in the unincorporated study area, including more concentrated growth that must be served by sewers. In conjunction with its zoning plans, the principal goals of the master plan are to identify phased implementation alternatives for wastewater management, and to establish a regional planning approach to providing cost effective wastewater treatment, disposal, and reuse services for the unincorporated area in the long term.

A key element of this planning effort will be coordination among four existing sewer service providers: Stansbury Park SSD, Lake Point SSD, Grantsville City, and Tooele City. The County recognizes that it will be critical to integrate its regional plans with those of these service providers to establish a successful plan that benefits from the capacities of these organizations. In initiating the “buy-in process,” the County engaged each of these organizations in developing its proposal and in selection of the consulting engineering firm that will prepare this regional plan. The proposed plan will identify and evaluate various alternatives for implementing comprehensive wastewater service of the study area, and will develop outline lifecycle cost estimates and cost distribution analysis. The County is not expected to (necessarily) own or operate any of the resulting facilities; however, the plan will inform the current and future owners on how they would be impacted both in terms of their services and long-term costs.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- I. Septic Tank Density Study Update
- II. Regional Sewer Master Plan
 - a. Coordination and Planning
 - i. Review of existing data, studies, and planning documents
 - ii. Population growth analysis
 - b. Alternatives Analysis with life cycle costs
 - c. Implementation Plan

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:

The project will be completed by September 2017.

COST ESTIMATE:

Septic Tank Density Study	\$	15,000
Regional Sewer Master Plan	\$	80,000
Total	\$	95,000

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:

This project is being presented as a request for planning grant authorization to the Water Quality Board. Tooele County does not provide sewer services or have sewer revenue with which to repay these funds nor will they be likely to be the entity constructing any projects. Staff has had extensive discussions with the County and its engineer about this project and is supportive of the need for a master plan that will address growth and the need for wastewater management system development that will responsibly protect the water resource in a regional sense. Staff has also carefully reviewed and discussed the financial position of the County and has concluded that the County has limited reserve capacity with which to conduct the project absent grant assistance. Staff recommends the Board authorize the amount requested as a hardship planning grant to assist Tooele County in completing these planning efforts.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. The Division of Water Quality must approve the engineering agreement and plan of study before the advance will be executed.
2. This Planning Advance is a grant and will not be repaid.

Proposed Study Area

