

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF
THE GREAT SALT LAKE**

WHEREAS, *the Great Salt Lake is a critical natural resource that supports a unique ecosystem, a diverse array of wildlife, and the livelihoods of countless residents in the region; and*

WHEREAS, *the Great Salt Lake is the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere, serving as a crucial habitat for millions of migratory birds, and playing a significant role in the local and global environment; and*

WHEREAS, *the Great Salt Lake is a vital economic asset, supporting industries such as recreation, and tourism, which contribute significantly to the economy of Salt Lake City and the broader region; and*

WHEREAS, *the Indigenous people of Utah have long been stewards of the Great Salt Lake and have a spiritual connection spanning over thousands of years in honoring and protecting the lake; and*

WHEREAS, *the lake's water levels have been in decline due to factors including water diversion, climate change, and prolonged droughts, exposing micro carcinogenic metals, arsenic, and other toxic dust particles; posing a serious threat to the lake's ecosystem, the brine shrimp industry, the health of the surrounding communities, especially marginalized communities that are geographically West and closest in proximity to the lake, and the economic stability of the region; and*

WHEREAS, *research from the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands released the original Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan empowering local, state, and federal partners with the intent to manage goals, objectives, and implement strategies to further the actions, activities, and recreational uses of the Great Salt Lake; and*

WHEREAS, *research from the Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Office, as outlined in the Commissioner's Strategic Plan, has highlighted the importance of maintaining the lake's elevation to 4198'-4204' feet above sea level to preserve its ecological and economic functions; and*

WHEREAS, *the Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Office has developed the "Great Salt Lake Elevation Matrix," which provides a scientific framework for determining the critical elevation levels necessary to sustain the lake's diverse functions and mitigate environmental impacts; and*

WHEREAS, *the Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan emphasizes that achieving and maintaining a target elevation of the Great Salt Lake is essential for ensuring the long-term health of the lake, its surrounding ecosystems, and the well-being of the populations that rely on it; and*

WHEREAS, *the Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan outlines several priority actions, including water conservation measures, habitat restoration projects, and collaborative efforts among state, local, and federal entities, to achieve the targeted elevation and ensure the long-term health of the Great Salt Lake; and*

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City is committed to supporting the implementation of the Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan and recognizes the critical importance of achieving the target elevation to sustain the lake's ecological and economic functions; and*

WHEREAS, *the preservation of the Great Salt Lake aligns with Salt Lake City's broader environmental and sustainability goals, contributing to regional efforts to combat climate change, protect natural resources, and promote environmental justice.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City support the target elevation of 4198'-4205' feet above sea level for the Great Salt Lake, in alignment with the recommendations of the Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan and the Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Office, and as originally developed by Great Salt Lake Elevation Matrix and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands in its 2013 Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan to ensure the preservation of the lake's ecological and economic integrity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City reaffirms their commitment to the preservation and restoration of the Great Salt Lake by supporting policies and initiatives that promote sustainable water management, reduce water diversions, and address the impacts of climate change on the lake's water levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City commit to working collaboratively with state and federal agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations, and community stakeholders to advocate for the necessary resources, legislation, and public awareness efforts to achieve and maintain the target elevation of the Great Salt Lake.

Adopted this 17th day of September 2024