

# WATER RIGHTS 101

## FAST FACTS ABOUT WATER RIGHTS, FILINGS & APPLICATIONS



### HOW FILES ARE NUMBERED

All filings are assigned a specific number, called a water right number.

This number consists of a two-digit prefix followed by a unique number identifier.

For example, a filing near St. George would be assigned an 81 prefix followed by the next number in the sequence such as 81-1250.

### DETAILS INCLUDED IN WATER RIGHTS FILES



#### Quantity of water

Measured as either cubic-feet-per-second or acre-feet

#### Point of diversion

Could be a well, surface, spring or drain

#### Place of use

Defined by the public land survey system

#### Nature of use

Including irrigation, stock watering domestic, municipal, industrial, mining, etc.

#### Priority date

The date by which the right is administered

#### Filing date

The date when the application is filed

#### Status

A water right can be either perfected or unperfected. Perfected rights are certificated, diligence claims or decrees. Unperfected rights will be pending an approval or approved.

### PRE-FILING CONSULTATION

Before filing applications, we recommend prospective applicants meet with the Division of Water Rights for a brief consultation.

APPLICATION  
FILED

ADVERTISED  
for  
**2**  
consecutive weeks

PROTEST  
PERIOD  
**20**  
days

Reviewed  
by the State  
Engineer



APPROVED  
OR  
REJECTED

If approved,  
put water to  
beneficial use

FILE PROOF  
of beneficial use

### UPDATING ADDRESS AND TITLE ON WATER RIGHTS

The Division of Water Rights is **not** the official office of record for title. To update title on a water right, you must record the deed with the county recorder's office where your water right is located. (Scan the QR Code to the right to quickly link to title resources.)



# Which application should I file?

There are many different types of applications. The following is a guide to help you determine which type of application you should file:

## **Application to appropriate**

Used in areas open to new appropriations. These applications can be permanent, fixed-time or temporary.



## **Change application**

With a right in hand, you may file a change application to change any of the characteristics of the right. These applications can be permanent, fixed time or temporary.

## **Exchange application**

Based on a contract with an entity holding a right and another party. The exchange application is filed to make the contract a matter of public record.

## **Request for extension of time**

Filed when an application is about to expire but you are not ready to file proof of beneficial use.

## **Proof of beneficial use**

Filed when you have constructed all works and are beneficially using the water.



All forms are available at [www.waterrights.utah.gov](http://www.waterrights.utah.gov).  
For information about other potential filings, contact the division.

## **FILING FEES**

Application fees are based on quantity of water. Scan the QR Code below for the full fee schedule:



## **CONTACT US**

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