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NEWS RELEASE

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Jack Barnett Honored with Prestigious Sudweeks Award

Long-time Executive Director Instrumental in Protecting Water Quality in the Colorado River

SALT LAKE CITY — Each year, the Water Quality Board recognizes an individual who has shown outstanding leadership and achievement in the field of water quality. Jack Barnett, former Executive Director of the [Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum](#), is this year's winner of the [Calvin K. Sudweeks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Water Quality](#).

Under Jack's thirty-year leadership as Executive Director, the Forum grew from a planning effort that was struggling to control salinity in the Colorado River to a multi-million dollar enterprise that combines funding from the federal government, seven Colorado River Basin States (including Utah), and local water users to reduce salt loading to the Colorado River.

These combined efforts have resulted in sizable in-stream salt reductions in the lower basin of the Colorado River and saved millions of dollars in damages to water systems from excess salinity.

"Jack has been, and continues to be, a great leader and valued member of the collaborative partnerships working to reduce salinity and protect Utah's water quality," explains Walt Baker, director of the Division of Water Quality. "Jack really cares about people, the environment, and making a difference."

"We are lucky that even in "semi-retirement," Jack continues to be very much engaged in the work of the Forum to continue to improve our state's water quality."

In addition to his long tenure as Executive Director of the Forum, Jack has also served the Bear River Commission as its engineer/water manager for many years. He was instrumental in Utah's effort to implement the first ever salinity-offset projects through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program.

"We are proud to honor Jack Barnett today for his dedication to improving water quality, both in Utah and across the West."

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About DEQ: Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([newseq](https://www.facebook.com/newseq)) and Twitter ([@UTDEQ](https://twitter.com/UTDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.