



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson
Executive Director

L. Scott Baird
Deputy Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Appoints Scott Baird Interim Director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality

SALT LAKE CITY – Gov. Gary Herbert appointed Scott Baird, deputy director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, as Interim Director, replacing Alan Matheson who will step down July 1 to oversee the development of the Draper prison site.

"Your dedication to the Department of Environmental Quality has been a great asset to the State of Utah, Herbert said in his appointment letter. "I appreciate your unique skills that have served the Department so well for the past several years. I recognize your familiarity with all aspects of the Department, your relationships with Department employees, and your familiarity with the legislative process. I am confident that these things will allow you to effectively manage the Department while I complete the appointment of a permanent Executive Director."

As interim director, Baird will oversee about 390 employees, and an annual budget of \$56 million.

"I am honored to accept Governor Herbert's appointment, and welcome the opportunity to continue to work with our incredible team at DEQ. Much of our success can be credited to our dedicated and talented employees," said Baird. "I will work to continue the great progress we have made as a state in safeguarding and improving our air, land and water."

Baird has been at DEQ since 2014, first appointed to serve as director of legislative and government affairs and later as deputy director under Matheson who praised the decision.

"The Department will be in capable hands under Scott's leadership," Matheson said. "Having worked closely with Scott for the past four years, I recognize his significant abilities, collaborative approach, and commitment to achieve our vision of clean air, land and water for a healthy and prosperous Utah. He will enjoy the privilege of leading a team of exceptional public servants."

Before joining DEQ, Baird worked in the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, where he provided several state agencies – including DEQ – with training and guidance on improving operations. Previously, he worked in Washington State's Governor's Office of Financial Management, Washington State's Auditor's Office and Deloitte Consulting, where he helped state and federal agencies improve operations, and achieve better outcomes.

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Baird earned his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and his law degree from Syracuse University.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation. 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 ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.