



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
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October 18, 2023

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ISSUE A SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this public notice is to declare the State of Utah's intention to issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification with Conditions under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act (33U.S.C. § 1341), and consistent with the Utah Water Quality Act, Title 19, Chapter 5, Utah Code and Utah Administrative Code R317-15.

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

PERMITTEE NAME: Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1750 West 2450 South Ogden, UT 84401  
PROJECT LOCATION: The north end of Stansbury Island, Tooele County, Utah at approximately Latitude 40.932795°, Longitude -112.512111°.  
DWQ CERTIFICATION NO.: DWQ-2023-08002  
WATERCOURSES: The Great Salt Lake, Gilbert Bay.

**BACKGROUND**

The Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative (Project Proponent) is proposing a five-year maintenance dredging project to remove sediment from the existing harbor and dredge and extend the existing access channel at Sanders Harbor in Tooele County, Utah. The Project Proponent indicates that the Sanders Harbor and Access Channel Dredging Project (the Project) is needed to ensure boat access to and from the harbor. The Project Proponent indicated that low water levels from the Great Salt Lake has limited the vessel access to the Harbor but if the lake levels rebound, the need for the Project may be reduced or even eliminated. The Project Proponent indicated that the harvest of brine shrimp is ecologically and economically important for the Great Salt Lake and that Sanders Harbor is an essential access point to maintain the brine shrimp operations. Previous dredging operations at the Harbor have included the removal and disposal of sediment but due to economic and environmental factors the historically used methods to maintain the harbor have become unsustainable. The Project Proponent is proposing to remove sediment to expand and maintain 5,000 foot by 40 foot access channel.

The channel would be dredge annually to be kept approximately 5 foot deep. It is proposed that the dredged sediment be placed within a 300 foot wide section of the lakebed directly adjacent to the south access at a maximum depth of 1 foot. The proposed displacement area is comprised of 35 acres of open Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and sand/silt lakebed. The project area is located near bioherms but the Project Proponent has stated they will take measures to avoid these areas. The proposed project and the brine shrimp harvest does not impact the water supply within the Great Salt Lake. There is no compensatory mitigation required by the USACE at this time as there is no proposed loss of WOTUS.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments are invited any time prior to the deadline of the close of business on **November 17, 2023**. Written public comments can be submitted to: Linsey Shafer, General Permitting Section, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: [wqcomments@utah.gov](mailto:wqcomments@utah.gov). After considering public comments the Utah Division of Water Quality may execute the Certification issuance, revise it or abandon it. The Certification is available for public review under <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-public-notices>. A copy may be obtained by contacting Linsey Shafer (385) 405-4158.

DWQ-2023-125111