



# 2023 System Conservation Pilot Program

Virtual Information Session  
January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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The Colorado River Authority of Utah



# Outline

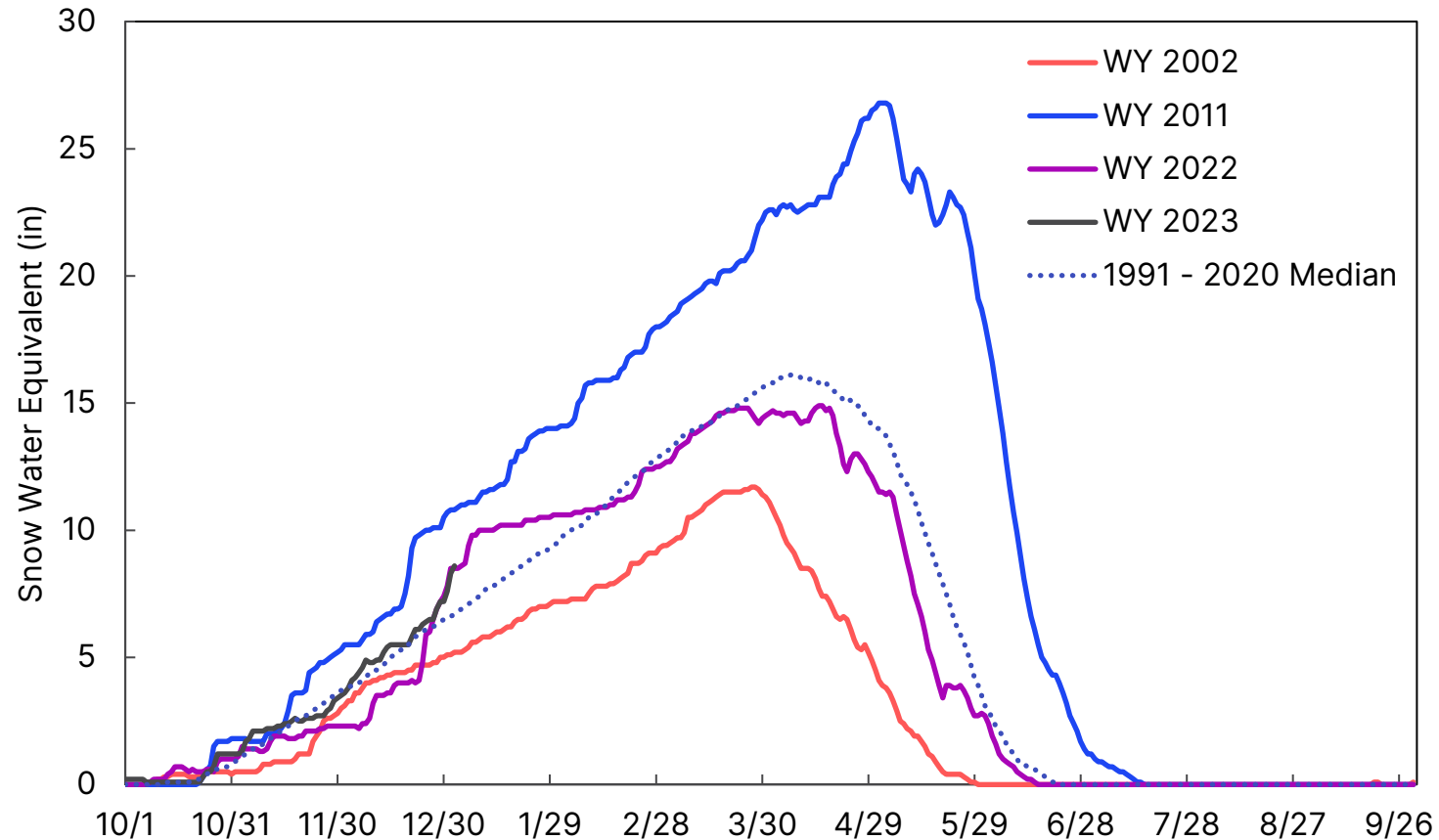
1. Current Hydrology
2. What SCPP Is and Is Not
3. Funding and Administration Structure
4. Timeline
5. Proposal Process
6. Selection Criteria
7. Contract Process
8. Questions





# Hydrologic Context

### Upper Colorado River Basin Water Supply



Source: Colorado River Basin Forecast Center 1/3/23

- Water supply below the median is common.
- Conservation to support system resiliency during drought is needed.





# What is SCPP 2023?

- An opportunity for **Temporary, Voluntary, and Compensated** consumptive water use reduction in the Upper Colorado River Basin.
- Open to municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users.





# What is not SCPP 2023?

- A “buy and dry” program.
- A “demand management” program involving water shepherding.





# Will my water right be subject to abandonment if I participate?

**Forfeiture and abandonment do not apply** to a water right if its place of use is contracted under an approved state agreement or federal conservation following program like SCPP.

## Utah Code (73-1-4(2)(e)(ii))

(iii) A water right, found to be valid in a decree entered in an action for general determination of rights under Chapter 4, Determination of Water Rights, is subject to a claim of forfeiture based on a seven-year period of nonuse that begins after the day on which the state engineer filed the related proposed determination of rights with the court, unless the decree provides otherwise.

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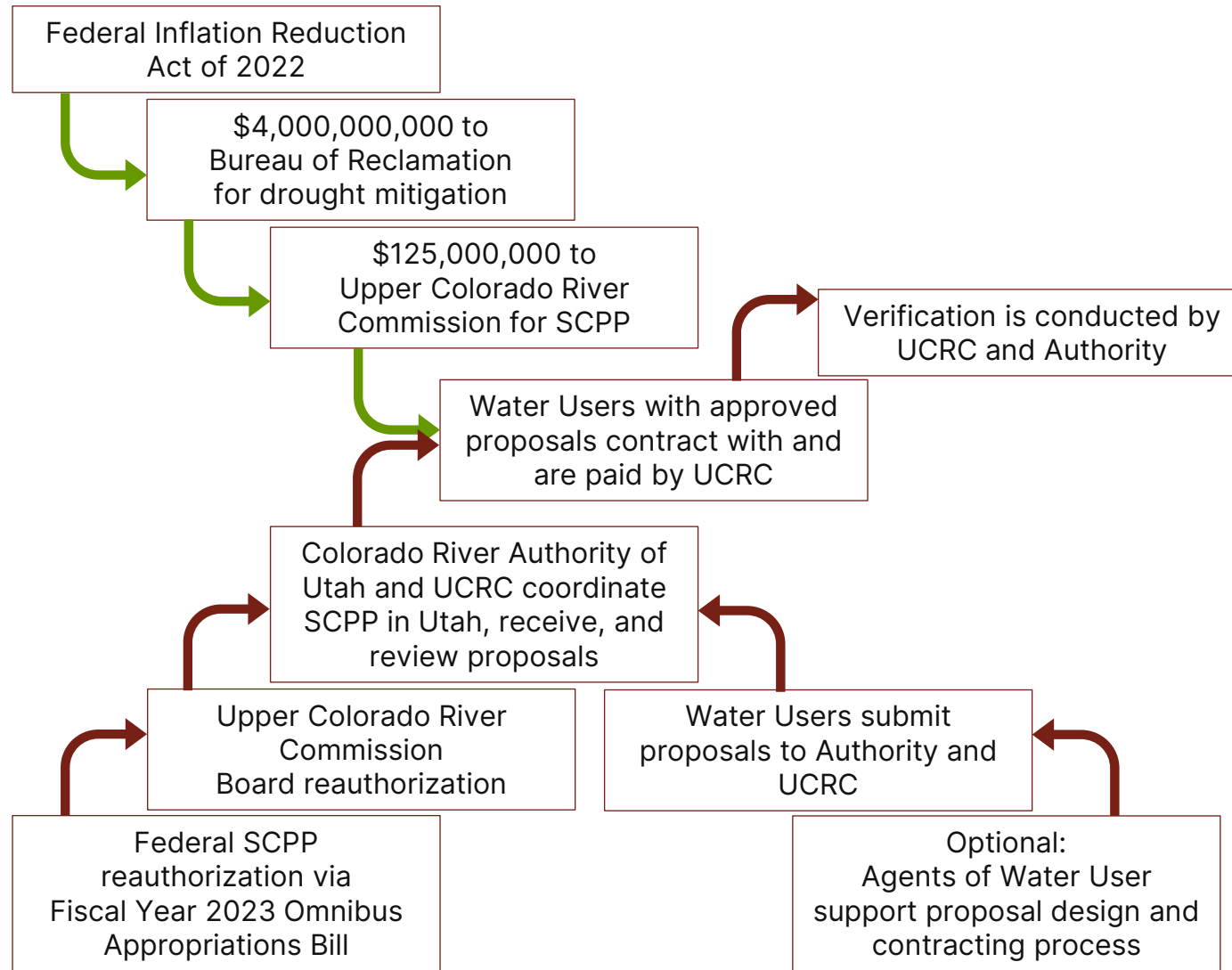
### (e) This section does not apply to:

- (i) the beneficial use of water according to a lease or other agreement with the appropriator or the appropriator's successor in interest;
- (ii) **a water right if its place of use is contracted under an approved state agreement or federal conservation following program;**
- (iii) those periods of time when a surface water or groundwater source fails to yield sufficient water to satisfy the water right



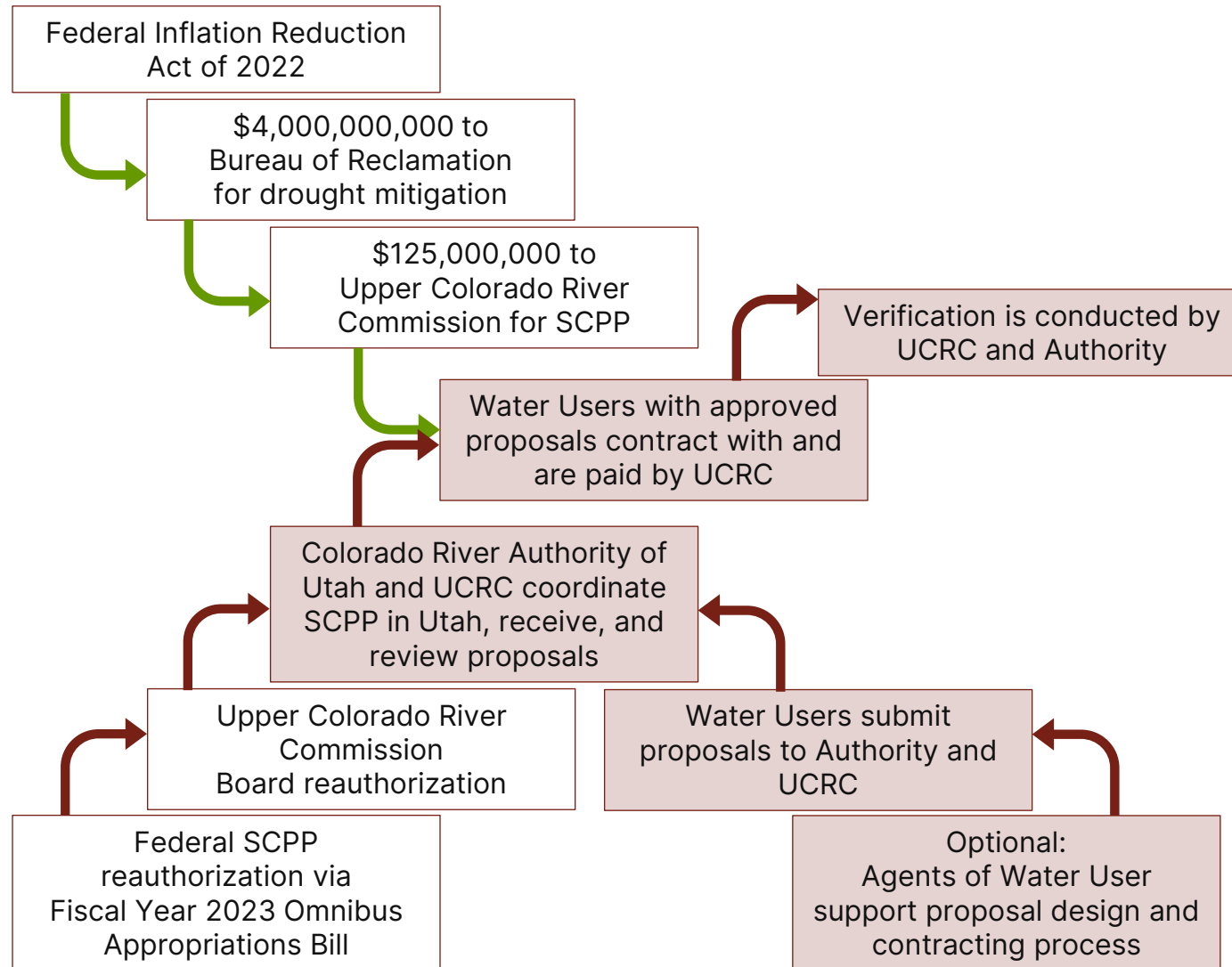


# How is SCPP 2023 funded and administered?





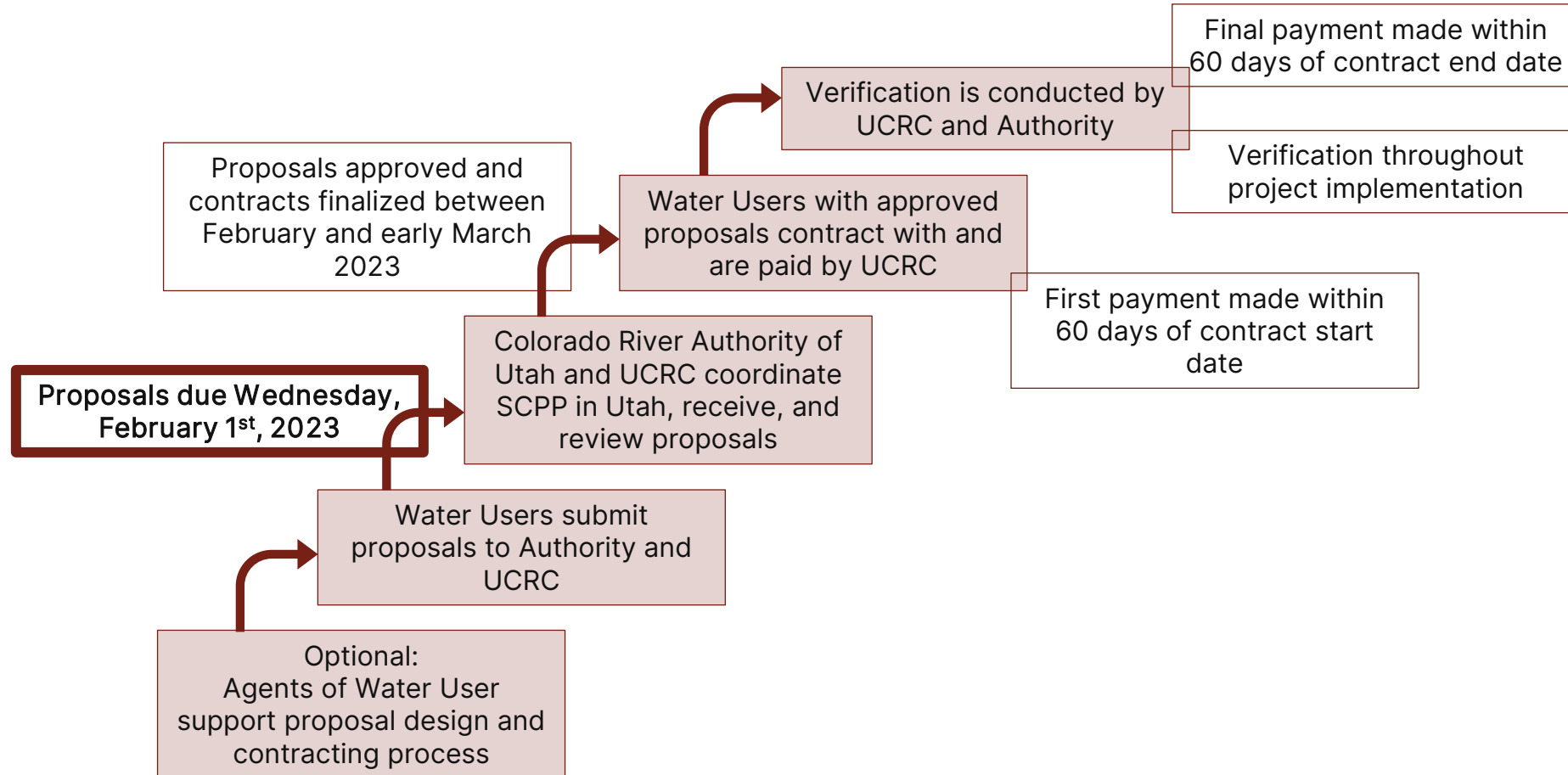
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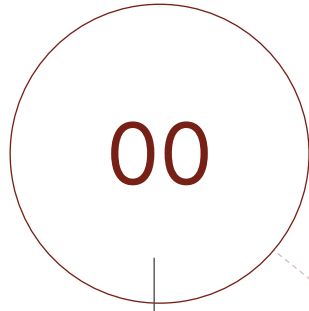


# What is the SCPP 2023 timeline?





# Proposal Process

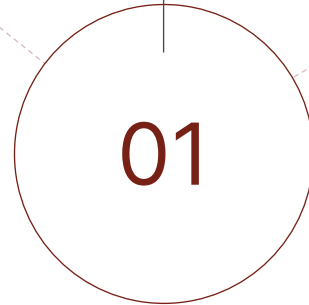


## Optional: Use an Agent

- Connect with NGO staff to contract for assistance with proposal development

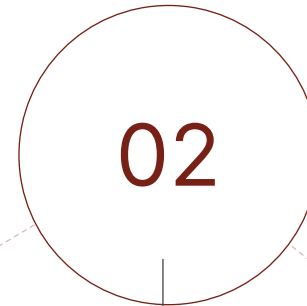
- Location & Number of acres to enroll
  - Conservation Method & Timing
  - Water Rights associated with acres
  - Historic Consumptive Use on acres
  - Estimate Potential Conservation

## Assess Land & Water Use



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Water right must be developed and otherwise in use. Past use based on eeMetric.

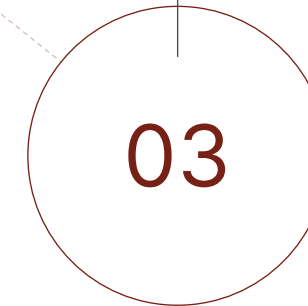


## Assess Economics

- Select between floor price per acre foot or calculate and justify higher price
  - Consider timing of payments

- Identify available past and future water use data
- Specify verification method, requirements, parties, timeline

## Identify Verification Strategy



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eeMetric is preferred, other methods in conjunction with eeMetric are acceptable.



Resources @ [cra-utah.org/resources/scpp](http://cra-utah.org/resources/scpp)

- Link to UCRC SCPP website (past projects, program documentation, application)
- Information session materials



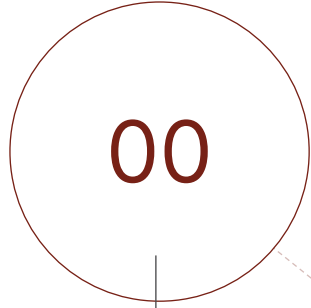


# Selection Criteria

1. A **history of recent beneficial consumptive** use of Colorado River water by the Project Proponent;
2. Adherence of the proposal to the requirements of 2022 UCRC-Reclamation Facilitation Exhibit and the RFP (link);
3. Prioritize projects that are likely to **mitigate impacts of the ongoing drought**;
4. Diversity of **location and type of conservation** measures, including consideration of multiple benefits;
5. The **relative size** of the Project in terms of acre-feet of water that may be conserved;
6. The **comparative ease or difficulty of implementing the SCIA**, including the proposed Verification Plan;
7. The amount of **time required** for the Project to generate System Conservation;
8. Required **permitting** and approvals, if any; and
9. For non-fixed price proposals, the amount of the proposed **price per acre-foot and a justification** for the proposed price. ^



# Contract Process



**Proposal received by UCRC and Authority Feb 1 2023**

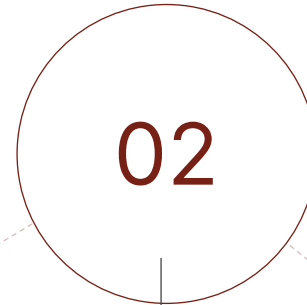
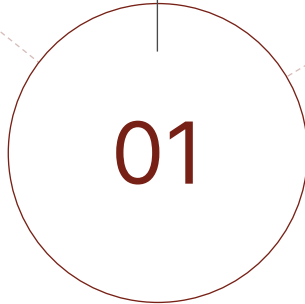
- Authority & UCRC staff review proposal
- UCRC drafts System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA)
- Wilson Water Group Assists UCRC contracting process

**Proposal Provides for SCIA:**

- Water rights details
- History of consumptive use
- Project actions
- Verification plan and right of entry

- UCRC
- All four Upper Division States
  - Reclamation
- Project Proponent

**Contract Reviews and Approval (Feb-March 2023)**



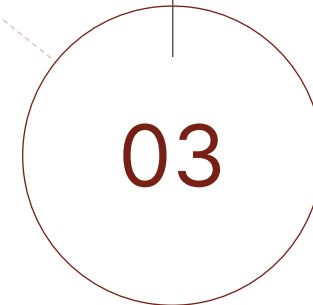
**Project Implementation, SCIA Conditions Met**

- First payment made
- Water legally or physically available for consumptive use
- Consumptive use conserved

**If UCRC determines the water subject to SCIA was not legally or physically available during SCIA term, UCRC has option to forego all or a portion of final payment.**

- Project Proponent records implementation
- Project Proponent reports to UCRC
- Final payment made based on verification
- Project Proponent fills out a W-9 form

**Verification and Reporting**





# Questions

Contact Lily Bosworth with further questions.  
[lbosworth@utah.gov](mailto:lbosworth@utah.gov) | (801) 824-9037



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