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THE PIPELINE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Message from Director Laura Briefer

Each year, Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities hosts an annual employee appreciation event, which is just one opportunity to recognize our employees. This year's event takes place this month and so, our team is at the top of my mind. Simply put, our employees are essential to the work that we complete every day. I can easily draw a parallel between the necessity of water in our everyday lives and the necessity of the people who ensure that water is safely sourced, treated, delivered, and managed.

Public Utilities is one of the largest departments in the Salt Lake City government, with close to 500 employees. Those people collectively represent the diversity of Salt Lake City, a fact of which I am eminently proud. Their variety of backgrounds, experiences, lifestyles, skill sets, and talents are the foundation for our rich organizational culture. Our ability to see things from many perspectives, as a group, enables us to provide the best possible service to our entire community. It is of no little significance that so many individuals come together to fulfill our mission and do so with professionalism and consideration.

Employees within our department fill a wide variety of roles. We have some individuals who work in "traditional" office settings, many others who work in the field, and others still whose work finds them in a different setting every day. Our employees are experts in infrastructure operations, engineering, finance, customer service, regulatory programs, hydrology, watershed science, geographic information systems, safety, security, public policy, public engagement, and more. They have a shared sense of purpose to serve our community and protect our environment.

The Department of Public Utilities is home to some of Salt Lake City's longest-serving employees. We have many people who have been with us for over 20, 30 or even 40



years. These SLCDPU veterans take seriously their mission of service, and they understand the importance of passing knowledge along to newer employees.

We find value in newer team members, who bring different lenses to the ways in which we operate. Consequently, we are often able to work together to identify areas for improvement, innovative solutions, and new opportunities for collaboration. This sense

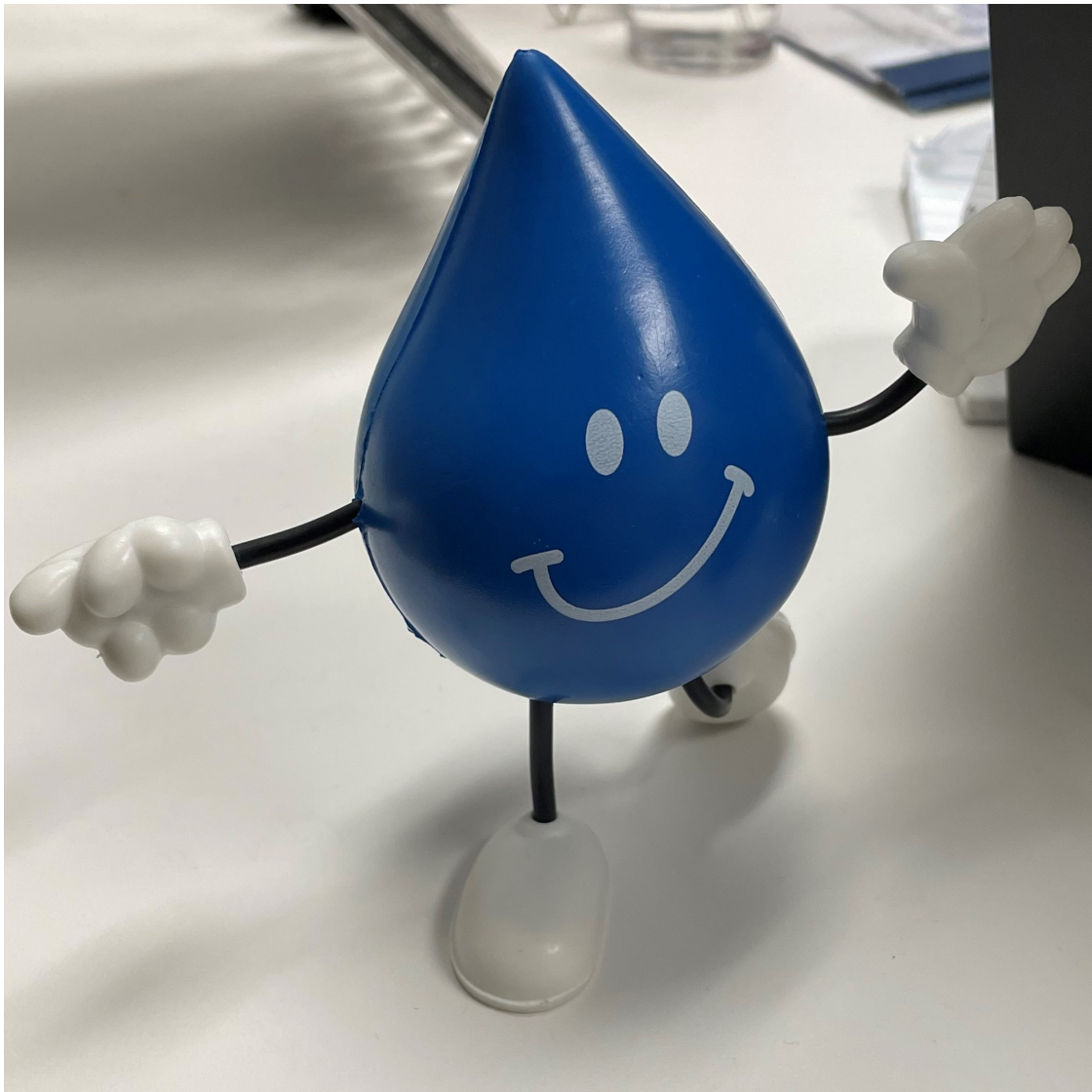
of teamwork is no small contributor to our success.

Our employees are considered essential workers, and must keep our water, sewer, stormwater, and street lighting systems going twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. During the height of the pandemic when many people could work from home, most of our employees could not. During this year's spring runoff, our employees worked day and night to keep our community safe from flooding.

I have always been a proud supporter of SLCDPU employees, but I appreciate them and their dedication even more with each passing day. I hope that you see in our employees those same qualities I do. We appreciate the support of our community and always seek out the opportunity to learn from our interactions with you and to make ourselves better as a result.

Droplet's Phrase of the Month

Hey Droplet - what's the meaning of the word "flocculation"?



Science Direct defines "flocculation" as: "process in which suspended particles clump together because the attractive forces between them overcome any repulsive forces caused by like surface charges."

In simpler terms, flocculation is one step of the process to treat drinking water. It separates water molecules from sediment, which is then filtered from the water -

making it safer (not to mention tastier) to drink.

We're working on major upgrades to our water treatment plant in City Creek Canyon. Click here if you want to learn more about that project, about flocculation, or about the water treatment process in general.

City Creek Water Treatment Plant

Get Involved!

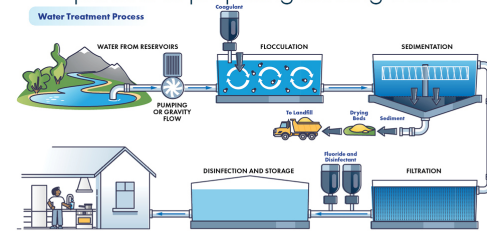
- **Seeking committee members!** The Public Utilities Advisory Committee (PUAC) currently has two vacancies. Learn more about members' responsibilities and [submit your application online](#).
- **Join the team!** We're hiring. Explore career opportunities and submit your application on [Salt Lake City's Careers website](#).

[Learn about the PUAC](#)



DID YOU KNOW...?

We take seriously the process of treating and delivering drinking water throughout our water service area! This graphic illustrates the basic process of preparing drinking water.



Visit www.sl.c.gov/utilities/water-quality to learn more about SLCDPU's water quality

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Project Updates

Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities manages a number of construction projects to maintain and improve our system. Many of these projects are smaller in scale but we've highlighted a few of our larger projects below. If you're interested in learning more about other SLCDPU projects, please [visit our website](#).

- **New Water Reclamation Facility (WRF):** progress on our largest project to date continues daily. During August 2023, our team celebrated a significant milestone: of the 87,000 cubic feet of concrete required to complete construction, over 50% of it has been placed. [Check out more details about the new WRF project numbers.](#)
- **2100 South Sewer Upgrades:** in September, work will begin to replace and upgrade the sewer system under 2100 South between Highland Drive and Yuma Street (2030 East). The sewer line is nearing or over 100 years old, depending on the section and too small to serve the existing demand. This part of the Salt Lake City sewer system provides service to more than 4,000 properties. The project will improve sewer service in the area with a larger pipe made of new materials.



Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities | Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities

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