

# Reading Liberally - Salt Lake

## **The Study/Action Group (since 2005)**

[www.ReadingLiberally-SaltLake.org](http://www.ReadingLiberally-SaltLake.org)

NB: Our 50 campaigns to the nation's decision makers over 17.5 years (many of which have been successful) are summarized in Sec. 1 of [www.ReadingLiberally-SaltLake.org](http://www.ReadingLiberally-SaltLake.org)

### **Quick Facts Re Our 2016-2018 Campaign to save Great Salt Lake**

- 10/1/2016 – certified return-receipt letters to each of the 38 members of the Governor's "Water Strategy Team" re their "Water Strategy White Paper" made public 9/22/2016 with a public-comment deadline of 10/24/2016.
- 10/31/2016 – certified return-receipt letters to each of the 15 top officials of the LDS Church.
- 10/31/2016 – certified return-receipt letters to the heads of 8 environmental groups (incl. National Audubon) and 6 national newspapers (NY Times et al.).
- Our 2/8/2017 meeting threatening litigation to save GSL caused the Deputy Director of the State of Utah Division of Water Resources to announce that the Division was halting the so-called "Bear River Pipeline Project" (which would kill GSL by installing dams & reservoirs on the Bear River) because it was/is NOT needed (the overwhelming majority of water usage in the GSL water-drainage basin is used to grow alfalfa for cows in China and as farmland is converted to residential, water usage DECLINES!!!).
- 3/16/2017 – hand-delivered receipt-acknowledged letter to Gov. Gary Herbert imploring him NOT to sign GSL's "death warrant" (Senate Bill 113) which he proceeded to do on 3/25/2017.
- By 3/31/2017 – our GSL Working Group had performed more than 2,000 hours of legal research demonstrating that successful lawsuits for "Writs of Mandamus" against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Federal Court in either NYC or Washington DC would be a "slam dunk."
- 3/31/2017 – John Karls, as chair of our GSL Working Group, met in the San Francisco Office of one of the world's largest national/international law firms with friends who are among the nation's top environmental attorneys and who readily agreed to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Writs of Mandamus on a pro bono basis.
- 4/5/2017 – certified return-receipt letters to the top 15 officials of the LDS Church (since it was our judgment that only the LDS Church could still call a halt to the destruction of GSL) that the LDS Church might be guilty of civil fraud if it could be proved via discovery of LDS files that it had been responsible for the Utah Division of Water Resources announcement that the Bear River Pipeline Project was not needed in order to proceed "full speed ahead" and thereby "shift the equities" – and since the lawsuits could be brought in Federal Court in either NYC or Washington DC, that the LDS Church might expect full enforcement of discovery procedures.
- Unfortunately, the S.F. attorneys converted the lawsuits from pro bono to a lucrative project by recruiting some of their individual nature-loving clients to underwrite the project.
- And just as unfortunately, the National Audubon Society was recruited as the "front organization" in whose name the lawsuits would be organized so that the nature-loving clients could get an income-tax deduction for the legal fees they were underwriting (the actual plaintiffs would have to be foreign nature-loving diplomats serving in the embassies to the U.N. or the U.S. from the dozens of countries in which the LDS Church did NOT even have missions).
- Summer of 2017 – the National Audubon Society published a glossy fund-raising brochure promising to undertake the litigation.
- 4/24/2018 – John Karls sent certified return-receipt letters to the National Audubon's CEO and its General Counsel requesting a free (for them) breakfast or dinner meeting at the NYC Harvard Club at their convenience as they traveled between Grand Central Station and their 225 Varick Street office (1) to review the status of the litigation, and (2) to make suitable arrangements for more than \$20 million of financing that John Karls had arranged.
- 6/14/2018 – after 6 weeks of "stone-walling" from National Audubon's CEO and its General Counsel, John Karls appealed to each of the members of National Audubon's Board of Directors.
- 6/15/2018 – National Audubon's General Counsel finally sent a letter, effectively admitting that National Audubon had "sold for 30 pieces of silver" Great Salt Lake.

GSL status – the Bear River dams and reservoirs have been constructed and GSL which only has an average depth of 10 feet, was (per the GSL State Park website) 11.4 feet below normal last November though it is now temporarily benefitting from record snowfall in the GSL water-drainage basin (Alta Ski Resort's website reports average annual snowfall is 538 inches and this year they had 903 inches (the previous record had been 748 in 1981-1982)).