

**November 16, 2023**

**Utah Inland Port Authority continues its reckless expenditure of public money  
with purchase of North Temple Landfill**

*SALT LAKE CITY* — Today the Utah Inland Port Authority Board (UIPA) authorized a \$30 million publicly financed purchase of the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) owned North Temple Landfill (note SITLA has just changed its name to Utah Trust Lands). This expenditure of public funds is unnecessarily risky and wasteful.

The \$30 million to purchase the property [is coming from UIPA's sale of \\$150 million in bonds in 2021](#), the bonds are to be paid back with public funds. [Originally the bonds were sold to fund construction of a transloading facility](#) but that plan failed. Since then UIPA has struggled to define its purpose at the SLC 'inland port' location.

When UIPA was created in 2018, port cheerleaders and local property owners were excited about turning the North Temple Landfill into a second intermodal facility (Union Pacific already has one in the area). Landowners viewed it as a step to making their development more profitable. This idea was also used to create political support for the creation of UIPA. But it was poorly vetted and fortunately for all of us (because of the massive pollution it would generate), turned out to be unworkable. After the plan was nixed, a replacement [plan to create the "transloading facility" was unveiled with few details](#).

When *that* plan failed, a [partial legislative audit was commissioned](#) finding serious problems with UIPA's expenditure of public money. Those problems continue as demonstrated by UIPA's [inability to get out of lease payments to local developers for the failed transloading facility](#).

UIPA has a demonstrated record of incompetence and failure over its almost 6-year history. Thus, there is no reason to believe that they are competent to oversee a complex, environmentally sensitive remediation project, especially as they have no experience in the work.

The 770 acre unremediated unlined landfill was in use between 1959 and 1979 and is just west of the International Center on the north side of I-80. [SITLA received the property in 2018 as a donation from Suburban Land Reserve, a for-profit subsidiary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#). At that time its assessed value was \$2.35 million.

SITLA then entered into a partnership with Ninigret, a developer experienced in landfill remediation. Ninigret had a 25% interest in the project. The plan they developed and got state approval for was to remediate the property in phases over a period of years, with each

completed phase helping to finance the next. They analyzed the pros and cons of moving the waste off-site and decided containment in the western portion was the best approach.

In a continuation of its pattern of wasting public money on poorly vetted speculative projects, UIPA will now be spending tax dollars coming up with its own plan for the property.

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