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## SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
Water Supply & Waterworks  
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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84115

PALMER DEPAULIS  
MAYOR

June 19, 1991

Robert L. Morgan, State Engineer  
State of Utah  
Division of Water Rights  
1636 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

RE: DISTRIBUTION OF WATER WITHIN THE UTAH LAKE DRAINAGE BASIN

Dear Bob:

Salt Lake City appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed Distribution of Water Within Utah Lake Drainage Basin plan. This endeavor is much needed as the demands on Utah Lake have been drastically altered since the Morse and Booth decrees were made during the turn of the century. For example, the Provo River project has been built, implementation of the Deer Creek/Strawberry Exchange, Jacob/Welby Exchange, and diversions of water for treatment and culinary use. In the future the completion of the Central Utah Project Bonneville Unit will further impact Utah Lake.

Further, the population around the lake in Utah County has substantially increased; and within Salt Lake County there has been significant urbanization replacing farm lands that were formally irrigated by water from Utah Lake. The use and distribution of Utah Lake water within the drainage basin is a complicated issue and deserves additional study in order to fully understand all of the implications. Therefore, Salt Lake City would like to make the following initial comments:

- 1) The plan should be implemented on an interim basis and be subject to further refinements.
- 2) There needs to be additional follow up meetings and more time to consider the final plan.

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- 3) The report does not account for the carriage water.
- 4) There is not a complete understanding between the relationship between the State Engineer's office and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. For example, the District is currently considering Utah Lake management studies which could overlap with the State Engineer's responsibilities. There appears to be a duplication of effort, or at least the State Engineer should be directly involved in these studies in order to assure that they are consistent with the State Engineer's statutory authority.
5. During the past several years there have been a number of studies and legislative efforts by others to manage Utah Lake. It is Salt Lake City's opinion that the lake should fall under the jurisdiction of the State Engineer's office and that any studies or legislative efforts that establish a lake authority should fall under the jurisdiction of the State Engineer's office.

In conclusion, the above comments are given with the knowledge that we have only had a short time to evaluate the plan and does not represent the City's final comments regarding this matter. It is hoped that we will have further opportunities to discuss this matter before we make a final recommendation.

Sincerely,

*LeRoy W. Hooton Jr.*  
LERROY W. HOOTON, JR.  
Director *by db*

LWH:db

cc: Ray Montgomery  
Charlie Wilson  
Nick Sefakis  
Joe Novak  
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