



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Jerry Olds *JO*

DATE: June 20, 1989

SUBJECT: Meeting Concerning Ground-Water in Salt Lake Valley

On May 31, 1989, the State Engineer held a informational meeting concerning the status of Ground-Water development in Salt Lake Valley. The meeting was held at 3:00 pm in the Department of Natural Resources auditorium. Attached is a listing of the attendees at this meeting.

The basic purpose of the meeting was to apprise the Water Users concerning a recent study that the State Engineer is conducting concerning the development of a ground-water management plan for Salt Lake Valley. Bob Morgan presented a brief discussion concerning the characteristics of the ground-water resource (recharge, discharge, water level trends, and the current water use pattern). Following his presentation I discussed the technical aspects of the study and the preliminary findings. Based upon our studies it was indicated, that in our opinion the limiting factor controlling the quantity of water to be developed within Salt Lake Valley is water quality. It was indicated that efforts will be made to develop a water quality model for the Salt Lake valley possibly beginning July 1, 1990. The other major issue presented was the large volume of water covered under perfected and approved water rights. Attached is a copy of the overhead slides that were used in both presentations.

Following these presentations Bob Morgan indicated what the State Engineers policy will be over the next few years.

The points covered by Bob were:

- 1) No new large appropriations of ground-water would be allowed in Salt Lake Valley;
- 2) Change Applications would be critically review to assess their potential impact on water quality;
- 3) Extensions of time on water right filings for ground-water will be critically reviewed in the future; and
- 4) .015 cfs. filings will be allowed for those individuals who cannot obtain water from another source.

There were several comments and questions from the group and in general they were in agreement with the preliminary findings presented by the State Engineer. In my opinion it appeared that many of the water users were somewhat surprised that water quality will be the limiting constraint and it is perhaps a new concept that has not been given a great deal of consideration in the past. As a result, I believe it caught them somewhat off guard and they were at a loss as to what their position on this issue might be. Former Governor Rampton representing White City, indicated that it caught them by surprise and requested that we give them some time to review the data and findings, and allow them an opportunity to respond at a latter date. Bob indicated that he would appreciate any input or comments from the water users as to what they would like to see done to address the issues that we presented. At the meeting, none of the water users were willing to take a position at this time, but indicated that they were supportive of efforts to try and reach a mutual understanding or agreement between the major water users.

Bob indicated that he would meet with Environmental Health in attempts to coordinate the quantity and quality issues between the agencies. Following this, another meeting will be held in approximately 2 months to determine what direction or future efforts need to be taken concerning the ground-water resource in Salt Lake Valley. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 pm.

JDO/ra