



THE STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY

WAYNE D. CRIDDLE
STATE ENGINEER

February 19, 1962

Mr. Milt Jolley
Executive Secretary
Cedar City Chamber of Commerce
109 South Main Street
Cedar City, Utah

Escalante Valley

Dear Mr. Jolley:

We have your letter of February 8, 1962, together with the copy of the resolution adopted by the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce.

Since our function is to administer the water resources in accordance with the laws of the State, I will merely comment on those matters pertaining thereto. Other state agencies will probably make other comments.

It is the policy of this office to attempt orderly development and full utilization of the water resources. I'm sure that you are well aware of the problems that existed in getting financing of farm operations prior to our adjudication in the Escalante Valley. Water tables were dropping rapidly yet many pending applications were before us. The applicants who were well financed wanted approval knowing that they could afford to lift water to a greater height than many people who had bona fide developments and a lifetime of work into their farms. Rather than allow a "dog-eat-dog" approach and under the priority principles, this office rejected all pending applications beyond the point where our many years of study indicated the recharge would not take care of the depletion.

Thus, we can not now allow new applications to be filed for water, particularly when the water levels are still dropping. If this trend were to continue, some junior rights may be stopped from using water. We don't expect the trend to continue downward nor do we expect it to show any drastic rise. But certainly, at this time we can see no way in which additional water can be obtained without interfering with existing rights.

Nevertheless, there is a way in which "land developers" can get water. They can obtain existing rights and we will be glad to work with them in getting the necessary changes made giving proper protection of other rights. If the developers wish to proceed along these lines, we are with them. If they attempt to force their way in to share a supply that we feel is already fully utilized, then we will be strongly against them in the interest of those people of the valley who have prior rights and who are dependent upon these rights for their livelihood.

Yours very truly,

Wayne D. Criddle
STATE ENGINEER

WDC/le
CC/ Governor Clyde
CC/ Department of Business Regulation