



Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency
3025 E. Spanish Trail Rd. ♦ PO Box 1046 ♦ Moab, UT 84532
435-259-8121 ♦ 435-259-8122 fax ♦ www.grandwater.org

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December 22, 2017

Division of Water Rights
Marc Stilson, SE Regional Engineer
PO Box 718
Price, UT 84501-0718

Dear Mr. Stilson:

The Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency (GWSSA) voted in an open meeting on December 21, 2017 to send this letter to your office. At a previous meeting, the board elected not to protest the San Juan County water right Extension of Time. Your presence at the meeting was extremely helpful in the board's decision-making process. Although the board chose not to protest, discussion during the meeting resulted in this letter being prepared to voice GWSSA's concern over the groundwater resource in Moab/Spanish Valley.

We are aware of future intent to implement a Groundwater Management Plan in the area. GWSSA welcomes the opportunity to participate. We are also aware that the process takes time, although any efforts to expedite the process would be welcome.

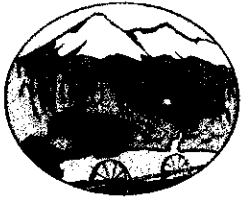
We are also aware of the upcoming adjudication of water rights to be performed by your office in the area. We believe this process will aid in identifying non-use, making the estimated water use data more accurate.

One concern brought by the board is the idea of priority dates and water usage. It was discussed that if a person is using a junior right, a senior right holder could strip that person of their water rights when they were needed by the senior holder. Does this work with municipalities as well? The special protections that municipalities have under the Rules, seem to indicate that once water is used for the public, it cannot be taken away. Any clarification you can provide on this subject is greatly appreciated.

We would like to ask your office to consider closing the area to new Permanent Change Applications changing point(s) of diversion from outside the watershed into Moab/Spanish Valley until the Groundwater Management Plan is implemented.

Continued

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Thank you for the time and effort your office has put into educating the public about DWR's processes and rules. Your willingness to attend meetings and answer questions about this complicated subject is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Pyatt
GWSSA President