

Utah Division of Water Rights



REVIEW OF GROUNDWATER MONITORING MOAB / SPANISH VALLEY - SOUTH

Moab / Spanish Valley Watershed



19

Castle Valley

128

Powerhouse Dam

Moab^S

Kens Lake

Pack Creek Spanish Valley

Mill Creek

Sanu

Google earth



Groundwater Management Plans

Est. in Section 73-5-15 Utah Code

Objectives:

- Limit groundwater withdrawals to safe yield.
- Protect physical integrity of the aquifer.
- Protect water quality.

"Safe Yield" means the amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn from a groundwater basin over a period of time without exceeding the long-term recharge of the basin or unreasonably affecting the basin's physical and chemical integrity.



USGS "Evaluation of Groundwater Resources in the Spanish Valley Watershed, Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah" Scientific Investigations Report 2019-5062, pg. 55

- Recharge: 9,550 30,000 acre-feet
- Discharge: 14,000 16,000 acre-feet



What Should Be Measured?

- Spring Flows
- Stream Flows
- Water Quality
- Water Table Elevations







Who's collecting the Data?

- USGS
- Moab City
- Moab Irrigation Company
- Grand Water & Sewer SA
- San Juan Spanish Valley SSD
- Division of Water Quality
- Division of Water Rights



SOUTH



Groundwater Watch

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Map generated 11/7/2019 2:29:19 PM

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Navajo Sandstone

Kayenta Formation

Wingate Sandstone

Thickness (Doelling, 2001, 2004) - Jn, Navajo: up to 800 ft - Jk, Kayenta: 100–300 ft - Jw, Wingate: 250-450 ft - Total Jgc ~ 1200 ft

SPECIAL STUDY 120 UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

caprock



SPECIAL STUDY 120 UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Moab / Spanish Valley Watershed





SPECIAL STUDY 120 UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY Valley Fill – Sand / Gravel Carmel / Dewey Bridge Formation



Morrison Formation

SPECIAL STUDY 120 UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY Carmel / Dewey Bridge Formation



Valley Fill – Sand / Gravel



Morrison Formation

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Carmel / Dewey Bridge



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Groundwater Level Trend Viewer

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Region:

Options

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Map Options

Areas in Utah

- <u>Beaver Valley</u>
- <u>Beryl-Enterprise</u>
- Bothwell Area
- <u>Cedar City Valley</u>
- <u>Curlew Valley</u>
- <u>Cache Valley</u>
- <u>Delta Area</u>
- <u>East Shore (Bountiful)</u>
- <u>East Shore (Weber-Delta)</u>
- <u>Goshen Valley</u>
- Juab Valley
- <u>Milford Valley</u>
- <u>Moab Area</u>
- <u>Pahvant Valley</u>
- <u>Parowan Valley</u>
- <u>Rush Valley</u>
- <u>Salt Lake Valley</u>
- <u>Snake Valley</u>
- <u>Tooele Valley</u>
- <u>Utah Valley (Southern)</u>
- <u>Utah Valley (Northern)</u>



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Valley Fill 0 - 110' Sand & Gravel Glen Canyon Group 110' - 320' Sandstone Slope Overburden 0 - 35' Sand / Gravel

Glen Canyon Group 35' – 320' Sandstone

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S1, S2 & S3

Groundwater Elevation in SJSVSSD Well 1 & Area Wells

Overall Summary

Northern Small Decline in Water Table Elevation

- Insufficient information / analysis on Spring Flows to determine trend.
- Insufficient information on outflow to Colorado River & interaction between Brine & Freshwater Layers

Overall Summary

<u>Central</u>

- Large Decline in 1970's followed by even Larger Recharge in the 1980's
- Moderate Decline since 1990
- Water Table Elevations at about same level as 1970

 Insufficient information / analysis on Spring Flows to determine trend.

Overall Summary

Southern

 Insufficient Information to determine trends in groundwater table and spring flows

Recommendations

<u>USGS 2017</u>

- Install Lower Mill Creek Gage COMPLETED (measure discharge)
- Install Upper Pack Creek Gage (better quantify recharge)
- Monitor Spring Flows (seasonal v. long term changes)
- Continuous or Quarterly Water Level Monitoring (see SJSVSSD)
- Numerical Model (test conceptual model)

Division of Water Quality (Hultquist)

- 3 Dedicated Monitoring Wells w/ continuous monitoring
- Monitor Spring Flows
- Dedicated Monitoring Well in Glen Canyon Group aquifer
- Dedicated Monitoring Well in Valley Fill aquifer
- Additional Stream Gages on Mill (North Fork) and Pack Creek
- Dedicated Monitoring Well above Kens Lake

Recommendations

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• Ditto USGS & DWQ Recommendations

Commission a Study of Existing Groundwater Monitoring Program

- Determine Quality of Current Monitoring Wells (condition of wells, which aquifer is being monitored, reliability of data, interference issues, water quality issues)
- Determine if there are Gaps in the Current System (i.e. brine layer)
- Identify Critical Flow Pathways Spring Flows (faults / joints)
- Determine Best Placement of Resources and Monitoring Equipment

Recommendations

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- More Detailed Hydrologic Study of Three Key Areas:
 - Matheson Wetlands Area outflow to Colorado River / interaction between brine and freshwater layers / movement of brine layer
 - Central Valley interaction between the GCG & Valley Fill aquifers, interaction between Mill Creek & GCG/VF aquifers
 - Upper Valley interaction between Kens Lake & GCG/VF aquifers / interaction between Pack Creek and VF aquifer
- Development of a Web Based Interface that provides Greater Transparency and Access for the public to the Data across all levels of Government reporting

Thank You... Any Questions?

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