

November 19, 2018

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Division of Water Rights
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State Engineer and staff,

Thank you for meeting with us at the Tooele City Hall on November 8. We can see that you prepared and presented what you have all worked on with the information that you have and the requirements that you have to appropriate water to the state based on that information.

What became clear to us in the meeting was, that although there was a study done fairly recently, the information is clearly outdated and, in many of the cases in the areas that were discussed by those residents, not correct. Since the study was done in 2011, we have not had what would be considered a good water year. In fact, recently the Governor himself declared a drought in order to release funds to assist with needed water remedies in the state. The water we need from rain and snow are critical to replenish the aquifers. Many of the aquifers in the Stockton area are ancient water, as well as water that is brackish. Without normal, let alone abundant water accumulation from rain and snow, the aquifers continue to deplete, not maintain or replenish. It was discussed that many free flowing wells, streams, and ponds in the area are dry and have been for at least 4 years.

On our property in Stockton the last few years, we not only have had rationed water but especially this year only stock water was allowed. This prevented us from watering the natural grasses our sheep graze on at all, and since there was very little water again this year, the grasses didn't grow well and were dry most of the grazing season. This made it difficult to use our property reasonably for grazing for our sheep, as well as creating a very real concern for high fire danger to our property and the surrounding properties.

To use the study and base a new water appropriation for a demand that you are getting for growth in the Stockton area is not reasonable and not responsible, especially to the level that was suggested. Based on the comments you received and the discussions that took place at the meeting, and the drought situation we continue to experience, we ask that you not change the current water

appropriation at all, and not consider future changes until there is more current information used and we are no longer considered in a drought situation.

This county is mostly desert, and we don't have water storage basins and treatment plants to handle a growth infrastructure. We need to protect the current water as it is, rather than adversely affect those who are managing their water wisely in order to maintain their properties and farms the best they can.

Sincerely,
Jonathan and Joy Peters