



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Ted Stewart  
Executive Director

Robert L. Morgan  
State Engineer

1636 West North Temple, Suite 220  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3156  
801-538-7240  
801-538-7467 (Fax)

November 15, 1995

## UPPER PROVO RIVER GROUND-WATER POLICY

The upper Provo River Valleys are defined as those alluvial valleys which are tributary to the Provo River above the mouth of Provo Canyon at Olmstead.

The valleys of the upper Provo River are currently experiencing a change in land use practices. These valleys are changing from a largely agricultural use to urban and residential uses. These changes have prompted the State Engineer to re-examine his policies concerning ground water.

Recent studies by the USGS have indicated a very strong inter-relationship between ground water and surface sources. This inter-relationship means that water use in the upper Provo River Valleys has an effect upon the water supplies downstream.

Current policy allows the appropriation of water for single family residential use where no other source of water is available. As multi-unit subdivisions are becoming more prevalent, it appears this policy is becoming outdated.

### 1. New Appropriations

The upper Provo River Valleys are closed to new appropriations of ground water.

### 2. Change Applications

All new withdrawals of ground water will be based on the acquisition and transfer of existing surface or ground-water rights, and the filing of a change application. These applications will be considered on their own merits. Applications to change water within the upper Provo River Valleys will be viewed favorably by the State Engineer. Those applications seeking to change water into the upper Provo River Valleys from other areas of the Utah Lake drainage will be critically reviewed. In order to better protect prior water rights and public health and safety, consideration will be given as to whether the application proposes delivery through a central water system and the discharge of effluent through a sanitary sewer system. All such applications will be required to provide, in acre-feet per year, the proposed annual withdrawal.

### 3. Proof of Change

All proofs of change will be required to state the water right's annual withdrawal, in acre-feet per year, in addition to the maximum allowable flow rate. All maps submitted with proofs of change which involve the transfer of irrigation water rights will be required to show the lands being taken out of irrigation as well as the new uses covered under the change.

### 4. Reporting Provisions

To effectively monitor ground-water withdrawals, all wells which have the potential to divert 100 acre-feet or more per year shall be equipped with meters and shall report their diversions to the State Engineer on a calendar year basis through the Water Use Data Program which is operated by the State Engineer.



5. Oversight

The State Engineer will monitor potential well withdrawals, actual withdrawal data, and water quality data. If in the opinion of the State Engineer the data suggests additional policy guidelines are needed in order to protect the resources, action will be taken to present this to the water users and the general public. Following the public review process, this policy can be modified accordingly.

6. Adoption of Policy

Item 1 of this policy will become effective immediately. Items 2 through 5 shall become effective after a thirty (30) day comment period which will end on December 15, 1995. Items of this policy may be modified in the future as new data and information becomes available. All modifications to the policy will be done through a public review process.