

P.O. Box 158
Enterprise, Utah, 84725
9-12-07

RECEIVED
OCT 01 2007
WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

Mr. Jerry Olds
Utah Division of Water Rights
PO Box 146300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300

Dear Mr. Olds

I am writing to you about the current water rights situation in the Beryl/ Enterprise area. I am hoping in this letter you will understand some of the concerns that I, as a teenager and hopefully a future resident of the area, am having.

I have done some researching and from what I understand is that both the agriculture and culinary water will be either taken away or reduced in some parts of the valley. The water rights that will be taken away will be those that were granted after 1945, which will include many people and businesses because the state granted too many water rights in the 1950's and 1960's. Quite a few people feel that it is the states fault for the dropping water table because of these generous amounts of rights granted. According to my research though, the water table is higher than it was in the fifties, when the state granted those rights and thought that it was okay. I understand that the state allows water rights as long as the water is being used beneficially. For the most part, I think it is, although some people may have abused their rights and taken more than they should. But maybe if meters were put on the wells, it might eliminate the cheating and save some of the water. While the state says that the water is getting too low, I learned that there is enough water in the basin to last for 400 years before it becomes difficult to pump. This is said during a drought and the valley should be able to replenish itself in water before it comes to that. Instead of taking away the water, can't the state come up with plan to conserve the water, either by monitoring wells, or coming up with an effective way to water crops? If the rights are taken away, people will have to pay to have their water brought in. This will get very expensive, very fast. People won't be able to afford to live here. A lot of these people will be the farmers. If the farmers move, that takes away the primary industry and there will be no reason for anyone else to stay. The area will become a ghost town and I don't want to see that happen. This decision will impact everything in this valley, from the economy to the growth of the area. It not only affects the local residents, but also the banks and anyone else who has given someone a loan or financial aid. If everyone is forced to move, will the state help them to move by finding land or helping to pay for a house? What will happen when the water table does rise, will it be sent to St. George or Las Vegas? Also, will any of the government associations that have water rights lose those, or will it just be the individual and independent residents? If this plan does go through, will anyone receive some compensation, whether by financial aid to move or to buy the water?

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter and learn of some of the concerns I am having. Thank you for taking my questions into consideration. I hope that you understand that even the young residents of the area are worried about the current situation. I would also like to request that this letter be made public record. Once again, thank you for reading what I have to say.

Sincerely,



Jaimie Lee Dannelly

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