



IRON COUNTY

68 South 100 East • Parowan, Utah 84761 • Phone (435) 477-8300 • Fax (435) 477-8847

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MAY 16 2007
WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

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Iron County Commission
68 South 100 East
Parowan, Utah 84761

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

Dear Mr. Olds,

Iron County representatives attended the public meeting held in Enterprise on March 13th. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the proposed groundwater management plan for the Beryl/Enterprise basin. We as always are very concerned about any action that may negatively impact the economic stability of our citizens and consequently the economic stability of the county. We feel that measures undertaken to attain safe yield should be implemented slowly and in a manner that will cause the least harm to the local water users and the economy of the area.

It is apparent that the State of Utah is culpable for the problem that now exists as they have obviously over-appropriated many of the underground basins of the state including the Beryl/Enterprise basin. Over-appropriation being the overriding factor causing the water table deficits that are now occurring, we believe that the State of Utah should assume financial responsibility for their error and come forward with a plan to buyout sufficient underground water rights to rectify the situation. Such a plan should include the following elements:

1. An extended period of implementation (possibly 50 years)
2. Buyout of willing sellers first.
3. (followed by) Buyout of junior rights sufficient to approach safe yield.
4. Continued monitoring of water levels and calculation of average water table measurements over time so as to correctly determine when a reasonably safe yield has been obtained. This done to ascertain that only sufficient rights are bought out and nothing more.

Local data should be diligently collected to properly evaluate the economic impact of the groundwater management plan on the community. Again, over appropriated water rights

should be bought out by the State so that other investment may be entered into that will continue the economic stability of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our views on this subject.

Sincerely,

Iron County Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne A. Smith".

Wayne A. Smith

Chairman