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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Division of Water Rights

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#### CLARIFICATION OF PROTECTION ZONE POLICY FOR WATER RIGHT AREA 01

The policy states: The State Engineer will not approve any application to appropriate surface or groundwater within the Protection Zone filed after May 22, 2015.

For clarification purposes this policy includes any application to withdraw water from a well that has a hydrologic connection to the Entrada aquifer. Underlying geologic units may not in some cases be isolated from the Entrada Formation and pumping from these units could result in water being withdrawn or drawn down from the Entrada aquifer. Such an appropriation of water or that portion of water being withdrawn or drawn down from the Entrada aquifer would constitute an appropriation from the Protection Zone and is not allowable under this policy.

Any applications seeking to withdraw water from geologic units found below the Entrada aquifer must submit with their application sufficient scientific data showing that withdrawal of water from those units does not impact the flow of perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, seeps, springs and other naturally-occurring water within Arches National Park whose source is surface water or groundwater from the Entrada aquifer.

At a minimum evidence sufficient to make such a showing would likely include analysis of drill hole cuttings by a professionally licensed geologist, or scientific agency such as the Utah Geological Survey or United States Geological Survey to verify the target aquifer lies below the Entrada aquifer. Scientific data is also required to show that no hydrologic connection exists between the Entrada aquifer and the target well. Such evidence may take the form of pump tests from the target aquifer with associated monitoring wells in the Entrada aquifer to verify no hydrologic connection exists between the two. Chemical testing of the waters in the separate aquifers as well as static head pressures between the two aquifers would also provide information on the relative connectedness or lack thereof between the two aquifers. Where conditions are similar, testing which has already occurred and is on the record may be substituted for new testing. Summary and presentation of such evidence is best submitted to the State Engineer in report form as part of an application requesting a point of diversion in the protected area.

Kent L. Jones, P.E., State Engineer

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Date