

III. APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF RIGHTS

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated Chapter 4, Title 73, the Court on April 18, 1980, entered an order directing the State Engineer to proceed with the general adjudication of water rights within the Virgin River Basin in Washington, Iron, and Kane Counties in Utah. To facilitate administration of the adjudication, the State Engineer divided the Virgin River drainage area into divisions covering major drainages, and assigned each division a code number. The Virgin River drainage is Area 81. The Zion National Park Division is Area 81, Book 6. The Proposed Determination for the Zion National Park Division covers only the water rights of the United States within the boundaries of Zion National Park.

The Zion National Park Water Rights Settlement Agreement is the product of extensive negotiations between the State of Utah, the United States, the Washington County Water Conservancy District, and the Kane County Water Conservancy District. It was signed by Governor Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, and other officials on December 4, 1996. The main body of the Proposed Determination of Water Rights for the Zion National Park Division consists of the Agreement and its appendices. The Proposed Determination is included in this Interlocutory Decree as Attachment 1.

The Proposed Determination establishes the federal reserved