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Utah Division of Water Rights
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220
P.O. Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300

Re: Public Comment on the Proposed Groundwater Management Plan for the Sand Hollow Aquifer, Washington County, Utah

Dear State Engineer and Division Representatives,

As a long-time water right holder within the area of the Sand Hollow Aquifer system. While water rights are generally tied to a specific basin, actions in a different basin can still affect the overall water supply and potentially impact existing water rights. Therefore, I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the proposed Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) for this vital water source in Washington County.

For the past **38 years**, I have responsibly managed my permitted well, using it for **pasture irrigation and domestic needs on a 5-acre parcel**. Over this time, I have made it a priority to maintain the health of the aquifer by managing my usage sustainably, and have not observed significant drops in the local water table within my area of use. This personal history reflects the type of stewardship that should be encouraged and protected under any future management framework.

While I recognize the increasing pressures on the Sand Hollow Aquifer due to population growth, drought, and demand from water suppliers, I respectfully urge the Division to ensure that the proposed GMP:

1. Protects Existing and Beneficially Used Rights:

The plan should uphold the rights of those who have put their water to beneficial use over many years. Curtailment measures must honor seniority, and long-term, responsible users like myself should not be penalized for others' overuse or speculative appropriations.

2. Follows a Transparent and Participatory Process:

It is critical that the planning process remain open and accessible to affected water right holders. Public meetings, clear communication of scientific data, and early

engagement with stakeholders will build trust and lead to a more workable and accepted outcome.

3. Provides Clear Hydrological Justification:

The technical foundation for the GMP must be solid and publicly available. I ask that the Division share relevant data on recharge rates (especially from the Sand Hollow Reservoir), aquifer modeling, and historical trends to help the public understand the situation and the rationale for proposed measures.

4. Considers Fairness and Local Impact:

For small landowners and agricultural users, groundwater is often the only viable water source. Sudden restrictions or reductions can cause economic and operational hardship. I ask that the plan include options such as phased implementation, mitigation programs, or voluntary conservation incentives to reduce impacts on those most vulnerable.

5. Supports Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR):

Continued enhancement of recharge through existing reservoirs and innovative methods should be a key component of the GMP. If the aquifer is being depleted faster than it is replenished, recharge strategies should be scaled up to help restore balance.

In closing, I support the effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Sand Hollow Aquifer. However, I strongly believe that any management plan must be built on principles of fairness, scientific transparency, and respect for those who have acted as responsible stewards of this precious resource for decades. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and look forward to ongoing engagement in the process.

Sincerely,

Carson Tait

Water Right Holder, Washington County

38-Year Groundwater Steward, near the Sand Hollow Aquifer Region