

CITY OF ENTERPRISE

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MAR 16 2007

WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

March 16, 2007

State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Jerry Olds
1594 W North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT. 84114-6300

Re: Enterprise / Escalante Valley Groundwater Management Plan

The City of Enterprise wishes to immediately respond to your invitation for feedback from the recent public meeting held here. While we take issue with several aspects of your presentation on a groundwater management plan, this letter will address only one. HB 228 states:

“When adopting a groundwater management plan for a critical management area, the state engineer shall, based on economic and other impacts to an individual water user or a local community caused by the implementation of safe yield limits on withdrawals, allow gradual implementation of the groundwater management plan.”

We wish to raise serious concern and objection with your proposed economic impact study with the intended scale of analysis being limited only to a County level. We believe your economic model that was proposed is seriously flawed.

Enterprise City is remotely located in Northern Washington County. The Escalante Valley is remotely located in western Iron County. Despite the fact a county line divides the two areas, they are inseparable with regard to their unique economic environment. We feel it is imperative that a local sub set study must also be done to accurately measure the economic impact to this specific area of any attempt to invalidate underground water rights.

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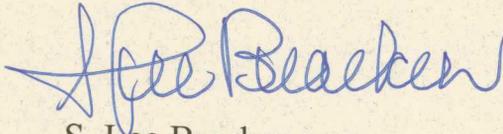
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A County level study may yield important and relevant data that may demonstrate the economic ripple effect of any groundwater management plan and we don't mean to minimize its potential value. However, we do not feel it meets the legislative intent as the language specifically identifies consideration must be given for the impact to a local community. Enterprise City is that local community.

In addition to your country study, Enterprise City must insist on a thorough and comprehensive local study to identify any and all potential economic hardships caused by the implementation of any plan that reduces water usage. Anything less than this will be aggressively challenged.

Respectfully,



S. Lee Bracken

Mayor

Cc: Senator Bill Hickman
Senator Dennis Stowell
Senator Darin Peterson
Representative David Clark
Representative Bud Bowman
Representative Steve Urquhart
Representative Margaret Dayton
Representative Patrick Painter
Representative Mike Noel
Mike Brown, Escalante Valley Water Users