



SENATOR  
DENNIS STOWELL

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT  
BEAVER, GARFIELD, IRON,  
KANE, MILLARD and  
WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## UTAH STATE SENATE

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May 15, 2007

Mr. Jerry Olds  
Utah State Engineer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Jerry:

These comments are submitted regarding formulation of a plan pertaining to the water in the Escalante Valley. Please consider the following points in relation to any plan which is developed for the area:

1. The residents of that area are concerned for the economy of the area. Discussions held to date have resulted in any sales of property drying up totally. It is very important that any plan take into account the effect upon the local economy.
2. The plan needs to be developed locally, from the bottom up; it should not be forced upon the area from the top down. Working together, the local water users association has developed some ideas which can be formulated into a plan if given some time. They are unified on these ideas. They need to be given a year in which to flesh out the plan.
3. Any plan approved needs to include provisions to replant some type of ground cover before any irrigation equipment is removed so that the area does not become a dust bowl. There is already some experience in Escalante Valley with a dust bowl area. A source of funding must be provided to assure that replanting is a part of any approved plan.

I will carry in the Utah Senate any legislation required to carry out any plan which is approved. I do support the concepts which the local area residents have formulated to date and hope your office will also support those ideas and that your office will allow the local water users an additional year in which to develop a plan.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis E. Stowell  
Utah Senator