

1 August, 2011

Utah Division of Water Rights

PO Box 146300

Salt Lake City Utah, 84114-6300

To: Mike Lowe, Janae Wallace, Ross Hanson.

Subject: Comments regarding the "Hydrogeology of Morgan Valley, Morgan County, Utah" study.

We the residents of Moran County very much appreciate your efforts regarding the study you have accomplished. We recognize that the importance of the study and can only imagine how difficult it was to complete.

The following is my comments regarding the study as you requested during the meeting held in Morgan, County, 20 July, 2011.

- 1- Mr. Lowe reported "The primary recharge area for the principle aquifer system consists of uplands along the valley margins and valley-fill material not containing confining layers. No secondary recharge areas exist in Morgan County". He also stated: "Precipitation is the largest source of recharge." I agree with his remarks and do not believe our underground aquifer is significantly recharged by surface rivers and streams. More about that later.
- 2- Mr. Lowe extensively used drillers' well logs for data as he should have. He indicated to me after the meeting, that they did not evaluate the many unsuccessful attempts to drill wells in the Mountain Green area. (It is said that one developer drilled as many as 16 dry holes before hitting sufficient water.) This information would have supported your findings that fractured-rock aquifers away from valley floors are highly variable.
- 3- I and many of my neighbors have grave concerns regarding the "Exchange program" as presented by Mr. S. Ross Hansen. The concept that one can obtain water rights form a surface source, i.e. reservoir, and then use those rights to drill an underground well does not make sense to us layman. Mr. Hansen used the analogy of a bath tub to make his point. I would contend that he needs two bath tubs to adequately explain the situation. One for surface water and a second for underground water. He stated that when water is needed downstream to fill the tub we could just release water from the upstream source and fill the tub. I would contend that water running down the Weber River will not fill the underground tub. Mr. Lowe stated that precipitation is the major source of recharge of underground aquifers. Exchange of water rights for underground water should be restricted to the same location/aquifer.
- 4- I am very concerned regarding the lifting of the current moratorium and agree with your proposal for "No new appropriations". My rational is as follows: The rapid population growth that prompted this study has diminished due to the

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downturn of the economy. If and when the economy improves we will see a drastic increase in completion of already approved and new projects mostly in the Mountain Green area. Already approved and new projects that have been proposed are:

- a. Snow Basin has proposed tremendous growth with hundreds of Condominiums, hotels and a golf course.
- b. A Townhouse project slowed down by the economy contemplated 250 units. Another adjacent to it with 300 units was proposed and could be reinstated.
- c. A Gailey Ranch project has proposed several hundred condominium/townhouses and a golf course. This has been shelved but may come about in the future.
- d. A Peterson Wilderness ski resort with all of the associated building and snow making needs has been proposed.
- e. Hundreds of approved lots that are approved for building will undoubtedly be built upon in the near future.
- f. The Rivala project has been approved. It is a recreational community on 343 acres with a golf course and 561 residential units.

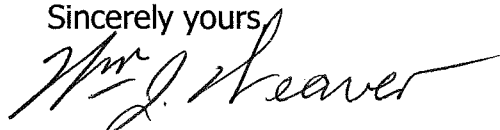
Envision Morgan quotes the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget prediction that Morgan County's population will increase from 9,265 in 2007 to reach 25,000 around 2030 and 35,000 by 2040.

I also have a concern regarding the findings relating to the "fractured-rock" variability. As future development occurs developers will not gamble on side hills/canyons but will be drawing from the center of the valley. This may cause an extensive drawdown of that aquifer. Downstream users may be severely impacted.

As you can see water will become the restricting factor for growth and if we do not manage it wisely it could be devastating to all involved. For reasons stated above I strongly request that you keep the present moratorium. If it is changed, ensure that we can be flexible enough to react to changing situations.

Thank you for your great efforts in our behalf. I would welcome your comments. I can be reached at 1-801-876-3374 or jbweavers@q.com

Sincerely yours



William J. Weaver

Mountain Green Water System

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