

November 24, 2018

State of Utah Division of Water Rights
Attn: Rush Valley Groundwater Policy
PO Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300

To Whom It May Concern:

I attended the Public Information Meeting for Rush Valley Basin in Tooele County on November 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Tooele City Hall. I am extremely concerned that the most recent data the Division of Water Rights is using to calculate the increased new water policy for Rush Valley Basin is from 2011, which is data from seven (7) years ago when there was more water available. The last seven years has proven to be some of the driest years on record with last year 2018 being probably the driest year on record.

It would seem logical and intelligent that you should include the last seven (7) years of water data from Rush Valley Basin before you make the decision to change the water application policy for Northern Rush Valley allowing additional water for new water applications.

I have been the secretary for Soldier Canyon Water Company for the last four (4) years and we have had some dry periods of time when the water users have had to go on water restrictions to give the irrigation system time to recharge or fill the reservoir. But this irrigation season of 2018 has been the worst on record for lack of enough water for the ranchers to irrigate their crops and water their stock. In fact, this year after several attempts to share the available water using conservation, restrictions and watering turns, by September 8, 2018 all Soldier Canyon Water Company irrigation water users were informed that it would be "Stock Watering Only" until further notice. The irrigation company never received enough water for the ranchers to resume watering their crops for the rest of the season and most will report a loss of their 2018 crops due to lack of water.

Please take into consideration the lack of precipitation received during the last seven (7) years which needs to be included in the study you are presenting to the public regarding the recharge and discharge of water in the Rush Valley Basin Area. I ask the Division of Water Rights to **not change the policy** for the Rush Valley Basin until current water data can be included and evaluated in the study.

It would be wiser to wait and make an intelligent decision after our area stabilizes and starts receiving normal precipitation. At the present time and for the past seven years, we have **not received adequate precipitation** to increase the discharge of water to new applicants, we're not even receiving adequate water to meet the demands of current irrigation users. It would be wiser to **stay with a working policy** than to increase the water policy for new applicants. Increasing legal discharge of water to an area where adequate recharge is not happening, is a plan for disaster, neighbor against neighbor and the Division of Water Rights should be held responsible for the creating the fight.

Thanks for scheduling the public meeting so the facts could be explained and information gathered for evaluating Rush Valley Basin's concerns in allocating water rights.

Soldier Canyon Water Company,

Marlene Thomas

Marlene Thomas, Secretary
PO Box 219
Stockton UT 84071
mthomas3188@hotmail.com

and

Concerned Citizen,

Marlene Thomas

Marlene Thomas
PO Box 83
Stockton UT 84071
mthomas3188@hotmail.com

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