



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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Dear Water User:

Enclosed is the ground-water management plan for the Weber Delta sub-area of the East Shore area. In developing this plan, we have attempted to incorporate the comments received in writing and at public meetings, the hydrologic data, and the water rights filings.

By way of clarification, I would like to elaborate on the items of the plan dealing with new appropriations of water, restricted areas, and the reporting of well withdrawals.

Item 3 states that new municipal appropriations outside the primary pumping centers will be considered on their own merits. Isolated domestic applications may also be granted where no public water supply is available. When a public supply becomes available, the owner will be required to seal and properly abandon the well; thereby, terminating the water right. This provision will be accomplished through the use of fixed-time applications. Applications meeting the criteria will be approved for a specific period of time (e.g. 20 years). At the end of that period, the water user will be notified and, if a public supply system has not become available, the applicant may request that the application be extended.

Item 6 sets forth the provision for the reporting of withdrawals by wells which divert, or potentially could divert, at least 100 acre-feet per year. This Division, together with several other agencies, conducts an annual water use survey of municipal and industrial water suppliers in the state. Every January we send out a questionnaire which is to be completed and returned by the water user. The information is used to monitor water use trends and is widely used in water resource planning and investigations. Most municipal and industrial users in the Weber Delta sub-area already participate in this program. Participation in this program meets this reporting requirement and a form similar to the questionnaire will be provided for those water users which do not currently submit one. This requirement will take effect January 1, 1996, and the water users will be requested to submit their 1996 water use data in January 1997.

Item 7 deals with restricting new wells near Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) due to ground-water contamination. HAFB has been designated a Superfund Site. Major areas of contamination have been delineated into operable units and are currently under investigation and/or cleanup. To protect public health and not promote the movement of the contaminants, no new wells in these

restricted areas will be permitted. When the contaminants are cleaned up, this provision will be deleted from the management plan.

I believe that the adoption of this plan will facilitate the wise management and use of the area's ground-water resources in a manner consistent with state water law. We will periodically review data and information, as it becomes available. If changes to the management plan appear necessary, we would consider modifying the plan, after allowing for public review and comment.

If you have any questions regarding this management plan, or any of its items in particular, please feel free to call or write at the address on the letterhead. Again, thank you for your assistance and participation in the development of this management plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert L. Morgan".

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.  
State Engineer

RLM:nj

Enclosure

**GROUND-WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR THE WEBER DELTA SUB-AREA OF THE EAST SHORE AREA  
(Water Right Areas 31 and 35)**

**INTRODUCTION**

This document sets forth the State Engineer's policy for the management and administration of ground water in the Weber Delta Sub-Area. The objectives of this ground-water management plan are to guide future ground-water development, to establish a policy for new appropriations of water and change applications on existing water rights, and to protect the resource from over utilization.

The area includes those portions of Weber and Davis counties bounded by the Weber-Box Elder County line on the north, the edge of the valley fill on the east, the Farmington-Centerville line on the south, and the Great Salt Lake on the west.

**BACKGROUND**

The estimated annual recharge to the ground-water aquifer in the Weber Delta Sub-Area is estimated to be 95,000 acre-feet. Total discharge from ground water is estimated to be 95,000 acre-feet per year, of which withdrawals from wells account for about 53,800 acre-feet.

Monitoring of ground-water levels in the area indicates general declines over the entire sub-area. Declines of over 40 feet have occurred in the area from Layton to Riverdale.

The quality of the ground water is generally good except for some pockets of poor quality. Some concern has been expressed about ground-water contamination on and near Hill Air Force Base due to past disposal of chemicals. To control the migration of the contaminants, it may be necessary to place restrictions on future ground-water withdrawals in and adjacent to these areas.

From a review of the existing ground water rights in this sub-area, it is estimated that "potential withdrawals", under perfected water rights and approved applications to appropriate water, total 110,000 acre-feet annually. This water right analysis indicates that more "paper water" exists than "wet water". Many of these "paper water" rights may no longer be used and may have been lost through non-use. Depending on the amount of these unused water rights, there may still be opportunities for a limited number of new appropriations of ground water. Not all water rights are used each year to their fullest extent; therefore, to fully utilize the resource, it is reasonable to grant water rights in excess of the safe annual yield of the ground-water system. A primary purpose of the management plan is to ensure that actual well withdrawals do not exceed the long-term ground-water recharge. If withdrawals did exceed the safe yield of the aquifer, then water rights would have to be distributed based upon priority.

## ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

To administer, manage and protect the ground water resources in the Weber Delta sub-area, the State Engineer hereby adopts a ground water management plan as set forth below.

- 1) Diversions from wells in the entire sub-area will be limited to a total of 90,000 acre-feet annually on a 5 year moving average and shall not exceed 120,000 acre-feet in any single calendar year.
- 2) Wells which are drilled subsequent to the implementation of this plan shall be spaced such that a maximum of 15 feet of drawdown results on any well with an earlier priority date. Users in a particular area may enter into a written agreement for a variance from this requirement subject to approval by the State Engineer, and if no more than 15 feet of drawdown results with third party rights.
- 3) Applications to appropriate water will be considered on a limited basis under the following guidelines:
  - a) Applications to appropriate water from the principal ground water aquifer for single family domestic wells shall be limited to diversions of 1.0 acre-foot annually and must be located in areas not served by a public water system. These applications will be approved for a fixed period of time subject to the condition that when a public water system becomes available, the well will be properly sealed and the water right will terminate.
  - b) In considering new applications to appropriate water for quantities greater than single family domestic wells, preference will be given to municipal water suppliers who can demonstrate an immediate need for the water. No new applications to appropriate water will be approved in those areas where the historical water level declines are determined to be critical.
  - c) Applications to appropriate water from drains or shallow wells of 30 feet or less in depth will still be considered based on the individual merits of the application.
- 4) Change applications will be considered on their own individual merits and critically evaluated for effects on other wells and the ground-water system. Applications will be critically reviewed if they seek to move a water right a large distance, into an area which is experiencing significant declines in water level, or propose to convert surface or shallow ground water rights to a deep well (greater than 30 feet deep). No change applications which propose to transfer water into the Layton-Riverdale area, which has the largest declines in the area, will be approved.

- 5) Requests for extension of time to place water to beneficial use for pending applications will be critically reviewed as per Section 73-3-12 of the Utah Code. If the State Engineer finds unjustified delays or a lack of due diligence, the request may be granted in part, the priority of the application reduced, or the request may be denied entirely.
- 6) All wells which potentially could divert 100 acre-feet or more per year shall be equipped with a totalizing meter and the water user shall report the annual withdrawals recorded by the meters to the State Engineer.
- 7) A number of contaminated sites have been identified on or near Hill Air Force Base. For the purposes of this management plan, these areas are referred to as restricted areas. To protect public health and reduce the movement of these contaminants, no new applications to appropriate water or change applications which propose to transfer water into these restricted areas will be granted. The restricted areas are:

#### Restricted Area 1

Township 4 North, Range 1 West, Salt Lake Base & Meridian:  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 4;  
All Section 5;  
All Section 6;  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 7;  
All Section 8  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 9  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 16  
All Section 17

Township 5 North, Range 1 West, Salt Lake Base & Meridian:  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28  
SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 29  
SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 31  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 32  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 33

#### Restricted Area 2

Township 5 North, Range 1 West, Salt Lake Base & Meridian:  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 18  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 19

Township 5 North, Range 2 West, Salt Lake Base & Meridian:  
SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 13  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 23  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 24  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 25  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 26

Efforts to control these contaminants are currently under way. When these contaminants are successfully cleaned up and no longer pose a threat to ground-water aquifers, the State Engineer will consider allowing the construction of wells in these sections.

- 8) Water users are requested to submit copies of any water quality information or testing results to the State Engineer. Additional diversion restrictions or other measures deemed necessary may be imposed, after public review, if it is determined that water quality in the aquifer is deteriorating. Any information relating to determinations of aquifer characteristics should also be provided to the State Engineer.

The area covered by this proposed plan is rapidly being urbanized. Lands previously devoted to irrigated agriculture are being converted to commercial and residential uses. Public water suppliers are moving to meet these new demands on their systems. As a consequence, suppliers are using more ground water and it appears this trend will continue during the next several years. This plan can, hopefully, provide a framework for the orderly and efficient development of ground-water supplies while minimizing such attendant problems as well interference, contamination, and over-utilization.