



Salt Lake City May 15, 2007 2 Minute Public Comment

Why are Salt Lake City’s water rates 80% to 383% higher than Orem’s? Why does Orem have impact fee surpluses and Salt Lake City wants impact fee increases?

Both have comparable water quality and sources. What causes the dramatic up tick in Salt Lake City water bills? Is it geographical? Is it water source? Is it watershed protection? Is it sky bridges? No. It is the politicized water empire costs. “This is the place” for unfair water bills.

Why are you condoning the water department’s use of public water dollars to sue me and others for unprecedented water politics? That cost is compounded and padded into every water bill. \$100,000 of legal beat down fees means 10,000 customers pay an extra \$10.00 each. Did you ask these 10,000 folks if they wanted you to ding them ten dollars to sue a man for buying water? Did you ask the woman who works at Walmart if she wanted to work 2 extra hours a month to retire the remaining 2% of canyon lands not already controlled by the Federal Government and Salt Lake City? Why should her water bill be increased 100% for extreme green political policy costs which will have no impact on her water quality?

Why is the city council condoning the water department to operate a monopoly and use public water monies for petty politics? For non-water purposes? For legal fees to write hundreds of un-needed protests? For the chronic and un-needed suing of numerous other water users? For the chronic legal tab for blocking and interfering with Utah’s water commerce? For the legal tab for blocking access to and suppressing public water records? These non-water costs are compounded and added into every water bill.

Orem has no huge legal costs for 1,605 un-needed protests, has no huge water hoarding costs from massive assessments on thousands of water shares they don’t use, has no water monopoly costs from the thousands of dollars for membership fees, travel expenses, and staff time which are not related to resident water use, has no non-water related operational staffing costs from using water to control building outside city limits, has no un-needed 24,000 acres of so called “water shed protection” costs, has no staff and budget costs of maintaining excessive treatment plant capacity, has no costs to maintain 26 wells they don’t beneficially pump, and has no extra costs to maintain 2 million acre-feet of water empire filings they don’t need.

Your water department is an environmental water lobby/monopoly compounding and adding non-water costs to home, hospital, school, and industry water bills.

The city council needs to change the direction of its water department to relieve the public of high handed political water bills and undue interference with Utah’s water commerce.

Why should Salt Lake City’s water bills be 50% for water, and 50% more for water politics, monopoly, and environmental extremism which provide no benefit to the public? For the public’s benefit and protection, it is time to moderate, de-politicize, and change the direction of Salt Lake City’s water department.