

Salt Lake City Council June 15, 2007

Written Public Comment:

Does Salt Lake City have the right to usurp the “future water need” of another city, to hoard and monopolize Utah’s water rights, to get that city over the water barrel, and trap customers outside city limits with 420% inflated water rates to wack millions of extra bucks out of a neighboring cities’s rate payers?

What we have is competing goods. The “good” of protecting the environment versus the good of each city of controlling its own water rights and service lines.



Environmental issues and “future need” are not tools to take advantage of your neighbor. Getting your public neighbor over the water barrel to get extra millions to buy public land then lock the public out by restricting public access is a wrong policy no matter how Green you dress it up.

Chronic protesting, blocking, suing, wasting water, and exercising control of other cities and governmental affairs outside city limits by a city water department in the name of guardians of the public trust is simply wrong. These actions are significant cost drivers to public’s water rates inside and outside SLC city limits. Why does the single mother work an extra 2 hours per month at Wal-mart to pay her water bill? Because a water department in the name of guardians of the “public trust” wants to control other cities and non-residents by virtue of hoarding Utah’s water rights to wack millions out of their public neighbor for the “public good.” This is simply wrong.

It can be estimated that Utah families have lost over a billion dollars in property values directly attributable to actions taken by the Salt Lake City water department to garner a few extra millions per year. The choice to moderate to accommodate or have the state legislate and regulate is made by the city council who control this fair city.

Salt Lake City claims “future need” for over 1 million acre-feet of hydro-electric power. Has it ever produced 1 watt of hydro-electricity?

Elected officials are shocked by the politics of the Salt Lake City water department. I’ve discussed this issue with Lt. Governor Herbert, Director of Natural Resources Mike Styler, State Engineer Jerry Olds, Senate President John Valentine, Senators Madsen, Bramble, Dayton, Stephenson, Nierderhauser, Representatives Morely, Tilton, Sumsion, Clark, Painter, Lockhart, Dougall, and county commissioners from Utah and Salt Lake County. See Utahwater.net and click on 21- Mayor et al Letters Re: Salt Lake Area 57–Requesting compliance with Court Orders.

What is the city council going to do moderate water dept policies and practices? When the unwritten rules of fairness are trampled for money, then the rules of fairness are written by others.

A city council would not support the policies of controlling other cities and water conquest for stinky money unless these poor policies were dressed up in the friendly Green clothes of “water shed protection”, “water conservation,” and “future need.” I have offered the olive branch, and have been poked in the eye with it several times. I can’t see why the water dept does this.

Basically, the SLC water dept which seeks free public funds and public subsidized loans disrupted Utah’s water commerce to trap other cities’s customer with inflated water rates to capture extra millions of dollars for extreme green policies which don’t benefit the public, etc.. The adverse impact to Utahns was a estimated Billion dollars of lost property rights and increased water commerce costs for Utah.

Thank you for your time.