

Salt Lake City Council Public Comment July 10, 2007

Over the next 35 years, how much profit is there in 556 Million dollars on 830,000 acre-feet on Salt Lake City un-needed “surplus” water sales?

Governor's web page: In 2050 the population of Salt Lake City will be 225,066 or about 4% of Utah's population. Currently, the population of Salt Lake City is 178,858 or about 7% of Utah's population.

Factoring in state and federal 2050 25% conservation targets, Salt Lake City could meet its 2050 “future needs” with about 48,000 acre-feet of water, the amount of in-city use in 2005.

With a 25% increase in population and a 25% decrease in water use by 2050, Salt Lake City could meet its “future need” with its 2005 water allotment.

The water department will tell you these figures are ridiculous, because they have empire concerns. The water department will claim higher population figures and day time influx. Influx water is included in the 48,000 figure, because influx water is included in the metering and billing.

Is it possible that if Salt Lake City reduced its water department by 1/3 by transitioning out of the “surplus” water sale business, that it could have lower water rates for Salt Lake City residents. It's counter intuitive. Why can Orem have 55 cents per thousand gallon water rates while Salt Lake City rates are \$.99 cents to \$2.11 per thousand gallons, and outside city rates are as high as \$2.86 per thousand?

With a 2050 population of 225,066, and Metro Salt Lake owning 61,700 acre-feet in Deer Creek, 3,100 acre-feet in Dell Reservoir, and 28,600 acre-feet of CUP contract water for a total of 93,400 acre-feet of which 90,100 acre-feet is outside Salt Lake County, isn't their “surplus” water for other cities in Salt Lake County to appropriate?

Wouldn't it follow that there is water available for appropriation in Area 57 for Cottonwood Heights, Holladay, Murray, and unincorporated Salt Lake County areas which will be annexed to various cities?

The questions begs itself. If Salt Lake City is delivering “surplus” water its inhabitants can never use, then at some point isn't that water available for appropriation to the actual users? **Is it the water department's position that it obtains and maintains state water rights on behalf of other cities?**

The issue of profiteering by using state “surplus” water is problematic, because it constitutes a double-charge upon the public for public money and water resources. **Should state water grants and subsidies to a public water supplier be used for profiteering?** A rate payer in Jordanelle Special Service district pays twice to use Utah's water--a “surplus” fee to Salt Lake City and a regular fee to his public water supplier. How does one balance free tax dollars on one hand and profits in the other? Is this what the legislature intended under 10-8-14 for “surplus” water sales? 140,328 or 5.5% of Utahns have been disenfranchised through this “surplus” loop hole. Subtracting Salt Lake City's 2006 population of 178,858 from the figure it reported to DWR in 2005 of 319,186 leaves 140,328 Utahns or 5.5% of Utah who buy water from SLC have no choice or elected voice in Salt Lake City government or on the Public Service Commission.

How much profit does Salt Lake City make from from its “surplus” water sales operation? Would a council member obtain that figure for me? Could these “surplus customers” operate their own water dept. more efficiently? Shouldn't every city have the right to water independence?

