

SIERRA
CLUB



Utah Chapter
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MAR 26 1997



WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

March 26, 1997

Mr. Robert Morgan, P.E.
State Engineer, State of Utah
1636 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

RE: Change Application 57-10140 (A70639), filed by Wayne Grant Crawford
RE: Change Application 57-10141 (a20824), filed by Wayne Grant Crawford

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club submits this Protest statement to the above applications by Wayne Grant Crawford to the State Engineer. We also request a PUBLIC HEARING.

The Utah Supreme Court held in Bonham v. Morgan that the state engineer must consider the public interest, in addition to other factors, in determining whether or not to approve an application to change the point of diversion or nature of use of appropriated water.

The Sierra Club believes that the proposed usage of the water in this application would be an unreasonable detriment to the public. Both Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons serve as prime watershed for a growing municipal population. **We cannot afford to jeopardize the high quality of those waters, which can only be maintained by restraining growth in the canyons east of Salt Lake City.**

The canyons also serve as de facto parks and are some of the most heavily visited areas in the West. Upsetting the current balance between private property rights and public use of the canyons would set an irrevocable precedent that is not in the public interest. We request a public hearing for further consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Wechsler".

Ann Wechsler
Utah Chapter Chair

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