

**Emigration Improvement District**  
**Michael Hughes, Chairman; David Bradford, Mark Stevens,**  
**Trustees**

**Fred Smolka, Manager; Eric Hawkes, Assistant Manager**  
**PO Box 58945, Salt Lake City, UT 84158**

**June 2014**

Several issues have arisen recently where Emigration Canyon residents have not been clear about the facts surrounding Emigration Improvement District. This information should clarify some of these matters:

- EID was created by action of Salt Lake County government in June 1968, under State regulations for special improvement districts. It is charged with providing water and sewer services to Emigration Canyon. The District boundaries run from ridgeline to ridgeline and to the mouth of the Canyon.
- The District is run by a Board of three elected Trustees, which meet generally once a month in public meetings, with legal counsel present. Minutes are posted on the website after approval by the Board.
- The District maintains and updates a website which provides general information: [emigrationcanyon.org](http://emigrationcanyon.org).
- The District has no employees but hires independent contractors to provide services. The District therefore pays no payroll taxes. Independent contractors are required to pay their own payroll taxes.
- The Board advertises, interviews, and hires service providers, including the position of Manager.
- The District operates a water system that provides high-quality water (tested three times a week) to 273 homes and is prepared to serve an additional 253 more property owners as requested.
- The system includes 4 wells, 2 reservoirs with a total capacity of 1,300,000 gallons, and water transmission lines covering approximately 70 percent of the populated area of the Canyon.
- The District has provided fire hydrants within 250 feet of every property within the infrastructure area. This allows 1,500 gallons of flow per minute for a period of at least two hours to meet State and County requirements for water flow to fight home fires.
- The District has taken measures to hold down development in the Canyon by thoughtfully allocating water connections and negotiating with developers to scale back plans that would have resulted in more than double the current buildable lots.

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- Negotiations with developers have resulted in acquiring over 185 acres of land. This land therefore has been taken out of the development pool, most without cost to the District.
- The District works with hydrologists, geologists, and engineers in completing hydrologic and geological mapping, environmental assessments, well-monitoring programs, well-source protection zones, and stream-flow monitoring to better understand and manage resources.
- Salt Lake County makes all property valuations and collects all taxes. The State of Utah certifies tax rates after the EID submits its budget.
- The District does not bill charges to anyone outside the District boundaries.
- The District has approached Salt Lake City on several occasions for water service, the latest in 2012 and 2013. Salt Lake City has turned down all requests. The City is struggling to provide water and water service to the growing Valley population and has informed us that they cannot take on additional commitments.
- In order to have fire flow at the mouth of the Canyon, Salt Lake City entered into an agreement with the developers of Emigration Place for acquisition of their water system in exchange for the provision of water for Emigration Place only.
- The District is required by law to have an annual independent audit by a qualified CPA firm. The District has always received a clean opinion from auditors. Auditors verify that the District follows rules and regulations set forth by the State. They also confirm compliance with accounting guidelines for municipalities as specified by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- Because of the excellent financial record that the District maintains, the State of Utah recently approved a loan to the District of \$1,600,000 at zero percent interest to construct the Upper Freeze Creek Well and its infrastructure.
- The Board has a contract with Fred Smolka to carry out Board directives as Manager of the District. This includes maintaining the District's assets, billings, providing office space, equipment and supplies, 24/7 emergency telephone service, accounting services (he is a licensed CPA), maintaining District files, preparation of budgets and financial reports, responding to calls from subscribers and title companies, and other responsibilities too numerous to mention here.
- The District contracts with legal counsel to advise in all legal decisions. Current legal counsel is provided by Parsons Kinghorn and Harris, a respected legal firm in Salt Lake City.
- District elections are held every other year. In 2013, the Board opted to use mail-in ballots for convenience and to increase voter participation. The District contracted with Carr Printing, to mail ballots to all voters in