Kent L. Jones, State Engineer Utah Division of Water Rights 1594 W. North Temple, Suite 220 P.O. Box 146300 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300 18-64763 4

October 13, 2018

Mr. Jones.

This letter is regarding the Emigration Improvement District (EID) permanent change application a44045 under water share 57-7796 with the Utah Division of Water Rights. Please be advised of the following concerns.

- Considering the numerous complaints regarding the lack of water in private water wells and Emigration Creek after two new large-volume EID water wells were recently installed, we request that an independent evaluation of ground water and surface water conditions in Emigration Canyon be conducted by the State and/or Federal Government. Note that scientific and technical documents are no longer available on the EID website.
- 2. This permanent change application includes the two new wells and five additional (future) wells. Why are the five future wells included in this application? The addition of five (future) wells clearly demonstrates intent to develop, which has much greater ramifications that approval of the two existing wells that are already providing water. An independent hydrogeological study MUST be completed before considering new wells. In short, the two issues, approving the current wells and drilling five new wells, are separate questions and should NOT be considered together unless to decline the application.
- 3. Are existing water rights available for the proposed additional homes in the change application?
 - a. There are currently approximately 286 water connections to existing EID service.
 - b. Water rights 57-7796 and 57-10711 both point to water-use group number 417084, which covers 250 units of irrigation water and no units for domestic use.
- 4. With the proposed increase in water withdrawal and home building, have all of the potential impacts been fully considered? These include a Utah Department of

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WATER RIGHTS SALT LAKE Transportation study on increased traffic volume, necessary building permits to support additional homes, an environmental impact survey regarding wildlife on adjoining National Forest lands, and water quality issues for increased septic discharges to an already environmentally impacted Emigration Creek (USEPA involvement).

- A. A 1983 study by the DOT concluded that Emigration Canyon Road can safety handle traffic from 600 to 857 homes assuming there is no increase in non-resident traffic. There are currently 686 postal addresses in Emigration Canyon, which is only 121 homes short of the recommended maximum.
- B. Emigration Creek is already out of compliance with DEQ/EPA standards and is under an EPA Advisory. Hydrologists estimated that to keep a moderate amount of water flowing in Emigration Creek in the dry seasons of the year, they estimated there is sufficient water flow within the Canyon to provide for approximately 725 dwelling units. At 686 current residents, we are only 39 residences short of the maximum to maintain water in the creek; however, at the current rate of withdrawal, the creek was dry for months this past summer.
- C. Developments in the Canyon are required to submit an erosion control plan for all disturbed areas in accordance with the Grading Plan Submittal Requirements of the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone. These plans must also comply with Title 42 of the Utah State Code and §402(p) of the Clean Water Act.

Admittedly, these latter issues (item 4) do not fall under the Division of Water Rights, but in my opinion all the arms of the government should work in concert to protect our community. As written, we recommend that permanent application a44045 be denied.

Respectfully,

The following select Shareholders of Spring Glen Water Company

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