

**CITY OF MOAB RESOLUTION NO. 17-2018**  
**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UTAH DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS TO LIMIT NEW**  
**ALLOCATIONS WITHIN SPANISH VALLEY**

**WHEREAS**, Moab's municipal government is responsible for the promotion of the public health and safety of its residents, including access to clean air, clean water and a livable environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Moab Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board, which is responsible for providing recommendations to protect water quality and quantity for present and future generations, advocates for this request; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah Code Title 73 requires indefinitely sustainable groundwater resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent groundwater study of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) shows a substantial reduction in available ground water which could be further reduced by climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change, including its human-activity-driven impacts, predicts more frequent drought conditions in decades to come, and on January 16, 2018, Grand County Council declared the County a disaster area because of drought; and

**WHEREAS**, current and projected water uses in Moab City and Spanish Valley are anticipated to meet or exceed safe yield in the near future, and according to the State Engineer, the water supply could be reduced by up to 30 percent due to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Spanish Valley aquifer is widely recognized, including by Utah Division of Water Rights (UDWRi), to be substantially over-appropriated which is reflected in the UDWRi initiative to begin an adjudication process and to develop a regional groundwater management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing to perpetuate the impression that abundant groundwater resources are available for unchecked development is misleading and a disservice to valley residents; and

**WHEREAS**, UDWRi (<https://www.waterrights.utah.gov/wrinfo/policy/wateruse.asp>) has determined 0.45 AF or 146,633 gallons as an estimated annual need for indoor use of a permanent fulltime single family residence and 0.25 AF or 81,473 gallons for a seasonal family residence; and

**WHEREAS**, unused or underutilized paper water rights currently exist in the Moab and Spanish Valley areas which need to be available for future development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Moab City Council acknowledges that proactively addressing adequate water resources is fundamental to our community's financial stability and livability.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Moab City Council requests the Utah Division of Water Rights, for a period of time extending to or beyond completion of the Groundwater Management Plan, to either a)

close the Moab Spanish Valley aquifer to new appropriations, or b) limit new appropriations to 1/2 an acre foot for permanent residences and 1/4 an acre foot for seasonal residences and require larger appropriations to be obtained from the existing inventory of water rights in the Valley.

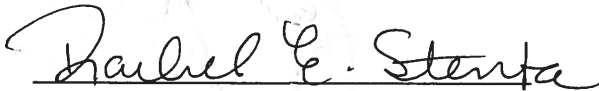
PASSED AND APPROVED in open Council by a majority vote of the Governing Body of Moab City Council this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

SIGNED:



Emily S. Niehaus, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel E. Stenta, City Recorder