

**TESTIMONY OF MARGARET PETERSON, COUNCILWOMAN
WEST VALLEY CITY
IN SUPPORT OF
H.R. 4129
TO AMEND THE
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACT**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Representative Cannon's bill which has been cosponsored by the entire Utah Congressional delegation. My name is Margaret Peterson. I am a member of the West Valley City Council. West Valley is the second largest city in Utah. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, which provides water to West Valley City and other water entities in Salt Lake County. The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's service area contains over half of the fastest growing cities in Utah. Jordan Valley serves the fast-growing cities of West Jordan, South Jordan, Riverton, Bluffdale, Draper and Herriman, among others. Most of the growth is coming from natural increase. These people are largely the children and grandchildren of the residents of more established cities in the Salt Lake Valley. Our service area is expected to double in population and water deliveries over the next 20 years.

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District has several requests on file with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District requesting assistance in meeting its future water needs. We are hoping that the scoping activities of Central Utah Water Conservancy District's Utah Lake Studies Project will show that some Central Utah water may be made available for Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District which could be delivered to West Valley City and other cities in Salt Lake County. We believe that the provisions of H.R. 4129 provide much needed flexibility to the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA) to enable the Central Utah District to meet its responsibilities to complete features which can help meet the water supply needs of the future of Salt Lake County.

Specifically, we endorse the provisions of the bill which redirect existing authorizations to meet contemporary and immediate water needs. The Jordan Valley District is interested in additional water conservation projects, conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water, wastewater recycling and possibly the use of reverse osmosis membrane technologies to treat highly saline water sources such as Utah Lake.

With extremely dry soil conditions and low reservoir levels this fall, the prospects of a normal water supply for next year are very low. Most of this winter's snow may never make it to the streams this spring. For these reasons, the Governor has called for measures to reduce water consumption immediately. The need for conservation of water is very real. We may be facing mandatory water restrictions in the coming year.

With regard to the long term, the time has now come to embrace conservation with open arms. We cannot continue to sustain growth and economic development without more efficient water use. As the second driest state in the nation, Utah must become a model of water conservation, an example to the entire nation of what can be done. Governor Leavitt has called for a 25 percent reduction in per-capita water use throughout the state.

We appreciate the willingness of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and the delegation to

help us meet this goal by providing additional funding which recognizes that there may be new and better ways to meet our water supply needs.

Even with major advances in water conservation, we will need to continue developing water and building facilities. Because the service area of the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District is projected to double in water demand over the next 20 years we will need new infrastructure. As a natural consequence of growth, water will become more expensive. The cheap water has already been developed. New projects will involve reclamation of contaminated groundwater, conversion of low-quality agricultural water, and importation of water from outside the county. Also, new federal and state water quality standards and regulations intended to insure the quality of water delivered through public water systems are adding to the ever-increasing costs of water. Environmental mitigations associated with new water projects and efforts to sustain endangered species are adding new dimensions to the cost of water. Also, as systems age, infrastructure must be renewed and replaced to keep distribution systems viable. It is estimated that the cost of water will increase over 50 percent over the next 10 years. I have attached to my testimony the Jordan Valley requests for CUP water in comparison to the requests from other areas of the District. As you can see, Salt Lake County's need for water occurs much earlier than anywhere else in Utah. For all these reasons we strongly support H.R. 4129 as an important and vital step to move us forward in our goal to meet the water needs of the future. Thank you.

Taken from Central Utah Water Conservancy District's Utah Lake System Scoping Information Report, January 31, 2002

Table 1
Summary of M&I Requests and Preliminary Assessment of Needs
(Unit in Acre-Feet)

Planning Area	Annual M&I Requests (October 2000)	Annual Projected M&I Needs for Bonneville Units Water in 10-Year Time Periods				
		2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
San Juan County	2,600	0	0	0	0	0
Utah County	65,000	0	0	0	0	0
North Utah County	9,200	0	0	2,111	3,228	4,189
Salt Lake County	40,200	20,098	38,703	54,102	82,411	99,645
Wasatch County	4,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total	121,000	20,098	38,703	56,213	85,639	103,834