

RESOLUTION 2015-7

RESOLUTION OPPOSING TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO THE STATE OF UTAH

WHEREAS, the Town of Castle Valley's culinary water comes from an unconfined aquifer where the vast majority of lands are publically owned by the Federal Government through the BLM and Forest Service,

WHEREAS, by the Federal Governments own EPA's standards the Town of Castle Valley is designated as a Sole Source Drinking Aquifer,

WHEREAS, the Town of Castle Valley worked for over a decade to have State of Utah owned lands traded to the BLM to consolidate ownership and management of vital groundwater recharge acres,

WHEREAS, the State, when owner of said lands, asserted to the local community that the State did not have to comply with local zoning laws,

WHEREAS, the State of Utah when owner of said lands, threatened to develop these lands regardless of whether or not the water resources were adequate to accommodate the development,

WHEREAS, newly introduced State legislation strongly foreshadows the State's intent to privatize our public lands upon gaining ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Utah State Constitution (Article 3, Section 1, Second Clause) says "The people inhabiting this State do affirm and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the un-appropriated public lands lying within the boundaries hereof;" and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is spending millions of taxpayer dollars in an effort to transfer ownership from the federal government to the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, federal natural public lands are treasured open spaces individuals and families value as vital habitat for wildlife, and for generations have been used for personal enjoyment to camp, hike, hunt, fish, and rejuvenate; and

WHEREAS, residents of the State of Utah, the USA, and the World escape from their daily routines by visiting our public lands to spend quality time with families and friends and enjoy activities and natural lands not available in urban areas or perhaps anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, University of Utah legal scholars and the State Legislature's own legal counsel have determined that the Transfer of Public Lands Act has "a high probability of being declared unconstitutional."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Town of Castle Valley, Utah Town Council and Mayor stand in solidarity with Salt Lake City Council and Mayor in opposition to the transfer of our shared public open lands that belong to all Americans. We urge the Utah State Legislature and Governor Herbert to stop spending taxpayer funds on further actions related to a transfer of public lands to the State.

Passed, Adopted, and Approved by the Town Council, Town of Castle Valley in open session on the 21st day of October, 2015 by the following vote:

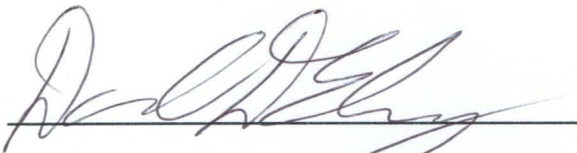
Those voting AYE: Mayor Erley, Council Members: Drogin, Duncan & Hill.

Those voting NAY: None

Absent: None

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:



David D. Erley, Mayor



Alison Fuller, Town Clerk

