



**WESTERN RESOURCE**  
**ADVOCATES**

March 9, 2011

Kim Shelley  
Utah Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 144870  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870

*RE: Draft Comprehensive Sampling and Analysis Plan for the UPDES Permit  
UT0025836; Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Southwest Groundwater  
Treatment Plant*

Ms. Shelley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Comprehensive Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Southwest Groundwater Treatment Plant (Jordan Valley), UT0025836. These comments are submitted on behalf of FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake, Utah Waterfowl Association, Western Wildlife Conservancy, Utah Airboat Association, Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, Bridgerland Audubon Society, Wasatch Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, and Utah Rivers Council (Collectively FRIENDS).

First, we would like to note that the plan as currently proposed is generally very good. It is clear that elements of this plan are based on past experience in carrying out similar efforts and the plan appears to be both comprehensive and well thought out. There are, however, a few elements of the plan that should be changed, and we outline those suggestions below. Additionally, please note that we incorporate by reference, comments sent to you via email from Bruce Waddell and Maunsel Pearce on March 7, 2011. Exhibit A, attached.

Figure 1 in the draft plan proposes a clearly defined area for sampling water, sediment, macro-invertebrates and bird eggs. While the defined area is adequate for sediment and macro-invertebrate sampling, the frequency of sampling proposed – once a year – does not account for the seasonal discharges from the Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation (KUCC) tailings impoundment. While the Jordan Valley discharges will tend to be constant throughout the year, the KUCC discharge traditionally does not occur during the summer months. Because of that, sampling for sediments and macro-invertebrates should occur both in the spring, as currently outlined, and in the fall, prior to KUCC recommencing its discharges. This should be done in order to determine the influence of the KUCC discharges on the area.

Additionally, as we noted in our comments to the draft discharge permit, there is evidence to suggest that there could be a localized “hot zone” of selenium in the area of

the Lake where the discharge channel meets the open waters of the Lake. Because such a hot zone could be subject to significantly higher levels of selenium than found in other areas of the Lake, additional water sampling is needed to confirm or deny the existence of such a zone and this should be added to the monitoring plan.

Lastly, we have several concerns with the proposed bird egg sampling plan. First, the bird survey monitoring plan (point counts) does not include a large enough sample size and survey effort to determine trends in differences in bird use between the years. The survey effort as proposed will only be effective at creating a list of species present in the area at any one time. That deficiency should be corrected.

Second, the plan must adequately account for the possibility that there will be fewer than 8 eggs available to sample within the initial sampling zone. Currently, there is no contingency plan in place to cover that possibility. Should that happen, the draft plan merely states that Jordan Valley will notify DWQ in a timely manner. It is imperative, however, that the monitoring plan provide Jordan Valley with sufficient guidance on how to handle that situation. Specific actions designed to deal with this contingency should be outlined in the monitoring plan, and the public should be allowed an opportunity to provide meaningful input on that proposal.

Third, in the event that Jordan Valley is unable to collect 8 eggs within the initial sampling zone, we recommend that the egg sampling area be expanded methodically in an attempt to achieve a statistically meaningful sample. While every effort must be made to obtain the required egg samples from within that initial sampling zone, if those eggs are not available, that zone should be expanded, for example in 100 yard increments, until the 8-egg sampling threshold is reached.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft sampling and analysis plan. As always, we very much appreciate your willingness to consider our input and to work with us towards improving the water quality of Great Salt Lake.

Yours,



ROB DUBUC

JORO WALKER

Attorneys for FRIENDS