



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SURFACE AND GROUND WATER MONITORING

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
STAFF: MARK BLEAZARD AND IVAN DJAMBOV

ISSUE BRIEF 3

SUMMARY

Over the last 5 years the Division of Water Quality has relied on either federal grants or grants authorized by the Water Quality Board to contract with USGS for the collection and analysis of well water data. These funding sources are now unavailable to sustain the ground water monitoring data generated in Utah.

Historically for Utah water chemistry data was relied on to determine the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams. Increasingly biological data is being used to verify a more complete and accurate picture of water quality in those water bodies. Recently temporary employees were hired during summer months to collect biological data. Summer sampling has now shifted to year round sampling. Federal funds have been used to support costs of this analysis. Those federal funds are no longer available.

The department is requesting and appropriation of \$312,000 from the General Fund Restricted – Water Development Security Account – Water Quality Account to fund two FTE at a cost of \$110,000 and current and data processing expenses of \$202,000

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Subcommittee consider funding \$312,000 from the General Fund Restricted – Water Development Security Account – Water Quality Account for this program for FY 2012.