



# Memorandum

To: Mayor Olson and the Santaquin City Council  
From: Jon Lundell, P.E., City Engineer  
Date: January 27, 2025  
Re: **Santaquin City Title 8.40.100 Water Dedication Requirements amendment**

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Mayor Olson and Council members,

To ensure that Santaquin City has adequate water rights available to provide for future residents, our current city code requires that water must be dedicated to Santaquin City upon development. The current dedication amount is 3 acre-feet per acre of land proposed for development. The current City Code allows three methods to meet this requirement that are outlined in Title 8.40.100. The first method is a cash payment of money-in-lieu of water dedication. This is for areas that have historically not been irrigated or have not had water rights associated with the property. The second method is the dedication of water rights as approved by the City Council or irrigation shares. Third is some combination of money-in-lieu and water right transfer. The current cost for money-in-lieu is \$5,500 per acre-foot.

This policy has been historically used to build up a reserve fund balance that will allow Santaquin to meet the financial obligations for the use of water associated with the Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System (ULS Pipeline) that is currently under construction.

Santaquin City's current 40-year water plan (adopted in December 2021) indicates that additional water rights will be needed to meet future culinary water and pressure irrigation demands due to future growth. The 40-year plan projects that Santaquin will need an additional 6,113 acre-feet of water, for both Culinary and Pressurized Irrigation systems, to serve the anticipated water demand for the year 2060. Currently, Santaquin City has adequate water rights to serve current residents and some future residences that currently have some form of development rights per Santaquin city code.

To ensure that Santaquin City remains in a favorable position with the amount of water rights that the city is holding now and as needing for the future, city staff proposes to modify the current water dedication policy by removing the option of allowing for a payment of 100% of money-in-lieu of water dedication to allowing a maximum of 50% money-in-lieu of water payment and then requiring a minimum of 50% water dedication.

I am happy to discuss any questions you may have regarding the proposed code amendment.

Recommended Motion:

The City Council approves the approve Ordinance 02-01-2025 – Title 8.040.100 Water dedication requirements.