

## *Public Services and Utilities*

***The perception of the quality of life in a community depends, in part, upon the quality of the fire, sheriff, schools, emergency services, and utilities. At the same time, the Emigration Canyon Community area has a unique character that should be preserved. Therefore, these services should be compatible with the mountain environment.***

The existing community service facilities that are located outside of the area should be used to the maximum extent. The key services and facilities that benefit the community are fire and police protection, schools, and water and septic systems. The continued use, availability and maintenance of these systems will contribute to maintaining and improving the quality of life in the Canyon.

### **Culinary Water**

#### Water Development History

Over the years Canyon residents have obtained water for culinary use mostly from wells or springs located on their individual properties. Some residents joined together to create small-localized systems. To date, there have been two major attempts to create a canyon-wide water system. The small systems and attempts to develop canyon-wide water systems will be discussed later in this chapter.

The early pioneers found abundant springs near the creek that provided for their needs quite adequately. Homesteaders chose plots of land that included these readily usable water sources. As more cabins were built, new sources were sought. Shallow wells were dug by hand in the areas near the stream where it was apparent that the water table was close to the surface. Later, some rudimentary wooden pipes were used to bring water from higher elevations down into the lower canyon. Hand-dug ditches that extended for several miles down the Canyon sometimes met

irrigation needs for gardens. These ditches were shared and residents (like many farmers) would wait for their “water turn,” which was a certain time they were allotted to use water from the ditch. Property owners began drilling wells up to two hundred feet deep beginning in the 1940's.

The Emigration Improvement District was organized by the Salt Lake County Commission in 1968, at the request of several residents, for the purpose of installing a canyon-wide water system and canyon-wide sewer system. Many Canyon residents wondered if there was a need for the systems. To answer the question of whether or not water and sewer systems were needed, the citizens of Emigration Canyon formed a fact-finding subcommittee in 1969, to investigate existing conditions.

The subcommittee conducted a survey of existing water sources. 61 out of 125 total water system owners participated in the survey. Of the 61 sources tested, 17 wells or springs were less than 50 feet deep. 17 were between 50 and 100

feet deep. 16 were over 100 feet deep, and 9 were undetermined. This sample was substantial enough to give a fairly good idea of the types and depths of water systems in the Canyon at the time. It is interesting that of the wells tested, 25 of the 61 wells contained coliform counts and were therefore considered polluted. There was seemingly no correlation between pollution by 1) geographical location and 2) depth of well. The conclusion was that pollution of a well could occur at various geographical locations in the Canyon, and greater depth did not seem to assure a “safe” water source. Some very shallow wells or springs seemed to deliver excellent water.

***Public services and facilities should keep pace with growth.***

The number of wells drilled for single-family use has escalated in the past 30 years. By 1997, the number of home was over 400, but approximately 120 are served by small community systems.

### Existing Conditions

Essentially all culinary and secondary irrigation water in Emigration Canyon is drawn from underground wells, with the exception of a few springs mentioned earlier. An exception to users having water sources within the Canyon is the Emigration Place Planned Unit Development. The homes in Emigration place receive their water from Salt Lake City. The primary service district in the Canyon is the Emigration Improvement District (EID). The EID was formed in 1968 for the purpose of studying costs, needs and impacts of delivering water to the Canyon. Today this three-member board serves the Canyon by prudently managing the EID water rights and overseeing activities in the Canyon as they relate to water use.

The Emigration Improvement District leases its water rights to individual homeowners, water companies within the Canyon, and to the Utah State Parks Department. The Parks Department has the right to use the majority of the water that runs out of the mouth of the Canyon for irrigation within Pioneer Trails State Park. Several small private companies such as the Freeze Creek Water Company, Pinecrest Pipeline Operating Company, Spring Glen Operating System, and the Young Oaks Water Company hold water rights and distribute water certificates to their members.

The EID and all others must register with and obtain permission from the Utah State Engineer - Division of Water Rights for any change of point-of-diversion water used within the Canyon, even if a water right is already owned. Adequate water supply and beneficial use of the water must also be proven. An excellent source of water right information relating to groundwater in Emigration Canyon can be found in the document, "PROPOSED DETERMINATION OF WATER RIGHTS IN UTAH LAKE AND JORDAN RIVER DRAINAGE AREA, SALT LAKE COUNTY EAST DIVISION, EMIGRATION CREEK SUBDIVISION" available through the Utah State Engineer's office.

The EID monitors existing water rights as they are used and deducts them from the rights it would otherwise use in an attempt to keep the use within the

Canyon in line with actual water available. Everyone should be conscious of the limited supply and participate in assuring prevention of overburdening the Canyon's natural ability to recharge its water supply. Any decline in the service level or quality of the public water supply that would result from new growth should not be allowed.

### **Fire Protection**

The Salt Lake County Fire Department currently has an "Automatic Aid Agreement" with Salt Lake City. This agreement allows the Canyon residents to be served by the closest fire station to the Canyon, which lies within the Salt Lake City boundary. The Canyon is served by the following stations in order of response:

- Salt Lake City Fire Station #10, 785 Arapeen Dr., S.L.C. UT 84108
- Salt Lake County Fire Station #12, 3612 E. Jupiter Dr. S.L.C., UT 84124
- Salt Lake County Fire Station #6, 2270 E. Evergreen Ave. S.L.C., UT 84109

The conditions relevant to fire protection are the location of development and wildfire hazards, the existing road network, proximity of fire stations to development, the training of personnel and type of equipment, and availability of water.

The Salt Lake County Planning Division held discussions with the Salt Lake County Fire Department regarding a national fire safety code dealing with sensitive lands, known as the Urban-Wildland Interface Code. The regulations found in this code have not been adopted by Salt Lake County. However, it's recommendations when followed, significantly decrease the chances of loss of life and/or property and mitigate wildfire hazards. For more information, contact the Salt Lake County Fire Department.

### **Sheriff**

Two divisions of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office currently serve Emigration Canyon:

- Salt Lake County East Patrol Division, 4600 S. 2300 E. Holladay, UT 84117
- Salt Lake County Special Operations Division-Canyon Patrol, 4474 S. Main St. Murray, UT 84107

## Septic Systems

All residents in the study area utilize septic tank systems to dispose of wastewater, although there are some instances of systems with both a holding tank and a septic tank and drain field (dual system).

Salt Lake County Planning Division staff has met with the Jordan River Sub-Basin Watershed Council to discuss water quality issues in the Canyon. Information provided by the council indicates that Emigration Creek violates the standards for total and fecal coliform. Erosion and sedimentation damage to the riparian corridor from construction, as well as septic tank and leach field drainage problems are contributing factors.

The Jordan River Sub-Basin Watershed Council recommended that a study be conducted to determine the feasibility and necessity of a future sewage system.

The Plan supports any effort evaluating the potential risk or benefit from a sewage system, based on community support, evidence of water quality degradation and health and safety issues.

## Storm Drainage System

Storm water drainage currently flows out of the mountainous areas over the natural topography into drainage basins and channels located throughout the study area. Since the entire canyon has been designated an Anti Degradation Area by the Salt Lake City 208 Watershed Management Plan no point discharge is allowed. Point discharges are those in which pollution can be traced to a specific source and outlet. Sedimentation of streams and channels from storm water drainage may impact stream water quality. Storm water problems should be addressed at the planning stages of new development.

Storm drain facilities are required for new development in Emigration Canyon. No storm drain facilities exist along Emigration Canyon Road. The 100 and 500-year flood plains that exist in the Canyon follow the Emigration Stream bed closely.

## Goals

### General

Assure that adequate public services and utilities are provided to support the existing and future population of the Emigration Canyon Township Community.

### Culinary Water

Ensure that the Canyon residents have adequate and safe culinary water.

### Schools

Maintain the existing level of school service to the community.

### Fire Protection

Provide quick and adequate response to fires and fire related emergencies.

### Sheriff

Ensure that the Canyon and its residents and users have adequate and timely police protection.

### Septic Systems

Ensure that septic systems are monitored and maintained at safe operating conditions, and new systems meet all health regulations.

## Objectives

### General

1. Manage and ensure that the provision of public services and utilities is consistent, reliable and adequate for the development it serves.
2. Construct the needed community / service facilities appropriate in scale and design.

### Culinary Water

1. Encourage coordination between the various entities which have some effect on culinary water, such as Salt Lake County, each of the water districts, private water systems, the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Utah, Division of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the City-County Health Department to share and discuss information and policy positions.

2. Provide continuing communication between Salt Lake County and the water companies and districts to inform them of planning efforts, recommendations and policies contained in this Plan.
3. Encourage continued monitoring by the State Division of Water Quality to ensure that the public water supply remains at its current service level and is not adversely affected by new development.

Fire Protection

1. Ensure that all residential and commercial areas of the Emigration Canyon Community can be accessed by the Salt Lake County Fire Department.
2. Minimize the risk of fire damage by proper review of development proposals by the Salt Lake County Fire Department.
3. Ensure that firefighters will have enough water available to fight fires as determined by Salt Lake County.
4. Minimize the risk of wildfire damage and loss of life, along with expanding information programs on fire dangers in forest/urban interface areas.
5. Encourage standards to be adopted on a County level such as those contained in the Urban Wild Land Interface Code.

Sheriff

1. Expand law enforcement in the community as population and development grow.

Septic Systems

1. Encourage new septic systems to strictly comply with building code standards and the provisions of the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone pertaining to septic systems.
2. Maintain and improve existing systems which are failing or operating below safety standards.
3. Encourage coordination between Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City-County Health Department, each of the water districts, private water systems, the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Utah, Division of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the City-County Health Department to ensure septic systems are not affecting the public water supply.