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Historic Landmark Commission  
SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION  
451 South State Street, Room 326  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

cc: Holly Mullen, Communications and Engagement Manager ([holly.mullen@slcgov.com](mailto:holly.mullen@slcgov.com))

Re: 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well – HLC PLNHLC2018-00557 and PLNHLC2018-00558

Comment: Alleged “Critical Need” for the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well

Ms. Lindquist:

This letter supplements my prior comments to the Historic Land Commission. I am aware that the June 6<sup>th</sup> hearing has been postponed and that the matter may not return to the Commission until the end of year. I am sending this comment to you for filing in the Commission’s records now, should I forget the issue between now and the future reactivation of this matter four to six months from now.

Many have described the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well as “critical” infrastructure. In April 2019, DUP Director Briefer implied that if the well is turned off in the summer, then downtown water users will not get water (Fox News). In its recap of its June 4, 2019 budget hearing, the Salt Lake City Council described the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well as, “The well serves as a critical water supply for downtown.” In a June 21, 2019 statement by Mayor Biskupski, she commented that, “The criticality of this well cannot be overstated”, and Mayor went on to imply that if not approved, insufficient water might be available to fight fires in the Avenue’s foothills or in downtown hotels. These statements made external to the Historical Landmark Commission administrative proceeding were intended to either directly or indirect affect the Commission’s deliberations. Similarly, media reports frame the issue as local neighborhood residents standing in the way of downtown expansion (Semerand).

The Applicant’s submissions to the HLC represent that the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue well produces between 5 million and 7 million gallons of water per day during the summer season (HAC Report, April 12, 2019, Attachment C in the Commissions’ June Briefing Book). That is 15.3 to 21.5 acre feet per day or about 2,300 to 3,225 acre feet per 150 day running season.

In September 2018, the Metropolitan Water District with the City completed the 47.8 million gallon Terminal Reservoir below Olympus Hills Mall (MWDSS). There is an option to expand another 11 million gallons in storage capacity. 47.8 million gallons is 146.7 acre feet.

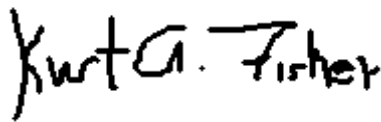
In 2014, Salt Lake City prepared a water conservation plan (SLC 2014). The plan notes that the City's surface water source capacities range from a dry year average of 286.5 million gallons per day (879 acre feet per day) to peak physical capacity of 345.7 million gallons per day (1,061 acre-feet) (*id* at Table 1-4, folio page 10). The plan further notes that the City's total annual production of potable water in 2004 was 83,238 acre-feet, projected to grow to 128,763 acre-feet in 2030 (*id* at Table 1-3, folio page 8).

The annual groundwater produced from the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well is 2.7% to 4% of the City's 2004 annual production (2,300 or 3,225/83,328). In terms of daily production, the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well produces 1.7% to 2.4% of the City's dry year water (5 or 7 mgd/286mpd) and 1.4% to 2% of the City's peak plant capacity. Additionally, the Terminal Reservoir stores 6.8 to 9.5 times the daily water production of the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well (47.8/(7 or 5)). The City's primary water distribution system is designed to provide sufficient pressure to all parts of the City and ultimately connects back to the Terminal Reservoir.

All of the foregoing indicates that the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Well is "of concern" and important to the City's water supply, but to characterize the well as "critical" to the infrastructure is an exaggeration. To suggest that if the well goes out of service that downtown hotels or Avenues homes will burn down in fires from a lack of water are hyperbole that the HLC should ignore in its deliberations. The DUP may have other facts, not in the Commission's record, suggesting otherwise in particular to peak summer daily demand. But again, those facts are not in the record and should not be assumed by the Commission.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have by the means listed above.

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt A. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kurt A. Fisher

## References

Biskupski, J. June 21, 2019. Hearing on 4th Avenue Well Postponed. Press Statement. <https://www.slc.gov/blog/2019/06/05/hearing-on-proposed-4th-avenue-well-postponed/>

Fox News. April 21, 2019. Textile Artist Protests City Project with Yarn Bomb. <https://fox13now.com/2019/04/24/textile-artist-protest-city-project-with-yarn-bomb/>

Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy. 2018. Terminal Reservoir Replacement Project Homepage. <https://www.mwdsls.org/terminalresproject.html>

Salt Lake City Council. June 4th, 2019. Recap of Budget Hearing. <https://www.slc.gov/council/meeting-recaps/recap-june-4-council-and-rda-board-meeting/>

## Proposed Fourth Avenue Well Drinking Water Chlorination Facility

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Salt Lake City Corporation. (2014). Salt Lake City Water Conservation Plan. Salt Lake City, Utah.

<http://www.slcdocs.com/utilities/PDF%20Files/2014%20SLC%20Water%20Conservation%20Master%20Plan.pdf>

Semerand, T. April 4, 2019. The fight over pump house pits needs of Salt Lake City's thirsty downtown against a quiet neighborhood in Memory Grove.

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/2019/04/30/residents-mouth-memory/>