



Moab Area Watershed Partnership

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Subject: TMDL priority in 2016 Draft Integrate for Mill and Pack Creek

Dear Jim Harris,

The Moab Area Watershed Partnership (MAWP) is a group of local water users, land managers and concerned citizens that works collaboratively towards improvements in water resource conditions in the Mill Creek and Castle Creek Watersheds. The MAWP greatly appreciates the support the Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ) has provided to MAWP including partnership facilitation, monitoring work and project funding to improve water quality conditions.

Recently the MAWP group reviewed the 2016 Draft Integrated Report. We were pleased to see the updated assessment of E. coli conditions in Mill Creek and tributaries. The presence of E. coli contamination in these waters is a pressing concern for the MAWP because Mill Creek runs directly through town where both children and adults recreate.

The Total Maximum Daily Load Development Priority for E. coli concerns in Mill Creek and tributaries is listed as "low" (Chapter 3, page 8). We respectfully ask UDWQ to reconsider this low priority for TMDL development. Based on the critical nature of this concern we strongly recommend the TMDL for Mill Creek and tributaries have a high priority for development. A high priority status for TMDL development would highlight the importance of this issue and may encourage a quicker TMDL completion and hence a more timely implementation of solutions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and again, thank you for continuing to support to attempts to improve water quality in the Moab area.