

## **Media Advisory**

**February 4, 2003**

### ***Administrators to Brief City Council on Proposed Water Rate Structure***

Administrators of the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities will brief the City Council on proposed changes to the City's water rate structure. The proposed rate changes are designed to encourage water conservation among users of the Public Utilities Department's culinary water system. The briefing Thursday will be the City Council's first step in formally considering the proposal.

The briefing will be held during the City Council's work session Thursday, February 6, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 326 of the City & County Building, 451 South State Street. The briefing – tentatively scheduled to last three hours – is one of two items on the Council's work session agenda.

The briefing will be televised on the City's cable-TV channel, Channel 17.

Although Salt Lake City already has a rate structure to encourage conservation in summer, the proposed new rate structure will change water rates year-round, affect the entire spectrum of water usage including rates for residences, commercial and industrial usage and irrigation usage.

The rates were developed by Rick Giardina & Associates of Denver after the Public Utilities Department hired the firm to examine the City's current water rate structure. The department's Public Utilities Advisory Committee formed a 20-member subcommittee of citizens and representatives of organizations that might be affected by the proposed rate changes. The subcommittee held seven meetings between August and December 2002 to review Giardina & Associates' work. The firm also briefed the Public Utilities Advisory Committee on November 19, 2002, and January 8, 2003. The Committee then forwarded the subcommittee's recommendations to Mayor Ross C. Anderson for consideration.