



To: Mayor and Town Council Members

From: Mark C. Meyers, Town Manager

Date: August 6, 2026

Subject: Ground Water Protection Study

Background

Sunrise Engineering completed a groundwater protection study for the Town. The purpose of the study was to determine the impact of septic systems on groundwater aquifers and the Virgin River. The plan was recently completed and presented to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality on June 24. And Paul Anderson, Project Engineer with Sunrise, presented the study findings to Town Council at the July 21, 2026, regular meeting. Council may wish to discuss the plan at the August 12, 2026, work meeting.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Town Council adopt the Ground Water Protection Study at the August 18, 2026, regular council meeting.

VIRGIN, UTAH
Resolution No. R2026-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF VIRGIN, UTAH, ADOPT THE
GROUNDWATER PROTECTION STUDY PREPARED BY SUNRISE ENGINEERING, LLC**

WHEREAS, the Town of Virgin commissioned Sunrise Engineering, LLC to conduct a comprehensive Groundwater Protection Study to evaluate the potential impacts of septic systems on groundwater and surface water quality within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the study included a review of previous investigations, installation of groundwater monitoring wells, monthly groundwater and surface water sampling, laboratory analysis, groundwater flow modeling, evaluation of nitrate transport, and an independent third-party technical review; and

WHEREAS, the study provides valuable site-specific information that improves the Town's understanding of local groundwater conditions and identifies areas where additional monitoring and investigation are warranted; and

WHEREAS, the study concludes that, while new data has refined previous assumptions, additional information is needed before determining whether existing septic density requirements should be modified; and

WHEREAS, Sunrise Engineering recommends maintaining the Town's current groundwater protection standards, including the existing 90 percent nitrate removal requirement, maintaining current septic density limits of one ERU per acer, pursuing future sewer infrastructure opportunities, and conducting additional study of groundwater flow, aquifer connectivity, and emerging wastewater contaminants; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that accepting the study does not constitute adoption of every scientific hypothesis or recommendation contained therein but acknowledges the study as an important technical resource to guide future planning and policy decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF VIRGIN, UTAH, THAT:.

Section 1. Acceptance of Study.

The Town Council hereby accepts the **Town of Virgin Groundwater Protection Study**, prepared by Sunrise Engineering LLC, including the accompanying third-party technical review by Loughlin Water Associates, as the official technical report documenting the groundwater investigation completed for the Town.

Section 2. Findings.

The Town Council recognizes that:

1. The study provides important new groundwater and surface water quality data specific to the Town of Virgin.

2. The study identifies uncertainties that require additional investigation before significant changes to septic density standards are considered.
3. Continued monitoring and evaluation of groundwater conditions are in the best interest of protecting the Town's water resources.

Section 3. Current Policy.

Until additional scientific information is obtained and evaluated, the Town shall continue to implement its existing groundwater protection requirements, including current septic density standards and the 90 percent nitrate removal requirement for commercial developments, unless modified by future action of the Town Council.

Section 4. Future Planning.

The Town Council supports continued efforts to:

- Seek funding for additional groundwater monitoring and scientific evaluation;
- Improve understanding of the hydraulic relationship between the alluvial aquifer, deeper aquifers, and the Virgin River;
- Evaluate emerging wastewater contaminants;
- Pursue planning and funding opportunities for future wastewater collection and sewer infrastructure; and
- Consider policies encouraging or requiring connection to public sewer facilities when they become available.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of Virgin, Utah, this 18 Day of August, 2026.

By: _____
Jean Krause, Mayor

Attest: _____
Krystal Percival, Town Clerk/Recorder

<u>Vote</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jean Krause, Mayor	☐	☐	☐
Paul Luwe, Council Member	☐	☐	☐
Valerie Wenz, Council Member	☐	☐	☐
April McKeon, Council Member	☐	☐	☐
Jim Kietzman, Council Member	☐	☐	☐

Resolution R2026-
Adopted: August 18, 2026

RECORDED this _____ day of _____ 2026

PUBLISHED or POSTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CERTIFICATE OF PASSAGE AND PUBLICATION OR POSTING

In accordance with Utah Code Annotated §63G-30-102 as amended, I, the Town Clerk/Recorder of Virgin, Utah, hereby certifies that the foregoing Ordinance was duly passed and published or posted via Class A Notice at:

- 1) Utah Public Notice website
- 2) Virgin Town website, www.virgin.utah.gov
- 3) Virgin Town Hall

Krystal Percival, Town Clerk/Recorder
Virgin Town, Utah