On June 1, 2008, the City of Moab will be implementing a stormwater utility. Listed below is information about the stormwater utility charge that City residents and businesses will see on their City utility bill.

Q. What is a stormwater utility?
A. A stormwater utility is similar to water, sewer and other utilities. The utility charges a fee for services provided. In this case, the service is control of stormwater runoff throughout the city.

Q. What does the stormwater utility fund?
A. The stormwater utility will pay for the costs associated with the collection and management of stormwater runoff within the city. The utility will fund stormwater improvement capital projects as well as operation and maintenance of the City's stormwater system.

Q. Is there a charge for the stormwater utility?
A. All developed properties within the City of Moab will be billed a stormwater fee on their City utility bill. The charge for each property has been calculated based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. Impervious surfaces include roof tops, paved areas, patios, trafficked gravel areas, and any other area that prevents or retards the infiltration of stormwater into the underlying soil.

Q. What is the fee for the stormwater utility?
A. The stormwater utility fee is currently set at $4.00 per month for each single-family or duplex residential property (1 ERU). All other properties will pay a multiple of this base rate according to the amount of impervious and semi-impervious area on the parcel.

Q. How will I be billed for the stormwater utility fee?
A. The fee will be added to your monthly utility bill from the City. If you do not currently receive a City utility bill for your property, you will start receiving one monthly.

Q. Why do we need a stormwater utility?
A. The City has identified over $8 million of needed stormwater improvements. These improvements are necessary to address the potential for flooding that would cause damage to private properties and City streets and constitute a general hazard to the health safety, and welfare of City residents and businesses. Furthermore, the City is required under State and Federal mandates to provide increased water quality controls to mitigate the impacts of pollutants that are transported by stormwater runoff into Mill Creek, Pack Creek, and the Colorado River.

Q. Isn't there already a fund for stormwater?
A. No, until 2004 the money that the City had spent on stormwater improvement projects had come from the City's General Fund. When the City used General Fund money to fund stormwater projects, that money had to be taken away from the many other programs that the City funds.

Q. Do other cities have a stormwater utility?
A. Yes, more than 30 other cities in Utah have implemented a stormwater utility program over the last 20 years. The fees that other Utah cities charge range from $3.00/month /ERU to $6.00/month /ERU with the median fee being $4.00.

Q. How do I know that this fee will be spent on stormwater projects?
A. Your fees go into an “enterprise” or special fund that may only be used for the stormwater program. This fund is audited annually as part of the audit process that is mandated by State law.

For more information about the stormwater utility, please contact the City of Moab Engineering Department at 435-259-4941.