



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

January 26, 1993

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Ted Stewart
Executive Director

Robert L. Morgan
State Engineer

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Mr. Ed Ure, Chairman
Provo River Distribution System
800 South Lambert Lane
Kamas UT 84039

Dear Ed:

Re: Budget Related Items

As you get ready for the annual river system meetings, I would like to bring you up to date on the commissioner report situation. Stan Roberts has made good progress in providing the information and data for the unpublished commissioner's reports. We have not received all the data we need, but Stan is making a good effort and I believe that within the next three or four months all of the delinquent reports will be published and will be available for the water users. We have had several discussions with Stan about the seriousness of his record keeping responsibilities and I believe he is committed to keeping his records and reports current in the future.

Also, there are a couple of budget items which concern us and which we would ask you to bring up at your February 1st meeting. There is a possibility that Jordanelle Reservoir will come on line as a storage facility during the coming irrigation season. If this occurs there will be an increase in the time and effort required of the river commissioner. I have discussed this with Stan and he feels that if Jordanelle does become operational this year, the extra work involved would warrant a salary increase of \$2000.

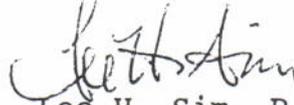
The other budget item which concerns us, not only on this system but on a statewide basis, is the travel expense for the river commissioner. It appears that distribution systems generally throughout the state are not setting adequate travel budgets to meet the expenses incurred by the commissioner in carrying out his duties. The effect of this is that commissioners must subsidize their travel expenses from their salary. The best information we have right now indicates that actual vehicle operation, maintenance, repair and replacement costs average between 35 and 40 cents a mile for normal highway driving conditions. It is my understanding that the travel reimbursement rate for the Provo River Distribution System is currently 30 cents a mile for the commissioner and 36 cents a mile for the deputy commissioner. The commissioner and especially the deputy commissioner typically encounter rougher driving conditions than normal highway travel.

Ed Ure, Chairman
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I would encourage you and your committee to consider developing a plan to compensate the commissioner and his deputy for the actual travel expense incurred in performing their duties. It may be helpful to encourage the commissioner and the deputy to keep mileage and expense records to provide a better picture of the actual costs involved.

If you have any questions prior to your meeting, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Lee H. Sim, P.E.

Assistant State Engineer
for Distribution/Adjudication

LHS:bd

cc: Stan Roberts, River Commissioner, Provo River Dist. System
/Jack Gardner, Secretary