

Kerry Carpenter - Santa Clara Distribution

From: Kerry Carpenter
To: Lee Sim
Date: 07/03/2002 5:08 PM
Subject: Santa Clara Distribution
CC: Jerry Olds

Lee:

I just took a call from Dave Humphries of UP&L (PacifiCorp / Scottish Power). He says that Larry Staheli, the operator of the hydropower system on the Santa Clara, got a phone message from Rod earlier in the week ordering him to turn all water below the Veyo plant out of the power system and back into the river. This would basically take the Sand Cove/Gunlock plants completely offline. As you may recall, Veyo Irrigation gets their water (1.0 cfs) out of the power canal below the Veyo plant, but there must be another way to deliver that water, although I'm not aware of it.

According to Mr. Humphries, they have recently been carrying approx. 2.8 cfs in the canal below Veyo. With 1.0 cfs being delivered to Veyo Irrigation, the remaining 1.8 was transported into the Sand Cove system. The discharge at the Gunlock plant was about 1.0 cfs, a net system loss of 0.8 cfs. This represents a proportionate loss of about 45%. The "Final Order" for distribution of the UP&L rights (letter from RLM dated 01/31/1991) limits losses to 15% in each "leg" of the canal system, but generally that 15% represents a net loss of 1.5 cfs (based on a diversion of 10 cfs). Kind of tricky.

Anyway, Mr. Humphries says they will comply upon receipt of a written order from us, but suggests we consider the following:

If diversions to the lower leg of the power canal are stopped, this will ultimately result in the draining of Upper Sand Cove reservoir, a total fish kill and loss of recreation associated with the reservoir. The pipe system below Upper Sand Cove (steel pipe laid on the surface) will be drained and will experience significant thermal expansion ("will crawl all over the place") with resultant joint damage; the earthen portions of the canal below the Lower Sand Cove plant and the Lower Sand Cove reservoir will dry out and have to be re-wetted when placed back into use. Further, the placement of the 1.8 cfs in the Santa Clara channel may be a less efficient way of getting the water to Gunlock than through the partially-piped power system.

I called Rod to get his version of the situation. He's not quite in agreement with Mr. Humphries's assessment. He says that neither the Sand Cove plant nor the Gunlock plant are operating, so there's no beneficial use. Further, within the next few weeks, the water in the power canal won't even be enough to offset the ditch and evaporation losses (futile call conditions), so the water would be better used by leaving it in the river or letting someone use it higher on the system.

Dang! Anyway, Rod is going to work with Larry Staheli for the next few days and will call me back on Monday or Tuesday with his updated assessment of the situation. We'll make a decision then whether to order UP&L to shut off or not. I may be calling you for some further direction at that time.

Kerry