



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

September 19, 1990

Norman H. Bangertter  
Governor

Dee C. Hansen

Executive Director

Robert L. Mordan

State Engineer

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Mr. Herbert B. Stratton  
President-Santa Clara Seep Ditch Company  
Owner-South Gate Golf Course  
1975 South Tonaquint Drive  
St. George, UT 84770

Dear Mr. Stratton:

Re: Distribution of water-Santa Clara  
River

I am writing in response to your letter dated August 27, 1990 received September 13, 1990 concerning the distribution of water on the Santa Clara River. Your letter expressed concern that the natural flow of the river has been retained in Gunlock Reservoir since July 2, and that you have not received your fair share of the water according to your water rights.

We have discussed this situation with Rod Leavitt, the River Commissioner, and Rod has given us the following report. The natural flow has been retained in Gunlock Reservoir since July 2, and the storage level is now slightly above the fish and sediment conservation pools. The inflows to the reservoir vary between 1 and 3 cfs. Even though no water has been released from Gunlock Reservoir, return flows and the make of the river have maintained the diversion at your headgate at approximately 50% of your water right. On September 17, the flow through your measuring device was 1.84 cfs. Although this water should have been split with the Bloomington Canal Company, the Company has allowed the Santa Clara Seep Ditch Company to maintain a dry dam at its diversion.

You requested the sediment pool in the Gunlock Reservoir be released for use by the irrigators. Water was stored in this pool on the basis of the storage rights of the member companies of the Lower Gunlock Reservoir Corporation. The sediment pool is maintained through a contract between the Corporation and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources which prohibits either party from releasing the waters of the pool. As State Engineer I have no authority to order that this water be released.

You also requested that the natural flow of Santa Clara River be allowed to pass through the reservoir. The Lower Gunlock Reservoir Corporation has the right to store approximately 2/3 of the natural flow. At the present inflow level, it appears the releases would vary between 1/3 cfs and 1 cfs and your company's share would be between 0.11 cfs and 0.33 cfs. It is my opinion the small flow which could be released would not improve the return flows which are now accruing to your company's ditch, nor would the water benefit the other users below the reservoir. Therefore, it seems better water management to retain the natural flow in storage in Gunlock Reservoir, rather than to waste

Hebert B. Stratton  
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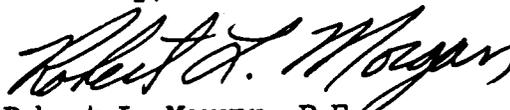
it down the stream channel.

Regarding UP&L's non-consumptive use rights, I recently sent a letter to the company requiring the installation of measuring devices along their canal. The letter also requested the company submit an operation and maintenance plan showing how efficiencies in the canal would be improved and maintained.

We appreciate the struggle you are having in this dry year. However, it appears that you have been more fortunate than others on the system because nearly half of your right has been diverted to you consistently while others have received essentially no water since the 2nd of July.

If you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact Gerald Stoker, Area Engineer; Lee Sim, Directing Engineer for Adjudication; or me.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Morgan, P.E.  
State Engineer

RLM:LHS:bd

cc: Gerald Stoker  
Rod Leavitt  
Calvin M. Rampton  
Timothy B. Anderson