

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Utah Lake and Jordan River Distribution System went through a very different cycle than had been experienced in the past four years. At the beginning of the year, it looked as though the System may have been operated strictly by gravity flow; however, the precipitation experienced did not fulfill our needs and the year turned out to be one of the drier ones of recent record. On January 1, 1987, Utah Lake was +0.35 feet above compromise, and the Lake peaked on January 10, 1987, at 0.39 feet above compromise. At that time, the Jordan River was discharging 1120 C.F.S. through the Turner Dam. By April 9, the Lake had receded to compromise. However, because the draft on Utah Lake was not excessive, the outlet gates were left open, and the needs of the irrigators were supplied by gravity flow until July 7, 1987. At that time, the Lake elevation had receded to a -1.63 feet below compromise. Before the pumps were started, we made a measurement at the Lehi bridge and determined that the Jordan River discharge was only 385 C.F.S. This is a far cry from the design criteria of 600-to-700 C.F.S. by Salt Lake County's Engineers. We continued the pump operation throughout the remaining season until October 15, 1987, at which time the pumps were turned off and the outlet gates were closed. Utah Lake receded to a low point of 3.00 feet below compromise at that time. From that date until December 31, Utah Lake has risen to an elevation of -1.73.

Highlights of the occurrences during the year 1987 include the following:

1. In the year 1987, work continued with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District for the purchase of waters from the companies holding both storage rights in Utah Lake and stock rights in canal companies throughout the Salt Lake valley. At the present time, the only transaction that has been consummated is that with Kennecott Copper for 60,000 acre feet. The balance of the 57,000 acre feet needed has yet to be purchased.

2. The power supply and equipment for the operation of the radial gates at the joint dam site and the North Jordan diversion have been ordered by Salt Lake County, but only the power poles at the joint dam have been installed as of December 31, 1987.

3. The disposition of the property at Pelican Point through deeds issued to the Cedarstrom estate from the four major canal companies, plus Salt Lake City.

4. The selection of property from Utah County to the Associated Canal Companies at the outlet structure. (Deeds not yet completed.)

5. The responsibility for the distribution of the North Jordan Irrigation System was delegated to the Commissioner and his Deputy. This included minor cleaning of debris from both the River gates and the Canal Company gates.

6. In the Fall of 1987, the Salt Lake County Conservancy District approached the Board of Canal Presidents with a proposal for a pumping station on the Jordan River south of the Turner Dam. This Utah Lake water is to be co-mingled with Provo Reservoir water and pumped to their water treatment plant south of Bluffdale and thus delivered into their system as culinary water. There are a lot of unresolved issues still remaining before completion of this project.

At the present time, the supply of irrigation water for 1988 looks poor to fair, but there will be more than an adequate amount of water in storage in Utah Lake for our irrigation needs. I am, however, relatively sure that all waters delivered will be under a pumped mode.

Finally, I would like to express my sorrow at the passing of two of our canal presidents, Garn Holbrook, President of the Utah Lake Distributing Company, and Rell Swensen, President of the North Jordan Irrigation Company. I feel that we have lost two excellent water authorities and I have personally lost two good friends.