

March 11, 1992

Mr. Timothy H. Provan
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1596 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mr. Provan:

We appreciate your comments on the proposed plan for the Distribution of Water within the Utah Lake Drainage Basin (10/15/91 revised draft). We understand your concern about the various projects being considered and how they will affect Utah Lake and what actions might be taken to mitigate these affects. It has been indicated that the Central Utah Water Conservancy District is conducting a number of studies concerning various aspects of Utah Lake. The information these studies will provide should be useful in addressing some of the concerns that you have. We understand that the Central Utah Water Conservancy District is also modelling the effects of the various planned projects and their potential effects on both water levels and water quality in Utah Lake.

The model presented in the proposed distribution plan is preliminary at best. The purpose of the model was not to predict variations in lake levels, but to determine "worst case scenarios" so that criteria could be established to allow for proper distribution of the water and protect all existing water rights. We could not evaluate the impact of all of the exchanges being

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considered by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District since these applications have not been filed, except for Exchange Application Number for Jordanelle Reservoir.

You expressed support for allowing exchanges to take place in the winter. This is possible under the proposed Distribution plan if it can be demonstrated that other rights are not impaired. The primary requirement of the Distribution plan regarding exchanges is that intervening rights are not affected and the total exchange balances out on an annual basis. Thus, the exchanged water can be replaced in the winter. What we are hoping to avoid is allowing exchange deficits to accrue from year to year.

Imported Water -

Once again, thank you for submitting your comments. The comments we received from the Division of Environmental Quality and the Audubon Society expressed some of your same concerns. We appreciate your involvement in these important issues and will keep you apprised of any future developments.

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
State Engineer

RLM/wk

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