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WATER RIGHTS  
SALT LAKE

DAVID G. OVARD  
General Manager  
Secretary, Treasurer

July 1, 1991

Mr. Robert L. Morgan, PE  
State Engineer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Water Rights Division  
1636 West North Temple, Suite 220  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

Dear Mr. Morgan:

SUBJECT: Distribution of Water within the Utah  
Lake Drainage Basin

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on your preliminary proposal for distribution of water within the Utah Lake drainage basin. We applaud your efforts to improve the efficiency and accountability of distributing water in the basin.

The District's comments are as follows:

1. We suggest you identify and note the authority by which you propose to implement each segment of the draft plan.
2. We believe the use of real-time gages on transbasin diversions and at various locations along the Provo River will improve the ability of water users to manage and plan their use of water rights. For example, such real-time gages will assist the District in managing its Welby Jacob Exchange direct flows.
3. We believe that implementing diversion reports based on water rights is a positive step toward insuring accountability in distributing the water.
4. Your preliminary proposal would result in Utah Lake normally operating below compromise level. However, our understanding is that the Booth Decree authorizes the Utah Lake primary water right holders to store water up to the compromise level. Your clarification of this issue is requested.
5. Your preliminary proposal would greatly affect the inflows, storage and operating level of Utah Lake. On one hand, the effect of limited annual flows through Utah

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Utah Lake to meet annual diversion entitlements would tend to flush the lake more often and reduce evaporation losses, thus decreasing Utah Lake salinity. However, on the other hand the smaller amount of storage and lower inflows to the lake may result in a proportionally higher salinity contribution from the mineral springs tributary to Utah Lake. The effect of your preliminary proposal on the water quality, particularly on the salinity, of Utah Lake water is of critical concern to the District.

We believe that the impact of the proposed plan on Utah Lake water quality needs to be defined by careful study. You have already commented that such a study is underway. We anxiously look forward to the results of that study. In the meantime, the District would not support a plan that would deteriorate the quality of Utah Lake water.

6. The on-going hydrologic study of Utah Lake tributary sources will be important in further defining the water budget of Utah Lake. Once this is better known, the approval of appropriate change applications for point of diversion within the Utah Lake distribution system would be supported by the District to the extent such changes do not impair other water rights.

Again, we appreciate your initiative in this matter and our opportunity to comment on your preliminary proposal.

Sincerely,

*David G. Ovard by EWC*

David G. Ovard  
General Manager

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