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approved
JCM*

WEBER RIVER SYSTEM

GENERAL POLICY

PREFACE - Although present approved and pending applications for Weber River water greatly exceed the present usable supply, there is no reason to believe that additional water cannot be made available by man's activities. Of the some 3 million acre-feet falling on the Weber River watershed, less than one-half million or 17 percent actually runs off and is available under present conditions. Thus, 83 percent is subject to some modification by some change in physical conditions; and present rights can probably not lay claim to these waters unless they are developed by the holders of such claims.

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WATER APPROPRIATION in the Weber River drainage whether from underground or surface sources, shall be considered on two bases as follows:

1. Water that is part of the firm river supply and already appropriated.
2. Water consumed by vegetation, lost by evaporation or otherwise wasted. An example might be springs that are distant from the river without physical confluence and that are naturally feeding areas of phreatophytes and/or open water surface areas.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE will be followed by the State Engineer's Office in the accepting and processing of applications:

1. If an applicant wishes to obtain water and it is obvious that his application would merely seek to appropriate river water, he will be advised that he should make arrangements to purchase sufficient water to cover his use with one of the existing older rights.
2. If an applicant wishes to file an application and can show to the satisfaction of the State Engineer that his development is being made without depletion or questionable depletion of the Weber River, the application will probably be processed. However, before approval, all applications will be reviewed by a member of the Weber River water users committee, the water commissioner, and the State Engineer's Office to determine the possibility of interference with existing rights.

WATER USERS; When the applicant is seeking unappropriated water which is agreed to by the review committee, blanket protests will not be filed by the Weber River Water Users, thereby putting the applicant, the Weber River Water Users and the State Engineer to the expense of conducting formal hearings.

Water will be made available by the Weber River Water Users for purchase by applicants who express desire to purchase it in reasonable quantities for reasonable uses and at reasonable prices.

WATER COMMISSIONER: The water commissioner may handle, as part of his administrative duties, small changes or exchanges that will best serve the public upon notice to the State Engineer. However, when a number of exchanges are being made or have been made in one area, the water commissioner shall cause an application to be filed which may cover a number of these small changes.