



THE STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY

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STATE ENGINEER

August 21, 1958

TO: All Water Users' Associations
and River Commissioners

SUBJECT: Water Distribution Policy

Several of you have commented on a newspaper article that appeared last week regarding our water commissioner type of operation.

Unfortunately, this report was not factual. It did not truly reflect statements made at the informal discussion here in the office. There was considerable lack of understanding on the part of the reporter who mixed up conditions of those rights under distribution and those that are not.

Under distribution, we now have about 20,000 rights. This includes most of the larger companies and systems. However, we have some 80,000 rights not under distribution. These present some real problems to this office in distribution.

Since many of these rights are on small streams or other sources with limited financial resources, it is most difficult to acquire a qualified man to act as commissioner. However, unless administration is practiced, the respective rights to a water source are usually not properly satisfied. It has been suggested that several (perhaps one-man) district offices might be established throughout the State to better serve these small rights and to work closer with out present commissioners or their successors on problems that are ever expanding and intensifying. We are trying to work out a method of servicing these "forgotten" rights. This is what seemed to confuse our reporter. I had no idea that he was going to write it up and especially with such a twisted view.

We very much appreciate the cooperation that each of you are giving to us. I think we have a good distribution program underway. Nevertheless, we want to continue improving on the administration of water rights wherever possible.

My apologies to you for being "quoted" on some statements which may appear to sound as if, in my mind, our program is not working.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne D. Criddle

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