



THE STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY

WAYNE D. CRIDDLE
STATE ENGINEER

January 7, 1963

Mr. James G. Olsen, Chairman
South End of Sanpitch River
Ephraim, Utah

Re: San Pitch

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Reference is made to your letter of January 2, 1963 to Mr. Norseth requesting this office to take over distribution of the entire Sanpitch River System.

As you are probably aware, state law requires that the water users be assessed the cost of distribution and that such assessments are to be paid by May 1 of the water season. This requires a basis of assessment to be arrived at as early as possible to allow for billing and collection prior to May 1.

The Chester and Horseshoe Irrigation companies have also indicated that they need distribution under the State Engineer.

On most systems, assessments are based on an estimated budget and the average of the past 5 years' water deliveries to each company.

Under our supervision, water can only be delivered under a right on record, either in a court decree or an approved filing in our office. For those not holding such a right, the burden of proof is on the water user.

So far this office has never assembled a complete schedule for water delivery on the entire Sanpitch river system. We assume this is what you now wish. Development of a workable schedule giving proper consideration to all rights is an expensive and a time-consuming job and can best be done under our regular adjudication program. However, if it is necessary that distribution be enlarged on your river system this year, we would have to immediately employ a man and assign him to that job under direction of our regular staff. It is estimated that this special work would cost about \$1,500. for which we would have to assess the water users.

One other problem facing distribution would be the need for a satisfactory measuring device and headgate on each diversion from the source.

The above are things which your water users should know ahead of time. And you may find it premature to come under distribution this year. A year for planning and getting ready is usually needed. With such lead time, and assuming that the current legislature is sympathetic to the growing needs of water administration, we may be able to work out a distribution schedule without requiring monetary help from the water users on this phase.

Should you still wish to proceed, then I hope you will discuss the following at your meeting on January 9, 1963:

James G. Olsen

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Jan. 7, 1953

- 1 - Who will be under distribution?
- 2 - What will be the basis for assessment?
- 3 - Who might serve as commissioner and will he need a deputy?
- 4 - What operating budget are you proposing for the enlarged system?
- 5 - Are necessary headgates and measuring devices in, and if not, how long might be given people to get them in?
- 6 - Are there diversions, both new and changes, not on record in this office?
- 7 - What is your proposal for a water users' committee to authorize assessment and approved budgets, etc. with the State Engineer?

These, and other questions should be discussed at your meeting. We will be happy to work with you within the ability of our personnel and funds.

We will appreciate having your reaction following your next meeting of water users.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne D. Criddle

WDC/eca