

Price, Utah
November 5, 1959



Mr. F. S. Slaugh
19 East Main
Price, Utah

Dear Mr. Slaugh:

This is with reference to our conversation regarding Scofield Reservoir and the Carbon Water Conservancy District and to who is being taxed to repay the Bureau of Reclamation for the building of the dam.

I might explain that under the Utah statutes there is a Water Conservancy Act which has been in operation for at least twelve years and this act was passed by the Legislature so that the Scofield Dam could be built and financed by the Bureau of Reclamation. It was the first project of this kind in the State of Utah. Under the Conservancy Act, the Board members are appointed by the district judge within the district that the project operates. Here in Carbon County there was created what is known as the Carbon Water Conservancy District, which is made up of five Board members who have been appointed by the district judge and their appointments run for a period of three years. At the time this district was formed, it was voted on by all the land owners, as under the Act, all the land within the district was to be assessed for the repayment of the building of the Scofield Dam. The reason for having the Conservancy Act passed by the Utah State Legislature is due to the fact that the Bureau of Reclamation would not deal or enter into a contract with any company or corporation other than one that was authorized to levy taxes. As stated above, the Conservancy Act has been amended several times and can be very easily checked as to how it operates.

The one point that I would like to bring out is that I have been on the Board since the Carbon Water Conservancy District was formed under the Utah law and I can assure you that all the lands within the district, regardless of whether they are farms or not, are being assessed. However, under the statutes, after a dam has been built, these districts are limited to a certain mill levy and cannot exceed that amount. We have not levied each year but when we do levy, we submit to the County Clerk the amount of our levy and it is included, such as State school taxes, State schools, county general funds, cities, etc., and, regardless of whether the individuals are water users or not, they have to pay the tax, as the district has the power to levy this tax. We did not tax this year, as we had a carry-over of funds. However, in 1958 a quarter of a mill was levied and was included in and part of the taxes paid by the railroad companies, coal mines, home owners, etc. I am sure that if the statutes of the State are checked, they will find that a district has the power to levy on all property owners within the district, regardless of whether they are farmers or not. I can assure you that since our district has been formed we have received the money from the County Treasurer and I can assure you that the only means upon which we can receive any money is through taxation and that is the reason for the forming of the district because, as you no doubt know, the United States Government wants to be assured that they are going to receive their payments.

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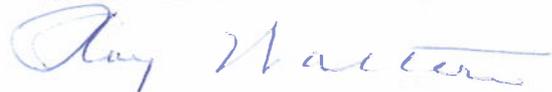
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The Scofield Dam is set up on a 40-year repayment plan with no interest. The Carbon Water Conservancy District's only function is maintenance and operation of the reservoir. We have no power to even open or close the gates of the reservoir. The distribution of the water is done by the various canal companies under the direction of the Price River Water Users Association, which I understand comes under the direction of the State engineer. I might mention that some time ago a committee was appointed within the district to try and consolidate all the canal companies and do away with primary water, reservoir water, high water, and make water be water, or, in other words, they tried to attempt to combine the distribution in one operation but there was a considerable amount of objection, but I still believe that that is the best for this area and, by putting all the water together and some plan worked out on an equitable basis, there would be sufficient water for all the farmers, even in dry years, because I personally know that there is no farmer in this area that could mature any crop on primary water. From my viewpoint, I believe that your thinking is about the same as mine and I am certain that a considerable amount of money could be saved by only having one Board, one ditch rider, and with proper headgates and measuring devices, the water could be controlled so much better and at a very great savings, as I know now that there are too many canal companies and they are all fighting one another.

I trust that this information may be of some help and if I can be of any further service, do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours very truly,

CARBON WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Ray Walters, President

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