



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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November 10, 1988

Mr. Ben Kjar
60 South 300 West
Manti, Utah 84643

Dear Mr. Kjar:

On October 17, 1988 the State Engineer met with the directors of the San Pitch River Distribution System to discuss the issues relating to the consolidation of the San Pitch and the Lower San Pitch Distribution Systems.

At the meeting the directors requested the State Engineer issue a letter outlining the duties which would be required of the river commissioner(s) whether the systems remain separate or were combined. The directors also requested information regarding the cost of operating a combined system versus the cost of operating two different systems. This letter is in response to that request and should be used by the directors to make a presentation of the issues to their stockholders.

The following duties will apply to commissioner(s) whether the systems remain separate or are combined:

It appears that the distribution of water on both the San Pitch and Lower San Pitch Distribution Systems has not been firmly based on the Cox Decree. A new distribution schedule will be issued by the State Engineer reflecting the provisions of the Cox Decree and any court ordered amendments since that time. The river commissioner(s) will be responsible to make diversions from the river on the basis of the distribution schedule.

River flow measurement and record keeping on both systems is not adequate at the present time and must be upgraded. In an effort to improve the ability to measure the flow of the river, three stream gages have been constructed on the San Pitch River System and three have been constructed on the Lower San Pitch River System. We expect that additional stations will be installed in the future on both systems.

The commissioner(s) will become familiar with the operation, maintenance and reading of the new gages. These gages and the other measuring points on the river will be read on a weekly basis and accurate records will be kept of the

measurements which are taken. On the basis of the flow measurements, the diversions will be adjusted as dictated by the distribution schedule. On a monthly basis the commissioner(s) will pull the strip charts from each stream gage and calculate the flows represented. The commissioner(s) will keep a daily log of the system's operation through the irrigation season.

The commissioner(s) will be responsible for the working condition of the gages and will effect any repairs required to ensure the continued operation of the gages. As often as is necessary (at least 4 times a season), the commissioner(s) will check the rating curves for each stream gage by current metering the control section.

The river commissioner(s) will submit a written annual report to the State Engineer at, or shortly after, the annual meeting of the Distribution System. The report will include the flow measurements taken at each of the measuring points in the system throughout the irrigation season. The report will also include a written statement concerning the operation of the system and problems encountered during the irrigation season. The commissioner(s) will make recommendations on the repair or replacement of diversion control structures and measuring devices. The commissioner(s) will follow through to make sure the recommended improvements are made in order to upgrade the ability to regulate the system.

On the basis of the previous year's water use and the assessment level set by the directors of the Distribution System, the river commissioner(s) will calculate the assessments to each of the water users on the Distribution System. The commissioner(s) will work closely with the Division of Water Rights to maintain accurate records on the assessment accounts. This will often require researching water right ownership, water users and mailing addresses of water users. The commissioner(s) will also work closely with the Division of Water Rights to facilitate the collection of delinquent distribution assessments.

If the systems are consolidated there will be one commissioner and perhaps one or two deputies depending upon the need. The commissioner would be responsible for directing the activities of the deputies. If the systems remain separate, there will be two commissioners who will act somewhat independently of each other. However, they will be under a strict responsibility to communicate regularly (at least weekly) concerning their flow measurements and the resulting diversions which should be made on the basis of the distribution schedule. Maintaining two separate systems will require very close coordination between the two commissioners for an effective distribution to be made.

The following chart compares the costs involved for operating a consolidated system and two separate systems. It is only an estimate and is intended only as a guideline. However, we feel the estimate represents the level of expense which will be necessary to meet the system operation requirements set forth earlier in this letter.

Budget Item	Consolidated	Two Separate Systems	
	System	Each	Total
Commissioner(s) Salary	\$14,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$21,000.00
Social Security	1,050.00	800.00	1,600.00
Retirement	1,700.00	1,250.00	2,500.00
Travel Expenses	4,800.00	2,100.00	4,200.00
Contractual Services	3,000.00	-0-	-0-
Bonding Expense	50.00	50.00	100.00
Health & Life Insurance	50.00	50.00	100.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	100.00	50.00	100.00
Telephone Expenses	250.00	150.00	300.00
Equipment & Supplies Exps.	1,200.00	900.00	1,800.00
Annual Report	400.00	350.00	700.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	500.00	300.00	600.00
TOTAL	\$27,100.00	\$16,500.00	\$33,000.00

	<u>Current</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Assessment*</u>
San Pitch	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 4,800.00
Lower San Pitch	8,900.00	9,500.00
Central Utah WCD Assessment		<u>9,000.00*</u>
		<u>\$23,300.00</u>

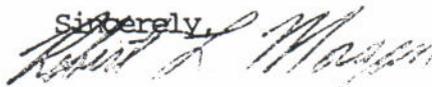
*This money is currently being used for the installation of stream gages but eventually it could be used to help meet the expenses of the Distribution System.

We realize the above costs represent a significant increase in the current operating budgets of the two systems. But, we feel the increase is necessary because of the need to improve the measurement and regulation of the San Pitch River.

The system operation requirements will be implemented at the next annual meeting of the Distribution Systems.

I hope this provides sufficient information for your discussions with the members of your representative companies.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Stan Adams.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
 State Engineer
 DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS