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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

BOYD P. CLAYTON
Interim State Engineer/Division Director

February 11, 2020

John S. Larsen
ULJR River Commissioner
2399 East 10265 South
Sandy, Utah 84092-4420

John,

I am aware of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) letter to you dated January 28, 2020 requesting you begin immediately releasing water they have stored in Utah Lake. Under the snowpack, weather, and reservoir conditions currently being experienced, their request appears to me to be a prudent measure to reduce flooding later this spring.

My interpretation of the 1985 Utah Lake Stipulated Decree is that it provides the state engineer take mandatory action to open the gates and throttle them only to limit the flow at the Surplus Canal to 3400 CFS anytime Utah Lake is above compromise. That has not yet occurred this year. Alternately, under provision 1 the state engineer is charged with administration of the water through releases, regulation and diversion so as to deliver the quantities of water to which the respective water rights owners are entitled. CUWCD, having stored water in Utah Lake on a space available basis is now requesting their water be released from the reservoir and I direct that you honor their request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Boyd P. Clayton, P.E.
Interim State Engineer

BC/mtb

cc: Jared Manning, Assist State Engineer
Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Dept. of Public Utilities Director

