



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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Dear Water User:

The purpose of this letter is to keep you apprised of the progress we are making on the implementation of the ground-water management plan for Pahvant Valley.

At the last public meeting I held with you on February 24, 1994, an eight point "Proposed Ground-water Management Plan for Pahvant Valley" (Plan) was distributed and a comment period was set. At that meeting, I stated that the Plan would be phased in over a period of three to four years and that the ongoing acreage survey would be completed.

Based on the comments received, the first part of the Plan was implemented with the promulgation of a new "Appropriation Policy for Pahvant Valley" on March 2, 1994. The new policy went into effect on April 1, 1994.

Comments were also received dealing with the proposal to realign some of the ground-water districts. The comments on this proposal were overwhelmingly negative. As a result, the boundaries of the ground-water districts were not changed. Implicit in this decision is that no water right shall be moved out of the district in which it is presently located.

During the spring of 1994, the acreage survey was completed and all water users who were irrigating land without a water right were notified. As a result of this effort and with the cooperation of water users, all irrigated lands are now covered by valid water rights.

Beginning in the summer of 1994 and continuing into the summer of 1995, a cataloging of wells was conducted by the Distribution section of the Division. As part of the cataloging, a survey was also made to determine the number of uncontrolled flowing wells that were wasting water. The result of this effort was an updated



accounting of all significant irrigation wells and flowing wells in the valley. In reviewing the uncontrolled flowing wells, it was determined that the amount of water discharged by these wells was not significant.

The Distribution section also held meetings with water users to assess the need to establish a commissioner-operated, water user-funded distribution system and begin the metering of wells. The result of these meetings was that the implementation of a distribution system and the metering of wells would be delayed to see if the changes resulting from the acreage compilation would resolve the problem of declining ground-water levels.

I still remain committed to the goal of reducing ground-water withdrawals to an annual average of about 60,000 acre-feet per year, which is considered to be the safe yield of the valley's aquifer system. If this can not be achieved through acreage compliance, then additional action may be necessary. Over the past three years, ground-water levels (as represented by the U.S. Geological Survey continuous monitoring well near Flowell) show continued declines. We will continue to monitor ground-water levels and withdrawals, but I cannot rule out the future distribution of water based on priority date, the establishment of a distribution system with a commissioner, or the metering of wells. If forced to distribute water by priority date, I would establish the distribution system and order the metering of wells first, then phase in the pumpage reductions over several years to allow water users a reasonable amount of time to make operational and financial adjustments.

Again, I would like to thank you for your past cooperation in the development and implementation of this Plan, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
State Engineer

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