



State of Idaho  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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CECIL D. ANDRUS

GOVERNOR  
RECEIVED  
KATHLEEN HIGGINSON  
DIRECTOR

January 21, 1994

George Lemmon  
1050 E. 2727 South  
Hagerman, ID 83332

JAN 25 1994

Department of Water Resources  
Southern Region Office

Re: Water District 36A Water Right Lists and Budgeting

Dear George:

During 1994 I believe that the water district will have to operate more formally under the Idaho laws pertaining to water districts. This means that the watermaster will have to work on a more regular basis and be responsible for distributing water supplies and recording daily diversions. To accomplish this objective, the district needs to adopt a formal budget and each water right holder will have to be assessed a fee to cover the watermaster's salary and related expenses. Before a budget can be adopted, a budget must first be drafted and proposed to the water users at the water district's annual meeting. The department will assist the district in preparing a proposed budget prior to this year's annual meeting. Since you are the current watermaster, your input will be needed for this process.

One of the challenges that the district and department face in preparing a budget is in compiling a water rights listing which will reflect current ownership and rates of diversions. We also need a basis for the assessments. The department's water right database and adjudication database both will have to be used to assist in the budgeting process. Your assistance will be needed in deciding which rights and right holders should ultimately be included in the budget.

Attached to this letter are two water rights listings which you should review. The first listing includes all of the original decreed, licensed, permitted rights and beneficial use claims within District 36A. The second listing includes rights as recommended in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) Director's Report for Basin 36. This second list is important in that it will provide us with the current ownership of rights, including the nature of whole decreed or licensed rights which have split ownerships. Listed below are some points about the list which you should be aware of as you review them:

- the administrative water rights listing (or water rights listing) contains a comment field called 'SRBA NOTES'. This field identifies which rights are reported as split ownership rights in the SRBA directors report. It also identifies those rights which

were not claimed in the SRBA, plus those rights which IDWR recommended as disallowed in the directors report.

- Rights on the administrative water rights listing identified as 'not claimed' or 'disallowed' will not appear in the SRBA listing. Some permitted rights, or permits, which are on the administrative list will not show up on the SRBA list.

- the priority dates, rates of diversion and names given on the administrative water rights listing are the actual rates, dates and names found in the decree or licenses, unless updated by a transfer or other ownership change reported to IDWR prior to the SRBA. Sources and rates of diversion for the same rights in the SRBA listing may differ than what was originally decreed or licensed.

- some rights on administrative list which share a common priority date and owner may have been combined under water right claim number in the SRBA. The 'SRBA-NOTES' field identifies those rights and refers to the renumbered claim given in the SRBA report.

- water uses under the 'USE' field on both the administrative and SRBA list are identified by codes. Refer to the attached water use code list to determine uses. The 'USE' field in the administrative listing may not include multiple uses if there are indeed multiple uses for a given right. Generally, this field does include the primary use.

At this time I would like for you to just review the lists. You may make your own notes if you wish. I would like to schedule a meeting with you in our Twin Falls office as soon as possible and no later than the first week of February. At this meeting we can review the lists together and try to resolve each other's questions. I would also like to take that opportunity to discuss potential water district costs and budget items for 1994.

Please contact me as soon as possible to set a meeting date. You may contact me directly by phoning 327-7864.

Sincerely,



Tim Luke  
Water Allocations

cc: Region  
R. Keith Higginson, Director