

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Re: Large POU map for Minidoka Irrigation District

Danielle recently sent me a copy of the maps containing the latest pou revisions submitted by the Minidoka Irrigation District. After comparing the District's shapes with the aerial photos and the USGS quad maps, I found that irrigation was difficult to confirm for a substantial number of acres. One of the biggest problems was that many of the major canals, drains, and roads were included in the District's shape file. I edited their file to remove acres that did not appear to be irrigated in townships 8S 24E, 8S 25E, 9S 24E, and 9S 25E.

Because of the time required to remove the acreage in arcview, I did not edit the remaining townships in the District (9S 22E, 9S 23E, 10S 22E, 10S 23E, and 10S 24E). However, I did review those townships and identified the lands that did not appear to be irrigated with a black marker on paper maps sent to me by Danielle. I did not identify major roads, drains, and canals on those maps, but the District's shape file needed to be edited to remove those features from the acre count as well. Eric Norquest, after receiving the marked up maps completed the editing work on the remaining 5 townships based on the marked up maps. The resulting shape file was named "minidoka acres 6-2-05.shp."

The District then reviewed our revised shape file ("minidoka acres 6-2-05.shp") and submitted another shape file ("added-pou.shp") displaying irrigated acres that they believe should be added to the total acres counted.

The purpose of today's meeting was to review evidence submitted by the District in support of the inclusion of the additional acres shown in "added-pou.shp". Meeting attendees included representatives of MID (Ruth Bailes, Michael Wilkins, Bill Thompson, and their attorney, Kent Fletcher) and Michael Holliday.

After comparing the District's aerial photographs and with "added-pou.shp" I was adequately convinced that the acres shown in that shape file had been irrigated prior to 1987. The acreage along the interstate was counted, even though it became exluded land in 1980, because the owners of the newly annexed replacement lands had until 1990 to complete their projects, and the newly annexed lands were not included in the count.

Mr. Fletcher said that the District is also searching for evidence to substantiate the former irrigation of what is now a 10 mile stretch of railroad right of way. A 100 foot wide right of way would amount to an additional 120 irrigated acres.

mwh