



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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February 12, 1996

PHILIP E. BATT
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

CONNIE BRANDAU
WATER DISTRICT 57R
HC 79 BOX 61
MELBA ID 83641

RE: District Budget

Dear Connie:

Enclosed are statutory references to Water District budgeting and reporting. Specifically, I.C. § 42-612 discusses the assessment of charges for purposes other than Watermaster salary and operating expenses.

Although this section states that special charges be assessed based on past deliveries, a resolution passed by majority vote at the Water District annual meeting may authorize an alternate method of assessment. For instance, a pro-rata assessment may be based on recorded rights, or the total anticipated expense could be shared equally among the users. The special charges should be shown separately on the proposed budget and will be combined with the delivery charges by the county for billing.

Water District 57R may also authorize, by resolution, a minimum yearly charge for all water users. Other Water Districts have utilized this as a way to obtain regular contributions toward operating expenses from junior right holders who would not otherwise be assessed. The minimum charge may be an absolute minimum, or might be assessed in addition to yearly Watermaster charges (see also I.C. § 42-612).

Our assignments have not yet been distributed for the March Water District meetings, but I will likely be sent to the Reynolds Creek meeting. I'll be happy to help answer any general questions about this process at that time. In the meantime, please call me or John Westra if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hodges
Sr. Water Resource Agent

Enclosure

cc: Jerry Hoagland