Conference Notes

Hansen/Vance Combined Applications 63-33064 & 63-33063

From: J. Westra
Date: 05/06/09
Location: Western Reg Conf. Rm
Attending: See roster attached

The conference began with introductions and some house rules on participation. The handouts were presented. Applicants began the process by presentation of their proposals.

Hansen—Steve Hannula
The Hansens presented their reasons for not being able to utilize the surface water for their grapes. The debris from surface water would quickly plug their drip system and the water quality would affect their grape yield/taste. The Hansens are willing to reduce their pumping flow rate to .04 cfs and overall volume. Mr. Hannula presented the reasoning and calculations related to their needs. Mr. Hansen stated, the Jobes and Nitz have split their properties and adding 2 more domestic (homes) uses. There did not seem to be a problem when that was done. Hansens pump 6 hours /1 Zone /day —7 zones—some emitters ½ gal/hour.

Vance—
The Vances have been irrigating their parcel since 1972. They are above the surface water ditch and have not ever been able to petition into the New York Irrigation district. Mrs. Vance had recently approached the district and the answer was still no. They have a set up of big gun sprinklers that are operated 1 at a time. Approx. 30-40 gal/min is the estimated flow rate. They really only have one option that being ground water.

Protestants

Herb Nitz—
Mr. Nitz stated he had lived on his property for 49 years. The Vance property was split and the field below the ditch had surface water, but the upper portion never had district water. The Hansens should be required to use their surface water for irrigation like the rest of the neighbors. They should adhere to the ½ acre domestic ground water definition. No one should be pumping with 5 hp. Pumps on 6"domestic wells.
Presently, his pump is at the bottom of his well and is pumping sand.

Fred Nitz
The applicants should both be required to use surface water. Struggles with the idea of renting water from the water bank short term. Should be curtailed. ½ ac. under domestic that's it. Mrs Nitz questioned the ground water right receiving a season from 3/01 to 11/15 when the surface water does not come in until 4/1 and can be cut off early.

Mr. Lloyd
Parties should be utilizing surface water from the project-New York Dist. IDWR needs to a better job of ground water regulation. His well is within 5 ft. of the casing bottom, and is pumping from a 2 ft. water bearing zone. There continues to be draw down of the aquifer.

Jobe
Mr. Jobe was critical of the Department for not regulating ground water, and he having to waste time protesting these applications. The neighbors need to be protected. Their well has sulfur issues and filters are needed. Mrs. Jobe questioned why the neighbors were not notified when the vineyard was installed.

IDWR
- I discussed the handout sheets—evaluation criteria, non-regulation of ground water in the Treasure Valley, and the hearing process. The state does not guarantee pumping levels. The pumping levels in the applicants area are considered reasonable.
-The Department has limited resources; we do not have police powers as F&G. Our enforcement is done through administrative statutes
-Some older wells are not on the spreadsheet. Drillers were not required to submit well logs prior to 1987.

Followup
-Check in with parties in 30 days for progress, Schedule a hearing for fall, separate applications if progress has not been made. Applicants need to work with protestants individually.

Comment:
Protestants made it difficult to focus on issues in the combined setting. Little headway was made in working toward settlements.