



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

May 18, 1999

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

LEE PETERSON, WATERMASTER
WATER DISTRICT 37
PO BOX T
SHOSHONE ID 83352

*Water District 37
1999 File*

RE: Sun Valley Company Exchange of Flows

Dear Lee:

Thank you for sending the exchange plan for the Sun Valley River Run project. Attached is a letter I recently sent to Peter Stearns, Director of Snowmaking at Sun Valley Resort. I have requested specific meter information from Mr. Stearns to add to our water right file and IDWR may pursue the calibration of these meters this coming winter to ensure accuracy of the reported volumes. Ongoing monitoring of this diversion, however, should be done by the Water District and it is our intent to instruct the Sun Valley Company to continue to report its annual discharge and redirection volumes to you.

The exchange of ground and surface waters completed by the Sun Valley Company is authorized pursuant to §42-105(1) Idaho Code (copy attached) and is subject to a measurement and reporting requirement under the jurisdiction of a local Watermaster. The authorizing permit, no. 37-08575A, also carries a measurement requirement. Because the commingled source is the Big Wood River, it is appropriate for Water District 37 to monitor the exchange and to include a record of exchanged flows in its annual report.

Beginning with next year's annual report, please include an accounting of flows redirected from the Big Wood River pursuant to permit 37-08575A by Sun Valley Company. Include both the discharged and reclaimed volumes. This entry might be separated from irrigation diversions under a "miscellaneous" category. Since the 1998/99 snowmaking season is within the 1999 Water Year beginning October 1, 1998, the volumes which Sun Valley submitted in February of this year should be placed in the 1999 District Report.

IDWR recommends that you implement a self-reporting program with Sun Valley similar to the one we use in the Water Measurement Districts, rather than requiring the Deputy Watermaster to read the flow meters periodically. I can assist you with this by working with Mr. Stearns until a satisfactory record keeping and reporting plan is established. Thereafter, a single spot check of both meters by the Water District during the summer months to verify totalizer readings should be sufficient to maintain quality control.

May 18, 1999

page 2

I understand that the Sun Valley appropriations for snowmaking from Warm Springs Creek and other appropriations for non-consumptive uses are presently not charged a District assessment for winter diversions. Not all off-season uses require monitoring, and at this time we are not asking for you to assess and regulate any other existing non-irrigation season diversion. However, the River Run exchange with Big Wood River water must be treated as a new appropriation of surface water which has the potential to damage senior users of both surface and ground waters.

If you feel it is necessary to assess the River Run rediversion, you may consider modification of your District Resolution #7 or #8, assessment of non-consumptive uses, to authorize that charge. Non-consumptive uses which require monitoring during the off-season could be assessed in accordance with either of the existing resolutions, depending on the magnitude of the work involved. With Sun Valley Co. on a self-reporting basis, I would expect monitoring to be minimal and field visits limited to one per year.

I will keep you apprised of my correspondence with Mr. Stearns and would like you to be present during any field visits I might make in the future to calibrate meters. If you have any questions, please call me at 208-327-5406 or Tim Luke at 208-327-7864.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hodges
Sr. Water Resource Agent
Water Distribution Section

cc: IDWR Southern Region
1999 Water District File