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DEC 26 1970  
Department of Water Administration

December 24, 1970

Mr. R. K. Higginson, Director  
Idaho Dept. of Water Administration  
Statehouse - Annex 2  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear Sir:

This letter is to remind you of the Committee of Nine meeting to be held at the Westbank Hotel in Idaho Falls at 9:00 A.M. January 6, 1971.

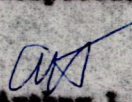
The primary objectives are to allow the U. S. Geological Survey and District 36 to identify and describe the details and costs of the services performed by the watermaster's office.

Because this meeting will be concerned exclusively with the internal operation and management of Water District 36, it would be well that attendance be limited only to those having direct responsibility for such operations and management.

Numbers having such responsibility includes the Committee of Nine and its legal advisors, the Idaho Department of Water Administration, and the Geological Survey.

If you feel additional attendance is required, please let us know in advance.

Respectfully yours,

  
Arthur L. Larson  
Watermaster, District 36

1970

## U. S. G. S. Idaho Falls Subdistrict Activities

### Responsibilities:

The Idaho Falls Subdistrict office is an operational arm of the District Office in Boise with a responsibility for data collection and processing in a large area of southeastern Idaho and parts of western Wyoming. Its strictly Subdistrict responsibilities, as separated from Water District and Watermaster functions, include:

1. Stream flow data collection at gaging stations, crest-stage stations, and miscellaneous measurement sites, including operation and maintenance of instruments, gages, cableways, and appurtenant structures.
2. Computation and compilation of stream flow data preparatory to final review for publication.
3. Measurement and recording of ground-water level data from wells and piezometers. Records are processed in the District Office.
4. Collection and shipping of water samples for chemical-quality analysis of both streamflow and ground-water.
5. Assisting Geological Survey staff personnel in making level surveys to gages and wells, in making site surveys for gaging stations, and in field data collection for water-resources appraisal studies.
6. Making measurements and studies, or assisting Geological Survey District staff personnel in making studies of floods and flood hazards, surface water-ground water relationships, and related general hydrologic conditions in the geographic area of the Subdistrict.

### Current Program:

The present program includes the operation of 32 gaging stations needed for water management in the WD#36 operations, 2 stations in the USGS Federal program, 11 stations for the State-Federal cooperative program, 2 stations for a combined State-Federal-BLM program, 1 station for a combined State-Federal-WD#66 program, 1 station for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries, 1 station for Corps of Engineers, and 5 stations for the Bureau of Reclamation. These last 23 stations are in addition to, and separate from activities related to WD#36 needs except for one Federal station (Heise) that is vital to Water District operations. In addition, the Subdistrict operates and maintains 18 maximum-flow (or Crest-stage) stations, 13 for a USGS-State Highway Department cooperative program and 5 for the US Forest service. These are expected to terminate on September 30, 1971. In the ground-water program, the Subdistrict collects water-level data at 45 wells, 30 for the Bureau of Reclamation and 15 for the Federal-State cooperative program. Also, 27 sites are sampled for water quality analysis at the USGS laboratory facilities, either at Boise or in Salt Lake City.

#### Program Adjustment:

This total program is adjusted from time to time to maintain knowledge of the over-all hydrologic system and to meet the needs of the various participating and cooperating agencies. Priorities for allocating supporting funds must be re-determined as needs and funds-availability change. Basically, the water-management stations are operated to measure and record water availability and delivery, and continued so long as the need is sufficient that the benefitting water users provide funding support. When water-user needs no longer justify water-user funding support, the water-management classification ends and the station is either re-classified or discontinued. The hydrologic data inventory or documentation stations are operated on a priority sufficient to obtain a significant and meaningful period of record. The other stations are generally operated for specific problem-solving purposes and may vary in priority within small time intervals.

#### Data Collection and Processing:

The data collected by the Subdistrict staff are field measurements which must be processed in various ways to make them useful for water development, management, and the general water user. This processing involves office computation, compilation, tabulation, and technical review and checking. When the Subdistrict has completed these actions on the data to be published by the Geological Survey, the information goes to the District Office in Boise where that part that is to be published or otherwise released is given final review and checking. It is then prepared in Boise in proper form for release and publication. Much of the data must be processed on special time schedules and in special form to meet immediate local needs prior to publication. This often requires re-handling or multiple processing of the same data. Special equipment and automated procedures requiring special training and experience are used wherever possible to minimize the costs of these special processing needs.

#### Staffing:

The current Subdistrict responsibilities require one hydraulic engineering technician to make field measurements, maintain equipment, and assist with office processing of the data; one professional engineer or hydrologist to supervise and assist with field activities, make the office computations and direct the data processing, and to manage the Subdistrict; and one clerk-typist on a half-time basis. This need is now met by Mr. Virgil devoting essentially full time to field data collection and maintenance, Mr. Larson spending less than 40% of his time on management and computation, Mr. Bennett devoting approximately 60% of his time to supervision, computation, and processing of the records, and Mrs. Zavala devoting about 35% of her time to clerical and typing work for the Subdistrict. When the varying work load exceeds the capabilities within this staffing, assistance is provided from the District Office in Boise and from hydrographers paid directly from Water District funds. A credit of \$4,000 was made to the Water District in 1970 to cover this hydrographer assistance.

Funding:

The gaging stations, crest-stage stations, wells and sampling sites, exclusive of those water-management stations needed by the Watermaster for Water District management, are operated and funded as a part of the total Geological Survey District program. The salary, operating, construction, maintenance, administrative and technical-supervisory costs of this part of the program are charged to the various accounts from which funds are acquired to support the same cost items in the total Geological Survey District program, according to the appropriate proportion that the Subdistrict activity represents. These costs are separate from and not charged in any way to Water District #36 fund sources, even though much of the data and work thus supported is of direct benefit to the Water District and its water users.

The water-management stations in the Federal-State cooperative program identified by the Watermaster as necessary to Water District operation are also operated and maintained as part of the Subdistrict activity, and their data are processed and distributed. The cost to the Geological Survey to operate these stations and process the data will be \$40,675 during the coming (1971) operating year (USGS Fiscal year 1972). The sources of funds to support that cost are Water District #36 -- \$10,115, State of Idaho appropriation to the Federal-State cooperative program -- \$10,225, and the Geological Survey matching funds account -- \$20,335. Thus, the Water District pays approximately 25 percent of the cost to support flow-measurement and water distribution recordation absolutely necessary to the operation of the Watermaster function according to rights, decrees, and Idaho law. The State pays a second 25 percent, and the Federal Government pays 50 percent of the cost even though many of these strictly water-management stations are not necessary to the Federal responsibility to record and document the water resources and provide general hydrologic data.

### Cost of the Watermaster function

The watermaster function, as described by Mr. Larson, is clearly a complex, multiple-duty activity requiring more than the capabilities and attention of one person. As currently assigned by the water users and the Committee of Nine, the activity is essentially that of Water District management. The Watermaster is required to not only manage and distribute the water according to a complicated set of rights, decrees, storage allocations, and water transfer agreements, but he also serves a multitude of other functions. He serves the secretarial functions for both the water users and the Committee of Nine, manages and disburses the operational funds of the Water District, prepares billings and collects the assessed income of the Water District, serves as the Water District representative and advocate before public and private groups, represents the Water District on legal actions in those matters directly related to Watermaster activities, hires and directs all employees of the Water District, and in virtually every respect is a spokesman and the representative of the water users in the total management of their Water District affairs.

The costs of the assigned Watermaster function directly identifiable as an obligation of the Water District and Chargeable to Water District funds may be grouped in four categories: Salary and field expenses of hydrographers and river riders employed and paid by the Water District; miscellaneous operational costs directly attributable to the Watermaster and Water District operations; salary of the Watermaster and staff; and the proportionate share of operation and maintenance of water-management stations necessary to the Watermaster functions. As will be discussed by Mr. Larson, each of the categories contain the following: ~~15,500~~ <sup>15,500</sup> ~~10,900~~ <sup>10,900</sup>

#### Hydrographers and River Riders

The present-day management and distribution of water requires the service of six hydrographers and seven river riders in addition to the activities of the Watermaster and staff. Salary and expenses for these total \$ 26,400

#### Miscellaneous operational items

Several cost items are specific charges against Water District operations and are charged directly against Water District funds. These are:

- Gage readers
- Vehicle milage for Watermaster work
- Subsistence while on Water District work
- Telephone and telemark
- Social Security for Water District employees
- Bond premium of Watermaster
- Insurance for Water District liability
- Storage rental
- Snow pillow
- Ground-water data collections (Aberdeen-Springfield area)
- Postage
- Interest on loans
- Incidentals, including part-time clerical help on specifically Water District needs.

These costs amount to ----- \$ 9,875

### Salary of Watermaster and Staff

It has been previously shown that the Watermaster (Water District management) function requires at least 60 percent of the time of Mr. Larson, 40 percent of the time of Mr. Bennett, and 65 percent of the time of the clerk, Mrs. Zavala. Consequently, these percentages of the total salary and benefits of these three persons represent an obligation of the Water District. As now foreseen, this cost for the coming operating year is \$24,228. The remainder of the total salary and benefit load for these three persons (\$21,022) is an obligation chargeable to Subdistrict operations.

Because this represents an approximately even division of obligation, and in order to minimize annual computation of this obligation, the Geological Survey proposes that it be agreed to annually divide the salary and benefits obligation for the three-member Watermaster and staff on a 50-50 basis. If so agreed, the salary and benefits obligation of the Water District for the coming year would be ----- \$22,625.

### Water-management station operation

It was earlier discussed and shown that the total cost of the Geological Survey for operation of the 32 water-management stations necessary to the Watermaster function is \$40,675. As noted, and in accordance with the policy and procedures applied statewide, the 25 percent proportionate share of this cost chargeable to the Water District in the 1971 operational year is ----- \$10,115.

Would get credit for HYDROGRAPHER  
ACTIVITIES - \$4000 IN 1970

#22,625  
#10,115  
#68,965 - 1971  
66,580 - 1970

Daily Segregation of Flow - Henrys Fork 1970

Filling June 1, 1894 priority water right on  
Main River; June 1, 1892 Teton River

<u>Location</u>	<u>Stored</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Henrys Fork near Lake (Aug. 20)	135	46	181
Stored Loss (Lake to Island Park (4%) )	5		
Stored diversions above Island Park	15		
F. M. Dist. Sheridan Cr. Right	<u>12</u>		
	127		
Stored water released from Island Park (change of reservoir contents minus stored inflow)673			
Henrys Fork near Island Park (Aug. 21)	800	610	1,410
Island Park to Ashton			
Stored Loss (2½%)	20		
Stored Diversions	<u>5</u>		
Henrys Fork near Ashton (Aug. 22)	775	1,535	2,310
Grassy Lake storage release (Aug. 21) <i>WHERE IS ?</i>	20		
Stored diversions Ashton to St. Anthony	<u>557</u>		
Henrys Fork at St. Anthony (Aug. 22)	238	1,202	1,440
Stored diversions St. Amthony to Rexburg			
Henrys Fork	226		
Teton River	<u>122</u>		
Henrys Fork near Rexburg (Aug. 23)	-110	1,690	1,580

## Henrys Fork Storage Operation 1970

### Storage Allotments

Water available for Fremont-Madison allotments was as follows:

Island Park Reservoir	(July 12)	135,600 a.f.
Grassy Lake Reservoir	(July 15)	15,100
Sheridan Creek right		<u>1,450</u>
Total		152,150

The District allotted 132,939 acre-feet for the 1970 season. In addition 1,370 acre-feet was rented to Henrys Fork users.

Henrys Lake contents on July 11, 1970 was 89,200 acre-feet. From this, a figure of 3,000 acre-feet was deducted for dead storage and loss for a total of 86,200 a.f.

### Storage Use

#### Henrys Lake

<u>Canal</u>	<u>Henrys Lake Storage Used</u>
Independent	4,876 a.f.
Salem Union	0
Consolidated Farmers	0
Last Chance	5,732
St. Anthony Union	0
Egin	0
Dewey	<u>1,233</u>
Total Used	11,841 a.f.
Storage released from Henrys Lake	12,250
Excess release over use	410
Henrys Fork near Rexburg storage release for 1970	-9,797
Credit from other reservoirs:	
Enterprise use	5,883
Other individuals (Bergman, Indian L.)	948
Fremont-Madison, Palisades Allotment	1,000
Palisades waterusers use	<u>550</u>
	8,381
Henrys Fork Owes Main River	1,416

At the end of September, Fremont-Madison District owed the main river 1,416 acre-feet of storage. This deficit on Henrys Fork will be cancelled when that amount is spilled from Island Park after filling, or, after American Falls reservoir spills that amount.

COMMITTEE OF NINE MEETING  
Ponderosa Inn - Burley, Idaho

December 16, 1970

NY  
PAC  
AD  
KHF  
WLF  
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JAN 21 '71 BDF

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman, Graham.

Present were: Leonard Graham, Chairman; Al Peters, Vice-Chairman; C. N. Scoresby, Secretary; Leo Murdock, J. Lavon Christensen, Lynn Loosli, Lester Saunders, John Stevenson, William Kerner, Glenn Simmons, Burdell Curtis and Willis Walker.

Representing the Bureau of Reclamation were Glenn Simmons, Gordon Bass, Jim Skiles, Terrence Gulley, Jay Gravens, and John Walker; Water District 36, Art Larson; Attorneys, John Rosholt and Kent Foster; Idaho Water Resources Board, LeRoy Stanger; about 21 canal company managers and representatives of waterusers.

Terry Gulley reported on reservoir and river operations. He noted that precipitation has been above normal, and with the large carryover in the reservoirs, the operating plan is mostly to pass inflow thru most of the reservoirs, including American Falls after the ice level is reached early in January. The minimum flow past Minidoka so far this season has been 3,100 cfs. Copy of Mr. Gulley's detailed report attached to original minutes.

Report of Power Loss Committee was given by Burdell Curtis. Mr. Curtis moved it be accepted, Al Peters seconded the motion. Report accepted. Copy attached to original minutes.

Jim Skiles reported on past years maintenance work of 5-man reclamation crew. Work included repairs to Minidoka Dam, riprapping around American Falls Reservoir, beginning of work towards a permanent concrete coffee dam at downstream end of spillway channel at Palisades, completion of spillway at Grassy Lake, and miscellaneous repairs at Jackson and Island Park Dams.

Art Larson reported that the outlook for 1971 is excellent, with a good possibility of substantial carryover in prospect for the following year. He presented a slide projection of numerous gaging stations on the rivers and canals in the area.

Glenn Simmons presented budget estimates for the 1970-71 period and the actual costs for 1969-70 as follows:

	<u>1970 costs</u>	<u>1971 estimate</u>
Jackson Lake	\$33,900	\$42,800
Island Park	17,000	26,400
Grassy Lake	29,800	4,000
Palisades	34,800	39,800
American Falls	47,600	43,600
Minidoka	27,000	23,400

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

C. N. Scoresby  
Secretary

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DEC 9 1970

Department of Water Administration

December 7, 1970

Hon. Leonard Graham, Chairman  
Committee of Nine, Water District 36

R. Keith Higginson, Director  
Idaho Department of Water Administration

Gentlemen:

This letter is to announce the need for, and to request your concurrence and assistance in, a one-day meeting to discuss and find solutions to problems of funding and operations of the Watermaster function for Water District 36. By mutual agreement between yourselves and Mr. Larson, a meeting has been called for Wednesday, January 6, 1971 at 9:00 A.M. at the Westbank Motel in Idaho Falls. The primary objectives are to allow the Geological Survey and the Watermaster to present a detailed description of the work of Mr. Larson and the Idaho Falls staff on behalf of Water District 36, to again identify and describe the costs of this work, and to reach agreement as to the content, form, and procedure for annual adjustment of the Water District budgets as it applies to the Watermaster responsibility.

Because this meeting will be concerned exclusively with the internal operation and management of Water District 36, the Geological Survey would prefer that attendance be limited to those having direct responsibility for such operations and management. Our understanding of such responsibility includes the Committee of Nine and its legal advisors, the Idaho Department of Water Administration staff, and Geological Survey personnel with responsibility for the Watermaster function. If you feel additional attendance is required, please contact this office prior to January 5, 1971.

The Geological Survey plans to conduct the meeting on an informational and instructional basis. Topics planned for discussion are:

1. Summary statement of Idaho law as it relates to administrative control of Water District operations and Watermasters. Election of Watermasters; appointment as deputy to the

Director, Department of Water Administrative; setting of salaries; administrative controls; required reports.

... Mr. Higginson

2. Duties and functions of the Watermaster. Legal requirements of the position; duties assigned by the Water Users at the Annual Meeting; determining amount of water available; operation of storage and delivery facilities; measurement and recording of water deliveries; maintenance of official records; preparation of reports and public-information releases; suits and legal actions against the Watermaster and the District; committee participation; personnel and office management; accounting and billing according to decrees and rights.

... Mr. Larson

3. Stream and canal gaging.  
Need for gaging to meet responsibilities of the Watermaster; need for gaging to meet Federal-State hydrologic data requirements; how gaging is done; how gaging records are processed; how the information is distributed and used; location and selection of gaging sites; costs.

... Mr. Hall

4. U.S.G.S. Idaho Falls Subdistrict activities.  
Responsibilities; program make-up; program adjustments; data collection and processing, staffing; funding.

... Mr. Burnham

5. Cost of the Watermaster function.  
Operations costs exclusive of salaries and proportionate share of Federal-State streamgaging; costs within the District; salary costs; proportionate share of Federal-State streamgaging.

... Mr. Burnham  
Mr. Hall

6. Future budget formulation.  
Identification of District operations cost exclusive of salaries and proportionate share of Federal-State streamgaging; proposed allocation of salary cost between District and Geological Survey; identification of proportionate share of Federal-State streamgaging cost.

... Mr. Larson

Obviously, these discussion topics will require the major part of a day. If there is sufficient interest, however, the Geological

Hon Leonard Graham, Chairman  
R. Keith Higginson, Director  
December 7, 1970

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Survey would be pleased to conduct a visit to various gaging stations and measurement sites near Idaho Falls to make sure that all persons with responsibility for the District affairs fully understand the purpose and complexity of the Watermaster function and the needs for high-quality data.

The interest, hard work, and thoughtful guidance provided to the Geological Survey representatives serving in the Watermaster function are greatly appreciated. Hopefully, this meeting will clarify existing questions and establish a working procedure for future years.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Burnham  
District Chief

cc: Art Larson  
WLB:cr

# COMMITTEE OF NINE

Governing Body for Water District No. 36

P. O. BOX 697, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83403

August 26, 1970

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AUG 25 1970

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE

Mr. George Schultz, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20503

CHAIRMAN	BOARD	9/4
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LAND CLASS.		
REPORTS		
DEVELOPMENT	✓	✓
LARGE PROJECTS		
SMALL PROJECTS		
OFFICE MANAGER		
FILE		

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LEONARD E. GRAHAM, Chmn.  
Director, Great Feeder Canal Co.  
P. O. Box 406, Rigby, Idaho

ALFRED PETERS, Vice-Chmn.  
Manager, Twin Falls Canal Co.  
Box 326, Twin Falls, Idaho

C. N. SCORESBY, Secretary  
Director, Progressive Irrig. Dist.  
Idaho, Idaho

LESTER SAUNDERS,  
Director, North Side Canal Co.  
Box 63, Hazelton, Idaho

J. LAVON CHRISTENSEN  
Director, Snake River Valley  
Irrigation District  
Rt. 2, Shelley, Idaho

LEO D. MURDOCK  
Dir. Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Co.  
Rt. 2, Blackfoot, Idaho

R. WILLIS WALKER  
Dir. Fremont-Madison Irrig. Dist.  
Rexburg, Idaho

LYNN LOOSLI  
Dir. Farmers Own Canal Co.  
Rt. 1, Ashton, Idaho

BURDELL CURTIS  
Manager, Burley Irrig. Dist.  
338 W. 13th, Burley, Idaho

## ADVISORY MEMBERS

F. C. GILLETTE  
Teton Basin  
Victor, Idaho

WILLIAM KERNER  
Dir. Am. Falls Res. Dist. No. 2  
Box 141  
Shoshone, Idaho

GLENN SIMMONS  
Project Super. Minidoka Project  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Burley, Idaho

JOHN STEVENSON  
Director, Minidoka Irrig. Dist.  
Rt. 4, Rupert, Idaho

## WATERMASTER

ARTHUR L. LARSON  
Watermaster, W. D. No. 36  
Box 697, Idaho Falls, Idaho

RE: Palisades Project, Idaho

Recently we have been in receipt of a letter addressed to you dated July 16, 1970, from the Idaho Environmental Council under the signature of H. Tom Davis, Chairman, Water Development Committee. For the reasons we will later detail in this letter, we felt a compulsion to respond.

The Committee of Nine, as the advisory group and official spokesman for Water District #36, is responsible for water deliveries in some fourteen counties in the Upper Snake River Basin in Idaho. Water District #36 is an official Water District established in accordance with the statutes of the State of Idaho, and is charged with the delivery of irrigation water to some 1,200,000 irrigated acres in said fourteen counties in the Upper Snake River Basin in Idaho.

We have become concerned about letters such as that of July 16, 1970, from the Idaho Environmental Council. They are not factual, and they are attempts by provincial groups to upset the tranquility of an otherwise smooth operation, which at this point is the backbone of the economy of Southern Idaho. Some 150 irrigation organizations of varying sizes from a few hundred acres to over two hundred thousand acres participate directly or indirectly in the operation of Water District #36 and financially share the expense of its operation. A small map designating the area served by Water District #36 is enclosed as an exhibit to this letter. From the standpoint of reclamation, flood control, power, fish and wildlife, and recreation, the Palisades Project was a godsend for the Upper Snake River Valley. The Project provided supplemental irrigation storage water for 650,000 acres of irrigated land. Flood protection was provided primarily for areas along the Snake River from Heise, Idaho to the back waters of the American Falls Reservoir near Blackfoot, Idaho. The project provided hydroelectric power needed to serve irrigation pumping loads, municipalities, bureau cooperatives, and others in the Upper Snake River Valley. Recreational and fish and wildlife benefits have been numerous.

SERVING 1,200,000 ACRES OF IRRIGATED LANDS  
IN THE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY, IDAHO.

In the reauthorization of the Palisades Project by Congress in 1950, the Bureau of Reclamation was actually ahead of its time in its thinking in regard to recreation, and fish and wildlife. The feasibility report on the project contained recommendations for facilities and operations to greatly benefit these functions.

When the supporters of the Palisades Project went to Congress in 1950, and the project was re-authorized as a multiple-purposed development, Congress reapproved the Project on the basis that the Palisades Reservoir would provide an average annual use for irrigation for 216,000 acre feet. Actual operation for the years 1957 through 1969 indicates that the average annual use of water out of the reservoir amounted to 500,000 acre feet. This larger use, in part is brought about as a result of the joint operation of the Palisades Reservoir with the upstream Jackson Lake Reservoir. Actually, in lieu of utilizing water out of Jackson Lake, at times it is supplied by the Palisades Reservoir. This in turn, permits the maintenance of an adequate water level in Jackson Lake for recreational and fish purposes. Reliable statistics indicate that about 225,000 acre feet of the 284,000 acre foot increase of use out of Palisades result from this joint operation. This still leaves a net annual increment increase of about 60,000 acre feet for irrigation over and above that which was originally anticipated.

Because of the joint operation of Palisades and Jackson Lake Reservoirs, it is possible to utilize space in Jackson Lake Reservoir for flood control purposes so as to protect against floods greater than those anticipated in the feasibility report and in the program which Congress authorized.

The average annual power generation of Palisades is 525.9 million kilowatt-hours. At the time of authorization, it was anticipated that the average annual generation would be 521.4 million kilowatt hours. The actual operations of Palisades Reservoir are resulting in greater energy and power values than anticipated in the original feasibility report.

Originally Palisades was allocated \$6,296,000.00 for recreation. This valuation was based upon a joint operation of Palisades Reservoir and Jackson Lake Reservoir in Teton National Park. The joint operation involved utilizing storage from Palisades Reservoir for irrigation before drawing water from Jackson Lake. This joint operation has resulted in a relative stabilization of Jackson Lake during the recreational seasons in all years except extremely dry ones. The new authorization of the project, in 1950, the Bureau of the Budget stated that the large allocation to recreation would be contrary to existing policy and the allocation was officially eliminated in the authorizing legislation. Subsequent to authorization, even though the Bureau of Reclamation eliminated the allocation, as required by law, the Bureau has operated Palisades Reservoir jointly with Jackson Lake Reservoir and is achieving the recreation benefits originally anticipated. Not only do recreational benefits accrue as a result of Jackson Lake Reservoir stabilization, but flows in the Snake River downstream below Jackson Lake Reservoir through

the Jackson Hole country, are controlled to provide additional recreational and fish and wildlife benefits. In 1950, the National Park Service anticipated that the annual number of visitors to the Palisades area would be about 6,250. Operating experience to date indicates that the annual average visitor days over a twelve year period are about 255,900.

In 1950, the feasibility report included a recommendation that 55,000 acre feet of active capacity in the Palisades Reservoir be utilized to stabilize Gray's Lake. The objective here was to utilize the Palisades water for irrigation in lieu of water being drawn from Gray's Lake by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for an Indian project. The objective of all this was to restore Gray's Lake to its original condition. Again the Bureau of the Budget said that this proposal, in conjunction with the Palisades Project, would not be in accord with the present program. Congress also concluded it was not suitable for inclusion. Although Congress would not approve the requested \$2,800,000.00 allocation to fish and wildlife benefits to accrue to the Gray's Lake portion of the project, Congress did authorize the construction of a fish hatchery in conjunction with the Palisades Project. In addition, the holding of Jackson Lake Reservoir above a certain elevation permits fish spawning. Improved flows in the Snake River below Jackson Lake improves fishing in the stretch of the river through the Jackson Hole country.

The Palisades Project was constructed at a cost considerably below that contained in the feasibility report. The document carried an estimated cost of \$76,601,000.00. The actual construction cost, as contained in the March, 1970 final report on allocation of cost, Palisades Project, Idaho, was \$62,786,461.00. The construction cost was almost \$14,000,000 below the feasibility estimate.

In summary, water users of the Upper Snake River Basin are proud of Palisades Reservoir and the manner in which it has been operated through the cooperation of the Minidoka Project office of the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Idaho through Water District #36. We feel that a restudy of the water and associated resources of the Upper Snake River Basin would certainly support the data we have set forth hereinabove. We of course have no idea what evidence the Idaho Environmental Council may have to support its views in the letter dated July 16, 1970. We object to the Council's charge that the Palisades Project was "poorly conceived, and inefficiently operated" by the Bureau of Reclamation.

It is our conclusion that Congress was indeed far-sighted in their authorization and construction of the Palisades Project. It is difficult to imagine an irrigated area wherein the owners of a 1,200,000 irrigated acres would join together in support of a stipulated decree as to their own and each other's water rights within a river basin.

However, after the completion of the Palisades Project, such decrees were entered and confirmed by the appropriate courts of the State of Idaho and the River has been operated more efficiently and with more benefits to all since the completion of construction. We submit that the attack by the Idaho Environmental Council in their letter of July 16, 1970 is mere folly.

Respectfully submitted,

LEONARD GRAHAM, Chairman  
Committee of Nine