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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

February 10, 2015

Water District 57-C Castle Creek
C/o Blaine Collett, President
25804 Collett Road
Oreana, Idaho 83650-5074

Steve Lester, Interim Western Region Manager
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Western Region
2735 Airport Way
Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

RE: Your letter dated January 2, 2015

Dear Steve:

At our recent district meeting, we discussed at length the concerns outlined in your letter. Obviously, as the ones who depend on water from Castle Creek to drive our operations, we are also extremely interested in the proper administration of our water rights. As a district, we discussed some concerns of our own, reached some conclusions, and also took some actions in an effort to improve the management of water from Castle Creek.

One major concern is the volume of flow at certain times of the year. Notwithstanding the last two years, creeks like this can experience extremely high flows, either during spring run-off, or during cloudburst events at other times of the year. Keeping a measuring device in place during these conditions is extremely difficult, if not impossible.

We acknowledged that the measurements and estimates of flow made by the Water Master for the purpose of satisfying the various water rights may not be completely accurate under all conditions, but agreed that he would use the best tools and experience that he could, and the water users would have to accept his judgment and discretion. We affirmed this agreement as a resolution included in the minutes of that meeting.

However, also affirmed by resolution, was the right of any party that felt aggrieved as to the water distribution by the Water Master, to install and maintain, at his or her expense, an approved measuring device from which the Water Master must use to obtain the measurements for that diversion.


Another measure that we took, in an effort to be proactive toward an issue that has been somewhat of a trouble spot over the last few years was to notify by letter those water users who have storage rights from Castle Creek as to the dates that they may divert water to storage without regard to prior irrigation rights, and when those unregulated diversions come under the rules of the irrigation season of use.


Something that has helped immensely is the information that you have supplied to the Water Master and to the water users of the district regarding the delivery priority for each water right and the irrigation season of use. Having each water user know and understand where his or her water right stands in regard to other water users is a large part of the management challenge.

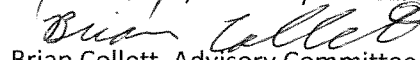
In summary, it appears that the cost and effort to install and maintain lockable measuring devices do not offer enough of a benefit to change the system under which we are now operating. As long as the water users in the district can agree and get along to administer their water rights in a cooperative manner, we don't feel the need to require lockable, measurable headgates.

We appreciate your input and your willingness to answer those questions that arise from time to time regarding water administration.

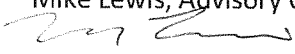
Sincerely,

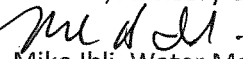

Blaine Collett, President


Nick Nettleton, Secretary-Treasurer


Brian Collett, Advisory Committee

Mike Lewis, Advisory Committee


Cal Low, Advisory Committee


Mike Ihli, Water Master