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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

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Little Weiser Irrigation District Changes and Improvements

I have been retained by Little Weiser Irrigation District (District) to inform water users and landowners within the district of some changes and improvements the District is contemplating in order to more efficiently use and distribute water. Those changes may or may not affect you but the purpose is to improve water delivery from C. Ben Ross to all District water users.

During the past several years, the Board has made numerous improvements to the Little Weiser Irrigation system. These include repair of the inlet canal head gate and trash collector, construction of a flash board dam in the reservoir spillway, subsequent approval of a water right for the additional 2 feet of reservoir storage, installation of weirs and head gates on all diversions, rip-rapping the upper face of the Ben Ross dam and construction of the river weir above the Little Weiser bridge. All of these system improvements contribute to improved efficiency and fairness of water delivery to all district irrigators.

Two additional improvement projects remain to be completed. These are concrete restoration of the Ben Ross Reservoir outlet and reconstruction of the water control structures on the Anderson Draw between the lower outlet canal and the Little Weiser River.

Due to possible controversy regarding the Anderson Draw project, the Board decided to inform all district water users about this project. The Board of Directors and I have reviewed water law, ditch and maintenance rights under the law and reviewed the historic use and factual changes the Board desired to make and feel confident they will be acting within compliance of law.

The District, in the past and present, has used Anderson Draw below the lower canal to deliver water to some of the users. There are old diversion head gates and other debris in that Gulch between the lower canal and the Little Weiser River which has not been maintained or used in recent years.

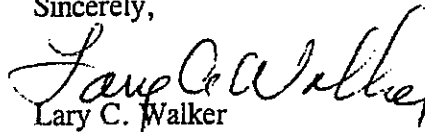
In order to shorten delivery time and maintain better control of the volume of water delivered to the lower portion of the District, the Board has decided to use again that portion of Anderson Draw below the lower outlet canal to deliver some amount of storage water directly to the Little Weiser River. Bypassing the three upper diversion dams will improve water delivery to the lower portion of the district without effecting water delivery at the upper three diversions. The Westside diversion head gate will be redesigned to ensure the proper amount of water is delivered to the users of that ditch and allow the remainder of the water to flow down the river to lower irrigators within the District. Irrigation diversions above Anderson Draw will not be effected by this project.

Consistent with the State Water policies, these changes should result in better and more efficient control and in less water loss in the District.

It is anticipated that construction will begin this fall, weather permitting, and will proceed in a reasonable manner. These changes are being made after considerable discussion, planning and concerns for the purpose of improving the distribution system of the District so that each user's water rights can be properly monitored, furnished and equally distributed throughout the District.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please bring those to the attention of the Board and/or this office so that we may discuss them to make sure the Board has considered all factors.

Sincerely,


Larry C. Walker

LCW/rh