



State of Idaho  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, Idaho 83705-5082 - (208) 334-2190  
FAX (208) 334-2348

PHILIP E. BATT  
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER  
DIRECTOR

March 6, 1997

JAY HULET  
HC 79 BOX 2020  
MURPHY ID 83650

RE: *Control of Hulet Reservoir Gatehouse*

Dear Mr. Hulet:

I have received your letter of January 14 requesting shared control of the Hulet Reservoir gatehouse. I forwarded a copy of the letter to Watermaster Mary Blackstock for her comments before preparing this response.

Protocol developed for Water District 57D over the past five years does not permit water user control of Hulet Reservoir during the period when the Watermaster is on active duty. It is not possible to provide accountability for priority delivery of water rights if two parties are operating a single control structure. Therefore, IDWR will not grant your request for control of the gatehouse during the irrigation season.

There is not a clear relationship between the above request and your need for immediate control of flows on your farm. My experience indicates that changes at the head of Murphy Mutual Canal are not realized at your farm until approximately 8 hours later. It seems that fluctuations in incoming flows could be handled using your existing regulation ponds. Daily requirements of water from storage into your ponds must be anticipated in advance of the Watermaster's visits so that necessary adjustments may be made before the water is needed.

Emergencies at Hulet Dam are addressed under an emergency plan which has been developed as a part of the Hulet Reservoir Plan of Operation. This plan is on file in our office. In emergency situations which are causing an *imminent threat to life or property*, please notify the Owyhee County Sheriff, the Watermaster, and/or this office.

I do not agree that Watermaster availability is an issue on Sinker Creek. A 24-hour Watermaster response time is not unreasonable for delivery calls, if the Watermaster has been properly notified. The water user bears a responsibility for making a timely request, and for managing daily operations in such a manner as to not create unreasonable demands upon the Watermaster.

March 6, 1997

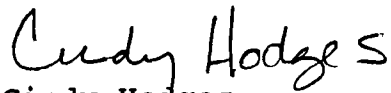
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In her comments, Mary has indicated that calls or messages may be received at her home phone number between 7:30 am and 9:00 pm daily, and that orders received before 5:00 pm can usually be delivered that day. However, to guarantee same-day response, I would advise that your call be placed before 3:00 pm, as this is the time Mary is available each day to deliver water.

In order that all water users receive the above information, I have prepared a brief letter for distribution to the Sinker Creek water users, which contains the same guidelines regarding Watermaster availability. I have included your copy of that letter in this envelope.

Please call if you have further questions.

Sincerely



Cindy Hodges  
Sr. Water Resource Agent

cc: Mary Blackstock

March 6, 1997

DISTRIBUTION: Sinker Creek Water Users and Interested Parties  
(see attached list)

RE: *Watermaster Availability and Call Guidelines*

Dear Water User:

There has been some concern expressed over Watermaster availability during the upcoming season, as Mary Blackstock is presently also employed in a full-time position away from her home. I discussed this with Mary last year and again just recently, and feel that her work hours do not significantly interfere with her duties as Watermaster of District 57D. However, to ease any remaining apprehension among the water users, I asked Mary to re-confirm her hours of availability for both telephone calls and delivery runs. She has provided the following information which I think can be used as an interim policy for this season's deliveries:

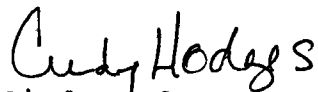
Mary has indicated that calls or messages may be received at her home phone number between 7:30 am and 9:00 pm daily, and that deliveries will be made after 3:00 pm. Orders for water received before 5:00 pm can customarily be delivered that day. However, to guarantee same-day response, I would advise that your call be placed before 3:00 pm. Orders received after 5:00 pm or after Mary has already left on a delivery run will be delivered the next day.

During water-related emergencies which are causing an *imminent threat to life or property*, and if the Watermaster is not immediately available, you may notify the Owyhee County Sheriff's office or IDWR.

It is IDWR's opinion that a 24-hour Watermaster response time is not unreasonable for delivery calls, if the Watermaster has been properly notified. The water user bears a responsibility for making a timely request, and for managing daily operations in such a manner as to not create unreasonable demands upon the Watermaster.

If you have questions regarding the above guidelines, please contact me at 208-334-2190 or Mary Blackstock at 208-896-4512.

Sincerely,



Cindy Hodges  
Sr. Water Resource Agent

ATTACHMENT A  
NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF  
INTERESTED PARTIES  
W.D. 57-D, SINKER CREEK

DON HARTLEY  
HC 79 BOX 2021  
MURPHY ID 83650

PAUL NETTLETON  
MURPHY ID 83650

CRAIG BAKER  
BOX 127  
MURPHY ID 83650

R T NAHAS  
20630 PATIO DRIVE  
CASTRO VALLEY CA 94546

JOHN EDWARDS  
PO BOX 93  
MURPHY ID 83650

JAMES W KISER ESQ  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
5405 OVERLAND RD  
BOISE ID 83705

JAY HULET  
HC 79 BOX 2020  
MURPHY ID 83650

BLAINE HULET  
HC 79 BOX 2035  
MURPHY ID 83650

MARY BLACKSTOCK  
HC 79 BOX 118  
MELBA 83641

MICHAEL C CREAMER  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
277 N 6  
BOISE ID 83702

MIKE IHLI  
11854 W. FUNTLOCK DR  
BOISE ID 83713