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MEMORANDUM

TO File: #61C Canyon Creek Water District

FROM: J. Westra, Western Region

DATE: 12/6/96

RE: Meeting with Mountain Home Irrigation District Board

I met with the Board on Thursday 12/6/96 to discuss several issues relating to the Irrigation and Water Districts.

The Irrigation District is concerned about the new commercial and resident development in the area. There seems to be an increase in share transfers, and change requests from developers. Requests also have involved issues regarding irrigation district water and supplemental irrigation wells. They had specific concerns where someone is potentially spreading water on non-district lands, and then utilizing the supplemental well as a primary irrigation source. The District is implementing additional share-holder accountability measures for deliveries (place of use and quantity) to manage the changes.

I explained, the Department normally doesn't interfere with the operation of an irrigation district inside its boundaries. The district controls deliveries, and also has the ability to make by-laws, etc regarding operations (ID code 43-304). I discussed, the fact the Department doesn't expect the district to be the water police, but to contact us when things don't appear above board, especially where there is supplemental ground water involved. They were concerned, how far their responsibilities reached, and if the Department could come back on them. We discussed the fact the irrigation district and the Department needed to communicate better on these issues. They requested the Department send them copies of new ground water transfers/permit applications in addition to surface water which is already being done. I concurred, as there really isn't a large number to deal with annually. This would provide them with the needed information, and the ability to comment. (I discussed this with Sue T., and this would be acceptable to her)

The group further discussed Canyon Creek Water District matters, and the change over to managing their own district account. I discussed the possibility of the County collecting the assessments, and turning them over to the district; or they could collect assessments themselves, (IC 42-613).

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the recharge water right issues pertaining to the irrigation district.

→ Is this acceptable? Please comment. → Problems w/ this →
OK by me - just one more of those things we need to remember!
How about an IDWR review of transferred shares to check out the existence →

of supplemental G.W.? Would this be too much of a commitment? ijl

I do not think we should commit ourselves to revising any internal business of an irrig. district. We don't have time for this & furthermore have very limited ability to do anything @ it. Perhaps the issue is best left to Adv. Comm. to grapple with - using local pressure, zoning, etc. Appeals route as possible tool to control such expansion if occurring. As far as priority w's of xfer/permits, I have serious reservations @ doing this - how are we going to remember to do it? Maybe we need to meet & talk it over.

JOHN - how @ if you set up brief meeting with
Gene - Lori - Cindy - me Jounest & we'll discuss?
-jl

12/13/96

* It was decided the easiest solution would be to have the irrigation need the necessary, and contact the Dept. if they have questions concerning specific applications we will supply what is needed. They could subscribe to the list mailed out.

JFW