

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 23, 1995

TO: Gary Spackman

FROM: ^{BA} Bob Foster

RE: Parkinson letter

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Department of Water Resources

On June 20, 1995 I met with Troy Ziegler, Watermaster for Water District 73, Bob and Doug Parkinson, waterusers in Water District 73. This meeting was in response to a letter written by Mr. Parkinson expressing several concerns as to delivery and measurement of Mr. Parkinson's water right (s) which are diverted from the Pahsimeroi River and delivered via the Ellis ditch.

I made an on-site visit to the heading of the Ellis ditch where the Parkinson right (s) and three other wateruser's right (s) mentioned in the Parkinson letter are diverted from the Pahsimeroi River. The diversion works consists of a wooden check structure utilizing check boards for control of diversion rates. There are no lockable control devices or measuring devices in place at this location.

I also visited four other sites on the Ellis ditch to determine if there were measuring devices in place at other diversion points in the ditch and to complete measurements to determine the flow in the ditch at the time of my visit.

There are two weirs in place on the ditch as mentioned in the Parkinson letter. These weirs are in need of some repair but would probably meet department specifications. A total of four measurements were made on the Ellis ditch. (1) flow near the heading of the ditch, (2) flow after the first diversion, (3) flow below the first weir after the last diversion before Parkinson, (4) flow below the last weir approximately two to three miles from the Parkinson place of use. These measurements are as follows: (1) 38.82 cfs, (2) 26.47 cfs (3)16.91 cfs, weir reading 17.3 cfs, (4) 6.94 cfs, weir reading 8.2 cfs.

The concerns I have are: (1) there are no measuring devices or lockable control structures at the heading of the Ellis ditch allowing for the possibility of unauthorized tampering with the control structure by persons other than the watermaster. (2) The ditch was at capacity in several places and very nearly overtopping the banks in a few other areas, some ditch maintenance is needed in these areas. (3) The ditch is approximately six to eight miles long which may have a considerable ditch loss as well with a large number of cattle along the ditch possibly contributing to the maintenance problem. (4) Some waste water enters the Ellis ditch at different times which could contribute to fluctuating flows in the ditch.

I would suggest the following possible solutions: (1) require a lockable control structure and measuring device at the head of the Ellis ditch. (2) appoint a ditchmaster or lateral manager for the Ellis ditch. (3) require measuring devices and/or lockable headgates at each user's point of diversion from the ditch under control of the watermaster or lateral manager if one is appointed.