

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Yakima Washington

054-1398 CTEL

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE BY)
ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT)
REQUESTING A CHANGE IN THE PLACE OF USE) Emergency Drought
AND POINT OF DIVERSION OF WATER USE UNDER) Change Authorization
COURT CLAIM NO. 1398, CAUSE NO. 77-2-01484-5)

In accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.83B.405, on March 14, 2001, it was ordered and determined by the Director of the Department of Ecology that the State of Washington is under drought conditions. In accordance with the provisions of WAC 176-166-060, the Department of Ecology is under the terms of this Order, issuing an EMERGENCY DROUGHT CHANGE AUTHORIZATION. The intent of this authorization is to alleviate hardships and reduce the burdens on water users arising from the drought conditions.

Background

Governor Locke authorized the Director of the Department of Ecology to declare a statewide Drought Emergency on March 14, 2001. The Yakima Valley is experiencing severe drought impacts in this 2001 water year. The US Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) May 1 forecast of Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) predicts that the Yakima Project's pro-ratable water right holders are likely to receive only 29% of their full water supply amount this irrigation season.

Roza Irrigation District's (RID's) drought response plan attempts to provide the district members with water supply greater than only relying upon forecasted pro-ratable supplies. It will be accomplished through a combination of intra-district land fallowing and transfers and transfers from the Sunnyside Division (SDIV) arising from land fallowing and water recovery and reuse systems. Individual water users will use supplemental and emergency irrigation wells as permitted.

The RID water rights are the subject of Adjudication Court Claim No. 0802. The Court's conditional final order for RID was issued on June 1, 1994. RID water rights are entirely pro-ratable rights, and are subject to a predicted severe shortfall in supply in the 2001 irrigation season. The point of diversion for the RID water rights is located at RM 127.9, within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, T. 15 N., R. 19 E.W.M., Yakima County.

Court Claim 1398, Naches-Selah Irrigation District

On May 11th, 2001, RID filed an application to transfer water from the Naches River to the Roza Irrigation District (RID) for the 2001 irrigation season. The Naches-Selah Irrigation District, through Court Claim No.1389, has been confirmed natural flow rights from the Naches River totaling 46,254 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 10,600 acres from April 1 through October 31 each year (35,044 acre-feet from May through September), and 4486 acre-feet (ac-ft) of storage rights (1905 priority proratable rights).

A total of 36,149 acre-feet of NSID water is expected to be available from May through September this year. Prorating this amount among the 10,600 acres gives a water duty of 3.41 ac-ft per acre. NSID will fallow 127.2 acres this year, giving 433.8 ac-ft available for transfer to RID. The NSID's diversion rate varies over the irrigation season. Their diversion rate would be reduced between 1.36 and 1.52 cfs (depending on the monthly schedule) and their annual quantity would be reduced by 433.8 acre-feet as a result of the proposed change in the point of diversion and place of use.

The determination of the amount of water allowed for change is based on an adjustment to the Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG) Crop Irrigation Requirement (CIR) to account for the crop type and an agreed-upon adjustment (based upon an estimate of the climate this summer) of "WIG + 4" (the CIR for a particular crop, plus four inches of water). The adjusted 2001-year CIR quantity is 44.27 inches per acre. With 127.2 acres being left fallow this year, theoretically, 469.3 acre-feet are available for transfer to RID. However this amount is slightly more (due to the adjustment) than the maximum limit of the water right available for change. Therefore, the limit of the right available for change to RID is 433.8 acre-feet. A return flow adjustment is not applicable.

The Bureau of Reclamation has reviewed this proposal and concluded that reservoir and project operations would not be negatively impacted by the proposed transfer.

Conclusions and Decision

The proposed change of point of diversion and place of use will not impair existing water rights and is not contrary to the public interest.

This **DROUGHT EMERGENCY CHANGE DECISION** authorizes the transfer of 433.8 ac-ft for the period from May 24, 2001 to September 30, 2001 for irrigation of lands within the RID under Adjudication Court Claim No. 01863:

The point of diversion shall be located within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, T. 15 N., R. 19 E.W.M.

A measuring device as required by Order Pendente Lite Regarding Metering, Measurement, and Reporting Requirements, dated October 13, 1994 must be installed prior to use of the water.

This drought emergency authorization expires on September 30, 2001.

APPROVED BY:



Robert F. Barwin, Section Manager

DATE:

6/4/2001