

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Yakima Washington

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION 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. 1075, 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 1075, Fowler Ditch Association

On June 12th, 2001, RID filed an application to transfer water from the Yakima River to the Roza Irrigation District (RID) for the 2001 irrigation season. The Fowler Ditch Association (FDA), through Court Claim No.1075, has been confirmed natural flow rights from the Yakima River totaling 6,768 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 1,919.73 acres from April 1 through October 31 each year.

The FDA proposes to change a portion of the water they would normally use during the period of September 15 through September 30 to RID. 1611.73 acres will be not be irrigated during this period.

The amount of water considered for transfer is based on the crop type, and water requirement during the last half of September, an adjustment based upon an estimate of the climate this summer, and a 6% return flow adjustment. The purpose of the adjustments to the crop water requirement is to ensure that the proposed transfer is water budget neutral with respect to the TWSA. Of the 1611.73 acres that would not be irrigated for the last half of September, 65% are in hops, 20% is pasture, and 15% is orchard. Based on these calculations, Ecology and the Bureau have determined there are 144.01 acre-feet of water available for transfer to RID for diversion at Roza Dam while remaining neutral to the TWSA. FDA's non-proratable TWSA allotment will be debited 12.52 cfs, 397 acre-feet for the 2001 irrigation season.

The Bureau of Reclamation has reviewed this proposal and concluded that reservoir and project operations would not be negatively impacted by the proposed transfer. This proposal has also been reviewed and approved by the Conservation Advisory Group.

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Roza Irrigation District
July 6, 2001

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 144.01 acre-ft 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:  DATE: 7/5/2001
Robert F. Barwin, Section Manager

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