

State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Yakima Washington

CS4-00123CTCL

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE BY )  
ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT REQUESTING A CHANGE IN )  
THE PLACE OF USE AND POINT OF DIVERSION OF WATER ) Emergency Drought  
USE UNDER COURT CLAIM NOS. 00123, 00475, 1369(A), ) Change Authorization  
00121, 00473, 1386(A), 00122, 00474, AND 1385(A); )  
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 Claims 00123, 00475, 1369(A), 00121, 00473, 1386(A), 00122, 00474, and 1385(A); South Naches Irrigation District

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, RID filed an application to transfer water from the South Naches Irrigation District (SNID) to the Roza Irrigation District (RID) for the 2001 irrigation season. The South Naches Irrigation District through numerous Court Claims, has been confirmed rights from the Naches River totaling 1,679 acres.

The season of use is from April 1 through October 1 each year. These rights are expected to receive a full duty of water this year.

A total of 216.65 acres within the SNID will be left fallow this year. They receive water from the following ditches:

- Powell Ditch; 3.54 cubic feet per second (cfs), 1234.3 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 118 acres;
- LaFortune Ditch; 1.29 cfs, 307.6 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 42.96 acres;
- Scott Ditch; 1.67 cfs, 675.5 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 55.69 acres;

It is proposed to change the point of diversion and place of use for the portion of the SNID water right that would be used under these rights to the Roza Irrigation District.

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 40.47 inches per acre. With 216.65 acres being left fallow this year, 730.65 acre-feet are available for transfer to RID.

Approximately 6% of the amount of water diverted by RID returns to the Yakima River and to the TWSA above Parker. Therefore, the adjusted CIR amount is 94% of what can be diverted by RID into its canal system at Roza Dam without negatively affecting the TWSA. Dividing 730.65 acre-feet by 0.94 (RID return flow adjustment) gives a total of 777.3 acre-feet which RID can divert and use and still allow the proposed transfer remain water budget neutral to the TWSA.

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 777.3 acre-feet for the period from May 15, 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