

District Manager's Report – October 5, 2023

A. Trinidad Reservoir and PRWCD Operations Report

- The total content of Trinidad Reservoir on September 30th was 17,457 acre-feet. A net decrease of 946 acre-feet from the end of the previous month. This net decrease in storage is principally due to Irrigation Season storage releases to meet crop irrigation demands.
- The Project Account currently contains 777 acre-feet. A decrease from the preceding month of 948 acre-feet.
- The Model Account currently contains 40 acre-feet. This account is empty except for this remaining 40 acre-feet which is owned by the River Canyon Ranch.
- The Joint Use Pool currently contains 3,836 acre-feet. A net increase of 208 acre-feet, which increase is principally due to City of Trinidad's storage of its changed John Flood Ditch and Model Canal water rights. This city did also lease 500 acre-feet of water to the Colorado Parks & Wildlife for use in the Permanent Pool.
- The Permanent Fishery Pool currently contains a total of 12,798 acre-feet.
- Purgatoire River flows for the month of September averaged 47 cfs at the PURMADCO stream gage. Historically September flows average 43 cfs.
- The District forwarded a letter to parties as required in the Trinidad Project Operating Criteria confirming that the District would switch to Priority Administration beginning on October 1st. Due to a recalculation of the water for which the Hoehne Ditch was yet entitled to and recalculation of remaining Project Water storage supplies this date of returning to Priority Administration was delayed until October 8th.
- Hoehne Ditch Irrigation Season diversions through September total 4,633 acre-feet. The District's remaining

obligation to the Hoehne Ditch for October is 339 acre-feet.

- District sprinkler systems have diverted 2,657 acre-feet of water through August. Lagged return flow deficits through August total 121 acre-feet. This value remains higher than the originally modeled value of 70 acre-feet. All return flow replacement obligations for August were made using reusable irrigation return flows from District ditches. It is anticipated that these reusable lagged return flows will provide for the majority of the remaining return flow obligations through the rest of the irrigation season and into the winter/spring period remaining plan period.

B. City of Trinidad Conditional Right of Exchange (21CW3083)

The District and the City of Trinidad continued negotiations regarding the city's Water Court application for a conditional right of exchange from the city's WWTP location upstream to Trinidad Reservoir during the month of September. The final concerns of the District were expressly acknowledged by the city and the District staff and the District attorney can now recommend to the board that the board approve the proposed stipulation with the city in this case. After discussion, the board voted to approve the proposed ruling/decreed and stipulation with the city in Case No. 21CW3083 dated September 19, 2023 with authority to make minor edits as appropriate.

C. Stock Water Policy

The board reviewed the proposed District Stock Water Policy as provided to the board in the September board meeting. This draft policy was provided to all District ditch entities during September.

The board held discussion on this topic. Oral comments were provided by several shareholders in the Picketwire Ditch. Board member Joe Amato originally made a motion to require three ditches to call for diversions of stockwater prior to any deliveries. Discussion was held on this motion. Eventually it

was determined that this practice may not be workable. Mr. Amato withdrew this motion and further made a motion for the District to operate stockwater deliveries as it has in the past. This practice being to attempt as best as possible to coordinate stockwater deliveries to all ditches requesting this water in a single operation and to maximize use of existing river flows. The draft written stockwater policy was not adopted by the board.

D. General Items

City of Trinidad August Water Lease to the District

Of the 500 acre-feet of water that the District leased from the City of Trinidad, all but 42 acre-feet of this water was leased by District ditch entities. The El Moro, Chilili and Hoehne Ditches declined to lease their proportion of these waters. This remaining 42 acre-feet remains in the District's unallocated account as it is too small of an amount to proportionally offer to the leasing ditch entities. It is planned that this water may be leased to the District ditches next spring.

Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool Water Storage Right

The Water Court judge decreed the District's ruling in its continuing diligence application for the remaining 2,810,97 acre-feet of water in its 39,000 acre-foot Joint Use Pool water storage right in case no. 23CW3000 on September 13, 2023. This case is now completed. A reasonable diligence/claim to make absolute Water Court application will need to be filed within 6 years (September 2029).

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grant

The Bureau of Reclamation provided a Notice to Proceed letter to the District for the Bureau's share of grant funding to support new automatic headgates for the Picketwire and John Flood Ditches. Rubicon personnel also visited and inspected these two District ditches on September 19th and will be providing final quotes for these new installations. Ordering of the needed materials is planned shortly after review and approval of the quotes. Rubicon personnel also replaced one of the sensors on

the Model Canal headgate this month. This headgate now functions properly.

Acreage Verification Field Work

District staff completed their share of the annual acreage verification inspections during August and September. This survey information has been forwarded to the Division Engineer's Office.