

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPPER COLORADO REGION GRAND JUNCTION PROJECTS OFFICE P.O. BOX 60340

GJ-700 -

2764 COMPASS DRIVE GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81506

Mr. Tyler Martineau Manager, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District 120 North Boulevard Gunnison CO 81230

MAR 1 9 1992

Subject: Summary of February 20, 1992, Meeting Regarding Wayne N. Aspinall Unit Operations (General Correspondence Water Operation)

Dear Mr. Martineau:

Following is a summary of the results of a meeting held in the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Office, Gunnison, Colorado. An attendance list is enclosed.

The meeting was held to discuss the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) intent to pursue formal administration of Aspinall Unit water right decrees and present Reclamation's proposed "Substitute Supply Plan" (Plan). As presently contemplated, the Plan would potentially be made up of the following three major components:

- 1. Protection against Aspinall Unit calls would be provided through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Reclamation and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD). Under the terms of the proposed MOU, Reclamation would agree that all perfected junior water right decrees that were listed in the Plan would be considered equal or senior to the Aspinall Unit water right decrees for purposes of administration. Therefore, their diversions would not be curtailed to the benefit of the Aspinall Unit.
- 2. Protection for junior domestic, municipal and industrial water right decrees from downstream decrees senior to the Aspinall Unit would be provided through replacement releases of Aspinall Unit storage under the terms of a water service contract with the UGRWCD. Replacement releases would be made from the Aspinall Unit to permit continued out-of-priority diversions by the junior water right decrees when an administrative call from a downstream senior water right is in effect.
- 3. Protection for irrigation water right decrees would be provided through replacement releases of either Aspinall Unit or Taylor Park refill storage under the terms of a water service contract with the UGRWCD. Again, replacement releases would be made to permit continued out-of-priority diversions by the junior water right decrees when an administrative call from a downstream water right senior to the Aspinall Unit is in effect. Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) compliance provisions would be associated with irrigation replacement releases as part of an Aspinall Unit Contract. RRA requirements associated with Taylor Park refill storage may possibly be waived. This issue is being more fully researched.

The UGRWCD indicated it would solicit input from water users and interested members of the public before making a decision regarding the proposed Plan. The UGRWCD presented a number of reasons why the local community and the Board of Directors feel that it would be difficult to initiate the proposed plan in 1992. However, the UGRWCD expressed the desire to cooperatively work with Reclamation to resolve these issues. Questions or comments regarding this meeting summary or the proposed Plan should be directed to Brent Uilenberg at (303) 248-0641.

Sincerely.

Ronald Johnston Projects Manager

Enclosure

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