

## District Manager's Report – August 3, 2023

### A. Trinidad Reservoir and PRWCD Operations Report

- The total content of Trinidad Reservoir on July 31st was 21,330 acre-feet. A net decrease of 3,090 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 4,473 acre-feet. A decrease from the preceding month of 2,510 acre-feet.
- The Model Account currently contains 68 acre-feet. A decrease from the preceding month of 894 acre-feet.
- The Joint Use Pool currently contains 3,944 acre-feet. A net increase of 260 acre-feet, which increase is principally due to City of Trinidad's storage of its changed John Flood Ditch and Model Canal water rights.
- The Permanent Fishery Pool currently contains 12,912 acre-feet.
- Purgatoire River flows for the month of July averaged 79 cfs at the PURMADCO stream gage. Historical July flows average 125 cfs.
- The District remains in Project Administration. Most District ditches continue to receive at least some direct flow river waters at this time. Due to the drop in river flows, no water is currently being required to be passed to water rights located below the District area. The Model Canal and the Picketwire Ditch are predicted to run out of stored water supplies within the next week absent any additional supplies being available.
- Hoehne Ditch Irrigation Season diversions through July total 3,632 acre-feet. The District's remaining obligation to the Hoehne Ditch is 1,339 acre-feet. The Hoehne Ditch's storage account currently contains 1,480 acre feet. 1,000 acre-feet of water was transferred from

the Hoehne Ditch's storage account to the other Project Account ditches at the end of July.

- No District sprinkler system diversions have been collected for July yet. Fully consumable water diversions have been made for irrigation use by two ditches during July. The return flows from these diversions are anticipated to provide at least a portion of any return flow deficit replacement requirements due to July's sprinkler system diversions.

### **B. Stockwater Committee Report**

At its regular monthly May 2023 meeting, the president of the board appointed a committee to review the District's past Non-Irrigation Season stockwater operations and to report back at the board's July meeting with any recommendations for changes in operations.

The General Manager, Clint Winter, Daryl Aubuchon and Water Commissioner Jeff Montoya (as an advisor) met twice during the month of June and once in July. This committee discussed all relevant aspects of District stockwater operations since the year 2000.

A recommendation memorandum has been provided to the board for review. The General Manager recommends the District draft a written livestock water policy based upon the determinations made by this committee to help govern future District Non-Irrigation Season stockwater operations.

### **C. General Items**

#### City of Trinidad Water Lease

The City of Trinidad has agreed to lease to the District a further 500 acre-feet of fully consumable waters. If approved by the District, these leased waters should be available for transfer to the District's account in Trinidad Reservoir and available for delivery to District ditches next week.

#### Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool Water Storage Right

The Division Engineer's Office filed a Supplemental Consultation Report during July now supporting the District's Water Court application for a finding of continuing diligence regarding the portion of the District's Joint Use Pool water storage right which yet remains conditional. Based upon this support and no other opposition in this case, the District has motioned the court for approval of a proposed decree on August 1<sup>st</sup> confirming a finding of reasonable diligence. The next diligence or absolute application will be required in 6 years from this month.

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grant

The District is still awaiting a Notice to Proceed from the Bureau of Reclamation for its requested WaterSmart grant funds to purchase and install new automatic headgates on the John Flood and Picketwire Ditches.

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's Office Letter of Support

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's office contacted the District during July requesting a letter of support for the congresswoman's introduction of a bill seeking renewal of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish & Threatened Fish Recovery Implementation Programs. The District provided a letter of support toward these efforts.