



Elephant Butte Irrigation District Of New Mexico

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June 10, 2011

John D'Antonio
NM State Engineer
130 S. Capitol Street
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Dear John,

I would like to express my support for Commissioner Pat Gordon's May 26th letter to you requesting relinquishment of 100,000 acre-feet of Rio Grande Compact credit water for use in the Rio Grande Project (RGP). We are in critical drought and a relinquishment would do much for our EBID farmers and extend our water season.

I understand your concern that the level of water in Elephant Butte Reservoir would be drawn down if you relinquish water; however, it will make no difference for the Fourth of July holiday. We currently have about 59,000 AF seasonal allotment. Of that, 20,000 AF was carried over from last year and 39,000 AF is this year's allocation. We begin our release season on May 31st and we are capping our orders at 750 cfs so we can stretch out our season. We anticipate that with no relinquishment we will run out and shut down on July 11th, well after the holiday. If you relinquish 100,000 AF, as requested, we will maintain our order cap and release at the same rate. The only differences are that we will stay on until about August 13th, thru the most critical time of the growing season, and possibly longer if we pick up more of this year's water and get some help from a productive monsoon season. El Paso No. 1 will follow a similar strategy. Mexico may run a bit more before the Fourth, but the effect would be inconsequential. As you know the March-July runoff forecast for San Marcial has dropped from 88 in January to 21 percent this month, so we don't stand to gain much from runoff.

As Commissioner Gordon points out you would, under the terms of the contract, be able to store and regulate a like amount of water when we are under Article VII; a place we will be for the foreseeable future. The relinquishment would leave you with 65,000 AF of credit water to ensure future delivers and cut your evaporation losses by more than half.

We have been working productively in recent days with your folks involved in the adjudication, and seem to be finding win-win solutions and we thank you for your efforts to keep the settlement afloat. The proposed relinquishment is another of those solutions that would be well-received with the farmers in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Esslinger', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Esslinger
Treasurer Manager