

FREDERICK V. KRDEGER
Vice-Chairman, Durango

JOHN T. BENTON
Burns

JOHN H. BROWNELL
Hooper

JOHN R. FETCHER
Steamboat Springs

C. M. FURNEAUX
Walden

ROBERT A. JACKSON
Pueblo

DAVID LEINSDORF
Crested Butte

HERBERT H. VANDEMDER
Sterling



RICHARD D. LAMM
Governor

LAREN D. MORRILL
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

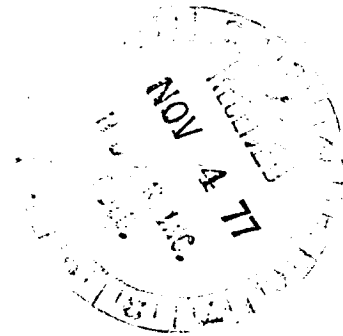
823 STATE CENTENNIAL BUILDING

1313 SHERMAN STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80203

November 2, 1977

TELEPHONE
(303) 733-1111



Mr. John P. Horst
Henningson, Durham & Richardson
310 Capitol Life Center
Denver, Colorado 80203

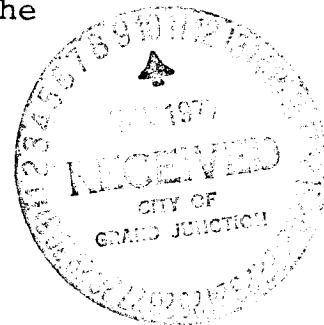
Dear Mr. Horst:

In answer to your letter of October 18, 1977, I foresee several problems in the proposal for land application of treated wastewater effluent for irrigation of crops in the Grand Valley.

As you know, the seven Colorado River Basin States have adopted Water Quality Standards for Salinity Including Numeric Criteria and Plan of Implementation for Salinity Control. These standards contemplate holding the salinity in the lower Colorado River at 1972 levels. Part of the plan of implementation consists of an all out salinity control effort in the Grand Valley. This will include lining of canals and ditches and improving methods of irrigation water application to reduce deep percolation and consequent salt pickup. It is anticipated that as a result of this program in the Grand Valley there will be some decrease in diversion requirements from the river.

Officials from California have expressed concern that with a decrease in diversion requirements for the presently irrigated land, additional new land will be placed under irrigation with the attendant increase of salinity return to the river. They are insisting that the contracts with the several irrigation companies contain language to prevent any material increase in irrigated acreage. I am sure they would object strenuously to increased irrigation in the Grand Valley with sewage effluent.

A further problem is the fact that the Environmental Defense Fund is suing the E.P.A. on the salinity issue. Colorado, along with the other Colorado River Basin States is intervening so as to become a party to this suit. One of the allegations of the

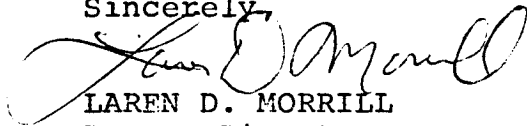


Mr. John P. Horst
November 2, 1977
Page two

Environmental Defense Fund is that the Upper Basin States are not really serious in their promises to try to alleviate the salinity problem, and that they only adopted the salinity standards in an effort to lull the Lower Basin States. This being the case, the irrigation of a sizable block of new saline land certainly would hurt our efforts in the court.

I hope that this will give you some idea of the problems involved. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laren D. Morrill".

LAREN D. MORRILL
Deputy Director

LDM:ajt
cc: Evan Dildine