

April 10, 2012

To: Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

RE: Status report, Repairs to the Sixth Water sleeve valves and Temporary change to winter in-stream flows in Diamond Fork Creek

In October, 2011, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, as Joint Lead Agencies (JLAs), implemented a temporary change to the 2011-2012 winter in-stream flows in Diamond Fork Creek during necessary repairs to the Sixth Water sleeve valves. This is an update on the status of the repairs and notification of anticipated operations for the 2012 irrigation season.

Both Sixth Water sleeve valves were removed last fall and transported to Ogden, Utah for repair and refurbishment. Throughout the winter months, flows that would normally be released from the Sixth Water Flow Control Structure (through the sleeve valves) were released through the Strawberry tunnel located approximately six miles upstream. Thereby, releases to the Strawberry Tunnel of 32 cfs and other natural flow inputs contributed to streamflows of about 50 cfs at Monks Hollow, as predicted.

The repair and refurbishment of the Sixth Water sleeve valves has taken more time than was anticipated. Despite double-shifts and other efforts, the contractor is currently on schedule to install just one of the valves near May 1. The second valve would be completed by the end of May; however, because of safety concerns with installing the second valve while the pipeline is in operation, it will be installed after the irrigation season.

Due to the extremely dry conditions throughout the State, we anticipate needing to deliver water under contract from Strawberry Reservoir through the Diamond Fork drainage to Spanish Fork River as soon as mid- to late-April. Normally, deliveries are not needed until sometime in May. Until at least one of the Sixth Water sleeve valves is reinstalled on or about May 1, this would require delivering contracted water through the Strawberry Tunnel. This condition is allowed under CUPCA Section 303(f)(2). The maximum capacity of the Strawberry Tunnel is 200 cfs. Therefore, up to 200 cfs may be delivered through the Strawberry Tunnel to upper Sixth Water Creek and thus to downstream users in the Spanish Fork River. The JLAs expect this condition would exist for about 10 to 14 days; once the first sleeve valve is reinstalled at Sixth Water, releases could be made through the valve of up to 396 cfs; Strawberry Tunnel will then be used to make up the water needs above 396 cfs (up to 200 cfs maximum) for the remainder of the 2012 irrigation season.

Depending on climatic conditions between now and when the sleeve valve(s) is(are) reinstalled, use of the Strawberry Tunnel to make water deliveries in excess of the normal minimum flows releases may not be necessary. But we wanted to provide you this status report and notify you that operating conditions as we have described, may be necessary. For comparison purposes, the runoff flow peaked last year at about 170 cfs in Sixth Water Creek; and flows were greater than 100 cfs for about 30 days.

The JLAs intend to monitor conditions in Sixth Water Creek prior to and following any higher-than-normal flows.

If you have any questions about the procedures we have outlined, please call Chris Elison at 801-226-7166; or Mark Holden at 801-524-3146; or Lee Baxter at 801-379-1174.

Thank you.