

Tri-Basin NRD
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Natural Resources District

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October 16, 2014

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Mr. Dudley Nelson, Chairman
Central NE Public Power and Irrigation District
415 Lincoln St.
Holdrege NE 68949

RECEIVED
10/18/14

Dear Dudley:

As you are aware, Tri-Basin NRD is participating in an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to help fund the J-2 Re-regulating Reservoirs project, in exchange for a share of the depletion offset credits that the project will provide. The Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors voted to participate in this project because it is the most cost-effective option for fulfilling our obligations to offset depletions to surface water rights, as required by our joint DNR/NRD plan for management of integrated water resources in the Platte Basin portion of Tri-Basin NRD.

The primary purpose of this project, however, is to partially fulfill the requirements of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's (PRRIP) water component. One of the most important principles (in our opinion) of the PRRIP is the program's commitment to acquire land for program projects solely from willing sellers. We are concerned that this principle will be subverted if Central NE Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) uses its eminent domain authority to acquire land for the reservoir project.

We hope that you share our concern about the need to maintain the "willing buyer, willing seller" principle as the J-2 Re-regulating Reservoirs project proceeds. No project is so important that it justifies ignoring the basic principles under which this state agreed to participate in the PRRIP.

Thank you for your consideration of our district's position in this matter.

Sincerely,


John Thorburn
General Manager