file - J2

Tri-Basin NRD
1723 Burlington
Holdrege, NE 68949

Tri Basin
Natural Resources District

Phone: (308) 995-6688
Toll Free: 1-877-995-6688
Fax: (308) 995-6992
Email: tribasin@tribasinnrd.org

General Manager
JOHN THORBURN

Chairman
DAVID NICKEL
Kearney, Nebraska

Vice Chairman
DAVID OLSEN
Minden, Nebraska

Secretary
BRADLEY LUNDEEN
Wilcox, Nebraska

Treasurer
TODD GARRELTS
Holdrege, Nebraska

BRIAN BERGSTROM
Axtell, Nebraska

JOE BILKA
Holdrege, Nebraska

ED HARRIS
Loomis, Nebraska

PHYLLIS JOHNSON
Bertrand, Nebraska

JOE LARSON
Loomis, Nebraska

DAVID NELSON
Upland, Nebraska

DAVID RAFFETY
Kearney, Nebraska

LARRY REYNOLDS
Lexington, Nebraska

RAY WINZ
Holdrege, Nebraska

October 16, 2014

RECEIVED 10/18/14

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

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

John Thorburn
General Manager

L:\Platte\CNPPIDJ21014.doc