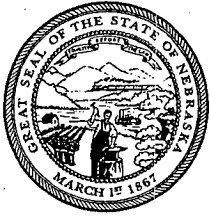


STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

November 25, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Mary Harding
Executive Director
Nebraska Environmental Trust
2200 North 33rd Street
PO Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

RE: Project Number 03-164-LB 1003 Water Policy Study / Project

Dear Mary,

This letter is to inform you that due to cost savings our expenditures on Environmental Trust Project Number 03-164-LB 1003 Water Policy Study / Project will be at least \$200,000 below the \$350,000 amount of the grant award. We therefore ask that the \$200,000 be released by the Trust for use on other purposes. As was done with Project 00135-3, Tri-Basin NRD Platte River Valley Irrigation Well Census, we request that the released funds be made available for cost share on water meters in Nebraska's Republican River Basin. Installation of these meters is critical to successful implementation of the Republican River Settlement.

The cost savings of this project have come from a number of sources. These include: 1) the facilitators hired for the project have expended less than anticipated, 2) staff and task force members were able to supply legal and technical information than was originally anticipated to require costly contract work, and 3) many of the groups to which task force members belong were able to provide travel expenses. We currently anticipate the Task Force will complete its original charge on schedule and considerably under budget. We greatly appreciate the support of the Trust on this project.

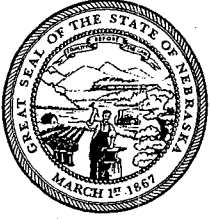
Sincerely,


Roger K. Patterson
Director

lb

cc: Lisa Beethe, Grants Administrator
Steve Gaul, Designated Project Representative

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

October 7, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

John Thorburn
Manager
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
1308 2nd Street
Holdrege, NE 68949

Dear John,

This letter is being written to indicate our agency's support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund application for the project entitled "*Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project*". It is our intent to partner with the Nebraska Republican River Management Districts Association on the project and provide in-kind and potentially limited funding support for the project. Our staff time contributions will be primarily for land use assessment/survey and some time spent on outreach/public information.

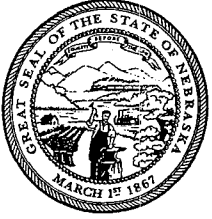
This project should result in water conservation and water use reduction in a basin working to meet the water use requirements of the recent settlement of an interstate lawsuit. We believe funding this initiative can both help attain water use goals and conserve, enhance and create habitat. It can also help better utilize existing funding and promote a locally led conservation effort. We strongly encourage Trust funding for this effort.

Sincerely,

Roger K. Patterson
Director

pjb

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

October 7, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

UNL Office of Research
308 Canfield Administration
Lincoln, NE 68588-0433

Nebraska Research Initiative,

The recent settlement of Kansas v. Nebraska on the Republican River and the work of the Water Policy Task Force have made many in the State more aware than ever of the need for better tools for understanding how surface and ground water are connected and how they can be managed for optimum beneficial use. The Water Resource Decision Support Systems grant proposal states that it would provide easy access to models that have been carefully scrutinized as to their scientific merit as well as the ability for managers to use these models for testing management scenarios. The grant also proposes to develop better techniques for visualizing how ground water moves and for optimizing management options. Such tools would be very valuable to the Department of Natural Resources as we move forward with our work with the State's Natural Resources Districts to develop the rules, regulations and management tools to more effectively manage the State's surface and ground water resources.

Sincerely,

Roger K. Patterson
Director

pjb