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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

January 9, 2007

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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Ann Bleed, Director
Dept. of Natural Resources
PO Box 94676
Lincoln NE 68509-4676

Dear Ann,

We want to assure you that the Middle Republican Natural Resources District will continue, as it has done in the past, to work with your agency to try to develop solutions that will assist in maintaining compliance with the Republican River Compact. Our actions in doing so are based on the Integrated Management Plan, which states that we are to "assist the State of Nebraska, in cooperation with the other basin Natural Resource Districts, in maintaining compliance with the Republican River Compact".

As we work together to achieve this goal, an open exchange of information will be critical to the decision making process. We feel that such an exchange has not taken place in the past. The following are some outstanding questions we must have answered before we can proceed with an extensive discussion of future actions:

- In September of 2005, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District sent a letter to DNR requesting information, data and administrative policy. No response or acknowledgement of this request was made. We must know what actions have taken place in the past and the impact of those actions. We will also need the best estimate of the impact of any future agreed-upon actions.
- We remain unclear as to what actions have been taken by the state, and the subsequent impact of those actions. We know there was a surface water buyout last year but have not received any information that would quantify the benefit from that buyout. The settlement requires that the Department have "water short year administration measures" and that a report of those measures be filed. What were those actions?
- We are conducting a study that will determine the feasibility of transfers. We have requested basic information from DNR with regard to the transfer process and the logistics involved in initiating transfers. Once again, no such information has been provided. We feel the State needs to take action and should be the lead with regard to transfers and augmentation. Only if the State has the lead can these flows be protected.