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Natural Resources District

June 14, 2004

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RAY WINZ
Holdrege, Nebraska

Ms. Tina Kurtz
NE Dep't. of Natural Resources
POB 94676
Lincoln NE 68509-4676

Dear Tina:

I apologize for not enclosing a cover letter when I submitted Tri-Basin NRD's proposals for revising the quantity section of our groundwater management plan. The purpose of this letter is to remedy that mistake and to describe significant changes that are proposed. Tri-Basin NRD seeks to revise the groundwater quantity section of our management plan because the NRD Board of Directors are concerned that the on-going drought in central Nebraska could significantly impact groundwater supplies, even in this relatively "groundwater-rich" district. For this reason, the board is proposing to enact a groundwater quantity management area district-wide. The NRD, therefore, needs to update the quantity management section of our groundwater management plan to make it consistent with the proposed rules. Most changes are simply updates (the groundwater quantity section was written in 1987), but there are some substantive changes as well.

Following (starting with the foreword and progressing through the document from front to back) significant changes to the previously-approved groundwater quantity section of our management plan are noted, summarized and explained.

1. Foreword- Pages 2 and 3 of the foreword have been updated and additional information included. There is a mistake on page 3. The last sentence in the foreword states that: "*The current version of the Groundwater Management Plan contains a section on management of interconnected water resources.*" Tri-Basin NRD is developing a management plan section that will address interconnected water resources issues but, due to statutory changes resulting from passage of LB 962 (2004), the NRD will need to revise that proposed section. It is not included in this submittal.
2. Section I- Introduction- Two paragraphs were added to the end of the introduction section (page 5) to update the list of groundwater studies of the district and environs.
3. Section II- Technical Requirements- Statistics, graphs #20 and 20a and map #21 in subsection G "Groundwater Use" were updated to display current levels

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of groundwater development. In subsection K "Existing Sub-irrigated Uses" a paragraph was added to describe the use of sub-surface "drip" irrigation.

4. Section III- Policy Requirements- The groundwater management goal and groundwater reservoir life goal (subsections A and B) are unchanged. Subsection C "Controls Proposed to Achieve Groundwater Reservoir Life Goal" has been substantially revised to make it consistent with the proposed groundwater quantity management rules. The original text related to specific policy requirements (written in 1987) was replaced with a listing of groundwater management statutes (as of 12/2003), a summary of proposed groundwater management rules and a discussion of options for allocation of groundwater resources if it becomes necessary.

5. Section IV-References- The reference section was updated to reflect additional data used to create updated maps and graphs.

I believe that the preceding list adequately summarizes significant changes to the groundwater quantity section of our groundwater management plan. If you or other reviewers have questions, feel free to call me or to email me at jthorburn@tribasinnrd.org. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance with this process.

Sincerely,


John Thorburn
General Manager

Cc: TBNRD Directors
Beverly Bogle-Louthan
Don Blankenau