



News Release

Court Decision Blocks State Efforts To Change Valley Water Rights

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Today, as the 100-year anniversary of the construction of Arrowrock Reservoir was celebrated by Treasure Valley water users, a Special Master to the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court issued a ruling which affirms the right to store water in Arrowrock, Anderson Ranch and Luck Peak Reservoirs for irrigation and other beneficial uses on over 300,000 acres of land in the Treasure Valley.

The right to store water in these Treasure Valley reservoirs has been under attack by the State of Idaho Attorney General's Office and Department of Water Resources, who have argued that there is no right to store water in these reservoirs after flood control releases.

Special Master Theodore Booth today ruled that existing storage water rights authorize the filling of the reservoirs following flood control releases. His decision also means the release of water for flood control purposes does not count against the storage rights of Treasure Valley water right holders.

“This common sense decision completely vindicates our contention that the State Attorney General's Office and Department of Water Resources are completely out of line in their efforts to change long standing water right management principles governing the Boise River system,” said Roger Batt, Executive Director of the Treasure Valley Water Users Association. “It is also patently absurd to us that the State wants to charge water users for water being sent down river for flood control purposes during a period of time where that water cannot be used by them,” Batt said.

The Treasure Valley economy depends upon the use of stored water. “For reasons we do not understand, the State has been attempting to undermine the storage rights that have provided Treasure Valley water users with a stable water supply since Arrowrock was constructed,” said Gale Maslonka, Chairman of the Board for the New York Irrigation District.

“The decision is a victory for irrigation delivery entities and the entire Treasure Valley Water User Community, who argued their ability to fully provide their users with water would be greatly diminished should the State's argument be adopted,” said Clinton C. Pline, Chairman of the Treasure Valley Water Users Association.

The Treasure Valley Water Users Association was formed this year to provide a collaborative effort to deal with the threats posed to the Treasure Valley Water User Community.

Editor's Note: A copy of the decision can be found on our website at www.treasurevalleywaterusers.com under News.

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