INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS
FOR DELIVERY OF WATER IN 1963
ON THE
COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

To: All Owners of Columbia Basin Project Lands

The enactment of an amendment to the Columbia Basin Project Act on October 1, 1962, and the amendment of companion State Legislation make available the fringe benefits outlined in my letter to the owners of Columbia Basin Project lands dated October 2, 1962. It will take a while to establish all of the formal procedures necessary to do business under the amended acts. However, the following interim procedures will be in effect for the 1963 irrigation season. As soon as additional procedures are developed, you will be informed by letters similar to this one.

All landowners, regardless of age, are now entitled to receive water within an irrigation district for not more than 160 irrigable acres in any one beneficial ownership or 320 irrigable acres for husband and wife held in joint beneficial ownership, regardless of when the land was acquired. The anti-windfall limitation has been removed. Excess land determinations are made on the status of ownership as of October 1, 1962, and thereafter for all blocks, including Blocks 17 and 23, now having water available. Water for excess land held on October 1, 1962, can be made available on a temporary basis by special arrangement. No sale of excess land carries the right to receive water unless and until the purchase price involved in the sale is approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

Farm unit conformance requirements have been abolished so that water can now be delivered to farm units or portions of farm units in a district at established unit turnouts upon payment of annual charges without regard to whether the entire unit is in a single ownership. Owners of portions of units can get water for their land. Water will not be made available this year for lands out of a district nor for lands in the district unless they can be served from established project farm unit delivery facilities.

Application for Combination Form 250 (Revised 1963) for details.

Combinations will be continued from year to year until removed or revised by the owner or determined impractical by the operating agency.
Restrictions on delivery of water to leased private land and Government supervision thereof have been eliminated.

The requirement for annual WATER APPLICATIONS has been eliminated.

Steps Necessary to Receive Irrigation Water in 1963

1. Pay the irrigation district O&M assessment due in full. You have received billings of these assessments from your county treasurer or the irrigation district.

2. The irrigation district will notify the office of the Irrigation Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, for your area that your assessment has been paid as billed and that the lands with the right to receive water and to be served in 1963 are not in excess of 160 irrigable acres in any one beneficial ownership or 320 irrigable acres for a man and wife held in joint beneficial ownership. Completion of the above two steps makes your land in farm units eligible for water.

3. Follow the usual practice to start the delivery of water this year by using the Water Request Card (Form CBP-847) furnished you by the project; notify the project ditch rider by leaving it at a mutually agreed upon place. Also use the Water Request Card when any changes are required in your water delivery.

Delivery of Water for a Farm Unit Held in Multiple Ownership

All of the water for the farm unit will be delivered at the established turnout facility for that unit.

Arrangements for the ordering of and the distribution of water delivered for portions of the unit will be the responsibility of the owners thereof, acting jointly as a group through a designated representative.

Only one record of water delivery will be kept for each farm unit in multiple ownership except where prior arrangements have been made with the irrigation district to meet special situations.

Buyers of portions of farm units formerly in single ownership have the responsibility of arrangements for ordering and distribution of water to their portion.

Combinations of Farm Units for Water Delivery

Arrangements may be made in advance through the irrigation district office for combining water records and water deliveries for joint operation of two or more farm units under specified conditions. Such combinations are to be made by owners or authorized by the owner of the units. See Application for Combination Form 250 (Revised 1963) for details.

Combinations will be continued from year to year until removed or revised by the owner or determined impractical by the operating agency.
Combinations requiring deletion or modification of farm unit delivery facilities will be possible by contractual arrangements among the owners, irrigation districts, and Bureau of Reclamation, as a covenant running with the land and so recorded.

**Excess Water Charges for 1963**

The three irrigation districts have recommended the rate at 120 percent of the base quantity charge for another year. This recommendation will be considered in the Secretary's determination of the rates for 1963.

**Water for Testing Year Blocks**

Owners of land in Block 23 which will receive testing period water this year will receive additional information by separate letter as to the obtaining of irrigation water during the 1963 season.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Rawlings
Project Manager