

Washington, D. C., April 16, 1918.

To Tieton Water Users:

1. During the past year or more there has been an emphatic expression by many of the water users of a desire on their part for an increased water supply for the land of the Tieton project. The engineers of the Service, accordingly, have been giving this subject careful consideration.

2. The water which can be delivered to the project lands is, of course, measured by the carrying capacity of the Main Canal at a certain maximum beyond which it is impossible to increase the supply except by a very large additional cost.

3. In order to increase the carrying capacity of the canal and thus increase the supply per acre, the sides of the lined portions have already been raised on a length of 22,558 feet of the canal but there remains a length of 26,000 feet additional on which the sides have not yet been raised. Some other work including lining portions of the distributing canals and perhaps some modifications of the inlets and outlets of the tunnels should also be done if the water users decide to provide for an increased water supply. It is estimated that this work would cost \$150,000 and would enable a maximum water supply of 0.46 acre foot per acre per month to be furnished to 33,422 acres.

4. There is another way in which the water supply per acre can be increased somewhat and that is by reducing the acreage of the project, which is now estimated at 33,422 acres to 32,000 acres of irrigable land. By doing the additional construction described in paragraph 3 and limiting the area of the project to 32,000 acres a maximum water supply of 0.48 acre foot per acre per month can be supplied.

5. The funds that have been guaranteed for return by the water right charge of \$93.00 per acre have been more than exhausted and before any additional expenditures can lawfully be made for construction on the Tieton Unit, agreement must be entered into by the water users as required by statute guaranteeing the return of all expenditures. The following analysis of costs and estimated returns to the Reclamation fund for the Tieton project is given to enable each water user to understand clearly why it is necessary to pay an additional charge and the amount thereof, if further increase of the water supply is desired.

(a) If area is retained as at present - 33,422 acres.

Cost of project works to December 31, 1917,	\$3,198,056.87
New work to increase water supply (estimated)	<u>150,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,348,056.87
Returns 33,422 A. at \$93.00 per acre	<u>3,108,246.00</u>
Excess of cost over estimated returns	239,810.87

Additional chargee - \$239,810.87 divided by 33,422
equals \$7.18 per acre

(b) If acre is reduced to 32,000 acres.

Total cost as above	\$3,348,056.87
Returns, 32,000 acres at \$93.00	<u>2,976,000.00</u>
Excess of cost over estimated returns	372,056.87

Additional charge - \$372,056.87 divided by 32,000
equals \$11.63 per acre

6. It will be noted that the two plans above mentioned, to a greater or less extent, according to which plan is preferred, would meet the expressed opinion of the water users that a larger supply during the height of the season is necessary.

7. It should be noted that while the proposed additional expenditure is \$150,000.00, the proposed amount to be collected from the water users in addition to the present cost per acre amounts to more than this. This is for the reason that somewhat more money has already been expended than the lands of the project under existing water right charges would pay to the United States and this, of course, is more emphatically evident if the project area is reduced to 32,000 acres.

8. The Service cannot expend additional moneys on the Tieton Unit except under proper safeguards that all expenditures for the project will be returned. This may be accomplished in two ways, no matter which of the two plans above mentioned is chosen, namely, by supplemental construction under Section 4 of the Reclamation Extension Act of August 13, 1914, or through the medium of the Irrigation District, which you have recently organized. But whichever plan is adopted, the same amount will have to be paid and the same option can be exercised as to whether you will vote to reduce the acreage of the project or have it remain as it now is. The main advantage of the Irrigation District is that the private lands of the Tieton Project will be able to secure farm loans as the result of releasing of liens held by the Water Users' Association.

9. The additional moneys above the present project charges will be payable at the conclusion of the 20-year period during which you are paying the \$93.00 per acre. In this manner, under the supplemental construction plan or the irrigation district plan,

the money is secured for 16 years without interest.

10. It is desired to obtain the view of each water user upon this important subject in order that the Reclamation Service officials may know your wishes in the matter. To this end, it is requested that you fill in your answers to the following questions and mail the same to the project office at Yakima on or before May 10, 1918. Your answer to these questions will not bind either you or the Reclamation Service in any way, but will be considered only as an informal expression of your individual view upon the questions submitted.