September 19, 1955

Honorable J. Bracken Lee
Governor of the State of Utah
B u i l d i n g

Dear Governor Lee: RE: RESTORATION PROCLAMATION - WEBER RIVER

Enclosed for your consideration please find a Restoration Proclamation which proposes to restore the right of the public to appropriate surplus and unappropriated water from all sources within the Weber River Drainage Area and from certain named streams along the Wasatch front in Davis and Box Elder Counties in Utah. This Restoration Proclamation and my recommendation thereon are made pursuant to Section 73-6-2, Utah Code Annotated 1953. It is my opinion that the enclosed Restoration Proclamation will serve the best interests of the public; therefore, I recommend that the right of the public to appropriate the waters described therein be restored.

The original withdrawal proclamation suspending the right of the public to appropriate the waters described therein became effective on February 2, 1949. It is my understanding that the purpose of this withdrawal was to restrict further development of the river system by private interests and to prevent nuisance filings until investigation of proposed reclamation projects could be completed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Primarily, the Weber Basin Project was involved. It now appears that the purpose of the withdrawal has been accomplished and the need for suspension no longer exists but rather there is a definite need for restoral.

Under date of September 6, 1955, I received a letter from the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District requesting restoration, and under date of September 10, 1955, I notified the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Utah Water and Power Board of my proposed recommendation in order that all necessary precautions could be taken to acquire and protect the water rights for any proposed state or federal projects.

It appears further that there is a consistent demand from individuals and private enterprise for the right to file on the waters of the Weber River in order to develop the water resources of the area. We believe private enterprise should be encouraged in this regard by restoring the waters of the Weber River to appropriation.

It is for the reasons outlined above that I recommend that the right of the public to appropriate the surplus and unappropriated water from all sources as described in the proclamation be fully restored. Upon approval of this proclamation, kindly return to this office two executed copies of the proclamation in order that the records of this office will be complete.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph H. Tracy
STATE ENGINEER

JHT/ccm
Enc: Proclamation