



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved a series of water service agreements at a special meeting on Thursday to divert excess flows from the Platte River for groundwater recharge purposes.

An agreement with the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will result in diversions of water from Central's Supply Canal into the E65 Canal, which carries water to Elwood Reservoir. Diverting the excess flows, which are the result of flooding along the South Platte River, will facilitate additional studies of groundwater recharge, help sustain groundwater supplies in the area, benefit recreation at Elwood Reservoir, and assist implementation of the DNR/TBNRD joint integrated management plan. It will also provide some mitigation of flooding along the central Platte River that may result from the high South Platte River flows.

The parties to the agreement will share the costs associated with the diversions, including the cost of delaying a \$637,000 siphon coating project on the E65 Canal above Elwood Reservoir. The contractor from New London, Iowa was in the process of mobilizing assets for the project, which was scheduled to commence on Sept. 23, when the South Platte River's floodwaters began to reach the area.

Central's board also approved a separate water service agreement with TBNRD and NDNR to divert excess water during the non-irrigation season into the upper reaches of the Phelps Canal to provide up to a maximum of 7,500 acre-feet of groundwater recharge at a cost of \$25 per acre-foot.

Central's board also approved an agreement with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) to provide groundwater recharge from sections of the Phelps Canal during the non-irrigation season between September 2013 and mid-April 2014. The purpose of the agreement is to augment flows in the Platte River via groundwater returns to the stream. The Program agreed to pay \$25/acre-foot for the recharge.

In addition, Central's board approved a similar agreement with the Program to provide up to 2,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge from the Phelps Canal to the Funk Lagoon.

Finally, the board approved an amendment to an agreement with Ostgren Construction Co., of Holdrege to delay a project to place riprap protection along portions of the E65 Canal. The delay is also attributed to use of the canal to carry excess water from the South Platte River flood. The contractor agreed to delay the project without penalty in exchange for a waiver of the date for completion of the project.

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