

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



PO Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

August 5, 2005

Judge C. Bruce Loble, Chief Water Judge
Montana Water Court
PO Box 1389
Bozeman, MT 59771-1389

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Montana Water Court

Dear Judge Loble:

After reviewing the issues stated in your letter of July 18 and contemplating possible solutions to the cash flow issue at hand, our office has come to two major conclusions;

- (1) You have a valid appropriation and only cash constraints could keep you from spending up to the limit provided in HB 22 (\$416,690 per year).
- (2) There is cash in the account at this time due to a transfer of funds from the general fund by the DNRC.

With this said there is nothing that prevents you from proceeding with your ramp-up for the implementation of HB 22, within the constraints of your appropriations. The Judicial Branch accounting staff must work closely with the DNRC accounting staff to monitor the cash flow of the state special revenue fund and maintain its solvency. If cash flow or revenue collections do become an issue, then OBPP staff, DNRC staff, and Judicial Branch staff will jointly develop a mitigation plan.

If you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact Brent Doig at 444-4118.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David Ewer in black ink.

David Ewer
Budget Director
Office of Budget and Program Planning

Cc: Jack Stults
Becky Buska