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Statement
of
The Association of Washington Irrigation Districts
Submitted to
President's Temporary Water Resources Policy Commission
at
Area Conference
Spokane, Washington, June 16-17, 1950

The Association of Washington Irrigation Districts is a state-wide association organized to promote and protect the interests of operating irrigation districts and the landowners thereunder. Its membership is expressly limited to irrigation landowners and officials of irrigation districts. Its funds are obtained from annual membership fees paid by member districts.

On behalf of the Association and acting under the authority of its Board of Directors, which met at ^{Miss Lane's} ~~Spokane~~ on June 16, 1950, we wish to present to this commission two factors which we believe to be of major importance in any consideration of the further development and utilization of our water resources.

1. Full and complete protection must be given to all water rights now existing under state law. Any action taken in the further development of our water resources which would jeopardize these rights either by their elimination or their reduction, or any possibility of such action would be fatal to the prosperity and hopes of thousands of landowners whose every security is based upon the validity of his present water supply.

2. This Association also wishes to go on record as favoring a continuation of the existing policy of local control of all irrigation projects constructed, or to be constructed with Federal funds. Such control should be given to the landowners of the project as soon as it is completed if they so request.

It is our belief that these landowners organized and operating under state law can best serve their own interest which are mutual with the interest of the entire project through local control and representation.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors,

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION
DISTRICTS

Dale Thorp, Director

G. L. Sterling, Director