



State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Southern Region, 1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3380

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February 21, 2008

Triple Ace Inc  
1800 Z St  
Heyburn, ID 83336

RE: Water District 45-O Groundwater Recharge

Dear Russ;

I have reviewed the recharge data provided by the Cottonwood Creek watermaster, and have discussed your request for recharge credit with Allen Merritt, Tim Luke and Cindy Yenter. We may be able to give you credit for any recharge that is measured AT the recharge site IF the Golden Valley aquifer responds appropriately. I will be looking at the recharge sites before next month's water meeting, but so far it appears that only the Cottonwood Creek site at the mouth of the canyon qualifies for possible recharge credit. A totalizing flow meter will be needed at the west site in order for you to receive any credit for recharge there; just measuring the water into the ditch is not sufficient.

The water levels in our test wells did not come up last year, and actually went down several feet from 2006. There was apparently NO natural recharge last spring, and I could not determine any positive effects from the Cottonwood Creek recharge. In the past, it has appeared that it takes about 2 years for recharge effects to show up in the test wells, so I am not surprised that the water levels did not increase immediately due to your project. My best suggestion is that you keep recharging as much as possible in the hope of increasing or at least stabilizing the aquifer on a long-term basis. It may take a sustained period of positive effects before we can allow credit for the recharged water. And while the previous recharged project stayed the entire reduction from 5500 af to 4000 af, future credits would be directly related to the actual amounts of water recharged.

Regards,

James E. Stanton  
Sr. Water Resource Agent

Cc: Allen Merritt  
Tim Luke ~  
Cindy Yenter

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.  
Director

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