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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

June 30, 2016

Gary Spackman, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street
Boise, ID 83702-7374
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Sent Via Email & US Mail

Re: IGWA Position Statements -Rule 50, GWMA

Dear Director Spackman:

We understand you are considering and will be conducting public informational hearings shortly regarding the designation of a Ground Water Management Area ("GWMA") pursuant to I.C. 42-203b for the ESPA. Designating a GWMA, as well as ongoing administration under the Methodology Order, present common questions regarding designating the proper boundary for the area of common groundwater supply.

As you know, repealing or amending the Rule 50 area of common groundwater supply for the ESPA has been a topic of discussion by the Department, water users and legislators for some time. Following careful consideration, the IGWA Board adopted Position Statements in support of amending Rule 50 to extend the common groundwater supply to the Snake River watershed; and, in support of establishing a GWMA with the boundary consisting of the Snake River watershed, excepting and excluding all IGWA Districts and their members that are participating in and are protected by the SWC-IGWA Settlement Agreement and Order approving the same as a mitigation plan. The Position Statements are as follows:

IGWA Position Statement Re: Rule 50 Boundary
(Adopted June 22, 2016)

IGWA supports and encourages the Department to proceed without delay to amend Rule 50 and expand the area of common groundwater supply to the Snake River watershed boundary upstream from King Hill, commonly referred to as "mountain top to mountain top."

IGWA Position Statement Re: Ground Water Management Area
(Adopted June 22, 2016)

IGWA supports and encourages the Director to establish a Ground Water Management Area pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-223b with a boundary consisting of the Snake River Basin watershed upstream from King Hill, EXCEPTING all areas within the boundaries (as they now exist or may be hereafter amended) of the IGWA Districts that are parties to and protected by the SWC-IGWA Settlement Agreement and the Director's Order approving the same as a mitigation plan (Magic Valley, North Snake, Aberdeen-American Falls, Bingham, Madison, Bonneville-Jefferson, Jefferson-Clark, Carey Valley, and Fremont-Madison Irrigation District). IGWA opposes any Ground Water Management Area that overlaps the boundaries of the identified IGWA Districts that are parties to and protected by the SWC-IGWA Settlement Agreement and Director's Order approving the same as a mitigation plan.

The reasons for these Position Statements are: (1) all groundwater users in the area of common groundwater supply to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer should be treated fairly and equally responsible to help stabilize and restore the aquifer, consistent with the obligations of those groundwater users participating in the SWC-IGWA Settlement Agreement recovery efforts; (2) without the participation of all groundwater users, the burden of aquifer stabilization and recovery unfairly falls solely upon IGWA members who effectively become responsible for depletions caused by other groundwater users not subject to the obligations under the SWC-IGWA Settlement Agreement and mitigation plan; and (3) A GWMA overlapping the Districts already under mitigation plan protection adds unnecessary complexity.

IGWA encourages you to proceed on both of these matters consistent with these Position Statements and intends to participate fully in the process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

RANDALL C. BUDGE

RCB:ts
c: Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.
Tim Deeg, Chairman
Lynn Tominaga, Executive Director

Board of Directors
Surface Water Coalition
John Simpson
Travis Thompson
Kent Fletcher
Gary Baxter
Clive Strong
Matt Weaver