

C. Thomas Arkoosh, ISB #2253
CAPITOL LAW GROUP, PLLC
P.O. Box 32
Gooding, Idaho 83330
Telephone: (208) 934-8872
Facsimile: (208) 934-8873

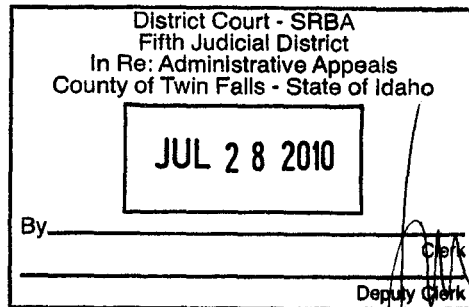
W. Kent Fletcher, ISB #2248
FLETCHER LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 248
Burley, Idaho 83318
Telephone: (208) 678-3250
Facsimile: (208) 878-2548

*Attorneys for American Falls Reservoir
District #2*

*Attorneys for Minidoka Irrigation
District*

John A. Rosholt, ISB #1037
John K. Simpson, ISB #4242
Travis L. Thompson, ISB #6168
Paul L. Arrington, ISB #7198
BARKER ROSHOLT & SIMPSON LLP
113 Main Avenue West, Suite 303
P.O. Box 485
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0485
Telephone: (208) 733-0700
Facsimile: (208) 735-2444

*Attorneys for A&B Irrigation District, Burley
Irrigation District, Milner Irrigation District,
North Side Canal Company, Twin Falls Canal
Company*



**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GOODING**

**TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY, NORTH)
SIDE CANAL COMPANY, A&B)
IRRIGATION DISTRICT, AMERICAN)
FALLS RESERVOIR DISTRICT#2,)
BURLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT,)
MILNER IRRIGATION DISTRICT, and)
MINIDOKA IRRIGATION DISTRICT,)
Petitioners,)
vs.)
IDAHO GROUND WATER)**

CASE Nos. CV-2010-384
SURFACE WATER COALITION'S
JOINT RESPONSE TO IGWA AND
POCATELLO'S MOTION FOR
STAY AND CONSOLIDATION AND
MOTION TO RENUMBER
APPEALS AND TO FILE APPEALS
IN GOODING COUNTY CASE NO.
CV-2008-00551

**SURFACE WATER COALITION'S JOINT RESPONSE TO IGWA AND POCATELLO'S
MOTION FOR STAY AND CONSOLIDATION AND MOTION TO RENUMBER APPEALS
AND TO FILE APPEALS IN GOODING COUNTY CASE NO. CV-2008-00551**

Appeals in Gooding County Case No. CV-2008-551, filed jointly by Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. (“IGWA”) and the City of Pocatello.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Presently pending before this Court are six appeals from two final orders issued by the Interim Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources: the June 23, 2010 *Second Amended Final Order Regarding Methodology for Determining Material Injury to Reasonable In-Season Demand and Reasonable Carryover* (the “*Methodology Order*”) and the June 24, 2010 *Final Order Regarding April 2010 Forecast Supply (Methodology Steps 3&4); Order on Reconsideration* (the “*As-Applied Order*”).

The *Methodology Order* was appealed to the Gooding County District Court by the Coalition (Appeal No. CV-2010-384), IGWA (Appeal No. CV-2010-383); and the City of Pocatello (Appeal No. CV-2010-388). The *As-Applied Order* was appealed to the Gooding County District Court by IGWA (Appeal No. CV-2010-382) and Pocatello (Appeal No. CV-2010-387). The Coalition appealed the *As-Applied Order* to the Twin Falls County District Court (Appeal No. CV-2010-3403). Pursuant to the Supreme Court’s December 9, 2009 *Administrative Order*, each of these appeals has been reassigned to the SRBA District Court for further proceedings.

Each appeal of the *Methodology Order* was filed in conjunction with the original appeal in *A&B, et al. v. IDWR* (Gooding County Case No. CV-2008-551). However, pursuant to the *Administrative Order*, each appeal was given a separate case number and subsequently reassigned to the SRBA District Court. IGWA and Pocatello filed a joint *Motion to Renumber Appeals & to File Appeals in Gooding County Case No. CV-2008-551*, seeking to have the cases removed from the SRBA Court and assigned back to the Gooding County District Court.

In addition, IGWA and Pocatello moved to have their appeals of the *As-Applied Order* consolidated with their appeals of the *Methodology Order*.

ARGUMENT

The Coalition agrees that the various appeals of the *Methodology Order* and the *As-Applied Order* should be consolidated into one proceeding. Consolidation is consistent with the purpose of the law governing consolidation. *See* I.C. § 67-5272(2). Consolidating these appeals into one action will allow for judicial economy and convenience, as each of the appeals stems from the same administrative orders issued by IDWR's Interim Director. Furthermore, whereas the *Methodology Order* purports to establish the Director's framework for determining "reasonable in-season demand" and "reasonable carryover" and material injury to the Coalition's senior surface water rights for conjunctive administration, the *As-Applied Order* attempts to apply the facts to the methodology for the 2010 irrigation season. As such, hearing all appeals in one proceeding is the most efficient manner to resolve the various petitions for judicial review. In sum, the Coalition agrees the cases should be consolidated.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's *Administrative Order*, and this Court's July 1, 2010 *Administrative Order Adopting Procedures for the Implementation of the Idaho Supreme Court Administrative Order Dated December 9, 2009*, the proper forum for these consolidated appeals is the SRBA District Court.

The Supreme Court's *Administrative Order* is unambiguous: "It is hereby ordered that all petitions for judicial review of *any decision* regarding the administrative of water rights from the Department of Water Resources *shall be assigned to the presiding judge of the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court.*" (Emphasis added). There is no exception to this

requirement in either the *Administrative Order* or this Court's procedural rules. All appeals from any decision of the Department must be assigned to the SRBA District Court.

In the *A&B et al. v. IDWR* appeal, the Honorable John M. Melanson issued his *Order on Petition for Judicial Review* on July 24, 2009. IGWA and Pocatello each sought rehearing of that order. Those petitions have been fully briefed and argued and are pending. Judge Melanson stayed a decision on rehearing until the Director had issued an order "determining material injury to reasonable in-season demand and reasonable carryover." *Order Overruling Objection to Order Staying Decision*, (Mar. 25, 2010). The Court held "in abeyance any final decision on rehearing until the Director issues a *Final Order* and the time period for filing motions for reconsideration and petitions for judicial review of the new order have expired." *Id.* Judge Melanson did not state that petitions for judicial review must be filed in conjunction with the existing appeal. Nothing in the Court's order can be read to override the clear mandate of the Supreme Court's *Administrative Order*. As such, the cases should be consolidated before the SRBA District Court.

Now that the Interim Director's final orders have been issued, there is no longer any reason to postpone a decision on IGWA's and Pocatello's petitioners for rehearing. As such, Melanson can issue a decision on the pending motions and the appeals of the *Methodology Order* and *As-Applied Order* can proceed before the SRBA Court, as required by the *Administrative Order*.

CONCLUSION

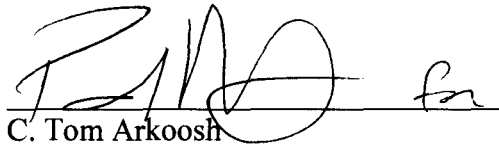
Presently pending before this Court are six appeals of two final decisions by the Interim Director. The Supreme Court's *Administrative Order* requires that they be reassigned before this Court. Furthermore, consolidation is appropriate. As such, the *Motion to Renumber Appeals*

should be denied and the *Motion or Stay and Consolidation* should be granted, with the appeals being consolidated before the SRBA District Court.

The Coalition requests a hearing on this matter.

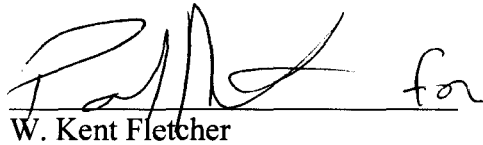
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 28th day of July, 2010.

CAPITOL LAW GROUP, PLLC


C. Tom Arkoosh

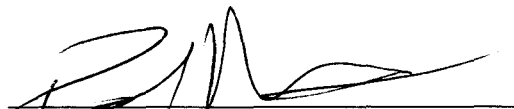
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Travis L. Thompson, ISB #6168
Paul L. Arrington, ISB #7198

*Attorneys for A&B Irrigation District, Burley
Irrigation District, Milner Irrigation District,
North Side Canal Company, Twin Falls Canal
Company*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 28TH day of July, 2010, I served true and correct copies of the foregoing upon the following by the method indicated:

Snake River Basin Adjudication
427 Shoshone Street N.
P.O. Box 126
Twin Falls, ID 83303

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Garrick Baxter
Chris Bromley
Deputy Attorneys General
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098
garrick.gaxter@idwr.idaho.gov
chris.bromley@idwr.idaho.gov

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Randy Budge
Candice McHugh
P.O. Box 1391
Pocatello, Idaho 83204-1391

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Sarah Klahn
William A. Hillhouse II
Kelly Snodgrass
511 16th St., Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Dean Tranmer
City of Pocatello
P.O. Box 4169
Pocatello, Idaho 83205

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Kathleen Carr
U.S. Dept. of Interior
960 Broadway Ste. 400
Boise, Idaho 83706

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Matt Howard
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1150 N. Curtis Road
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Lyle Swank
IDWR
900 N .Skyline Dr.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402-6105

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Allen Merritt
Cindy Yenter
IDWR
1341 Fillmore St., Suite 200
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

William A. Parsons
Parsons, Smith & Stone, LLP
P.O. Box 910
Burley, ID 83318

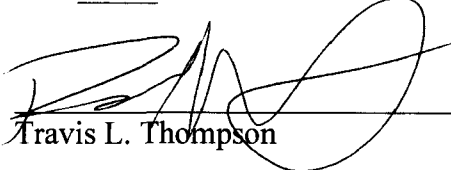
U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

Michael C. Creamer
Jeffrey C. Fereday
601 W. Bannock
P.O. Box 2720
Boise, Idaho 83701-2720

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email

David W. Gehlert
Natural Resources Section
U.S. Department of Justice
1961 Stout Street, 8th Floor
Denver, CO 80294

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivery
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile
 Email


Travis L. Thompson