

NOTICE OF MITIGATION PLAN SUBMITTAL
BY THE SOUTHWEST AND GOOSE CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICTS
IN RESPONSE TO THE SURFACE WATER COALITION WATER DELIVERY CALL

Notice is hereby given that on May 28, 2010, Southwest Irrigation District ("SWID"), and Goose Creek Irrigation District ("GCID"), through their counsel, Parsons, Smith and Stone, LLP, PO Box 910, Burley, ID, 83318, submitted the Southwest and Goose Creek Irrigation Districts Mitigation Plan – Re Surface Water Coalition ("plan" or "mitigation plan") to the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department"). On June 16, 2010, the Department received an amended plan from SWID and GCID which included certain appendices that were omitted but referenced in the original submitted plan. The Department will process this plan pursuant to the Department's Conjunctive Management Rules (IDPA 37, Title 03, Chapter 11).

The plan is intended to satisfy the mitigation obligations of SWID and GCID for the Surface Water Coalition Water Delivery call administered by the watermasters of State Water District Nos. 110, 120, 130, 140 and 34 and the Department. The Surface Water Coalition ("SWC") consists of irrigation water delivery entities that hold senior surface water rights diverted from the Snake River and tributaries above Milner Dam. SWC members include A&B Irrigation District, American Falls Reservoir District #2, Burley Irrigation District, Milner Irrigation District, Minidoka Irrigation District, North Side Canal Company, and Twin Falls Canal Company.

SWID and GCID represent numerous landowners who hold ground water rights for irrigation, commercial, and other non-deminimis consumptive uses located within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ("ESPA") and other areas of Cassia and Twin Falls Counties. Certain of these ground water rights have priority dates junior to the priority dates of surface water rights held by the SWC. Ground water sources in the ESPA and the Snake River are interconnected sources of water.

SWID and GCID have proposed to mitigate injury to all SWC senior priority surface water rights that may result from depletions under junior priority ground water rights held by SWID and GCID members. The plan provides for continued and new conversions of irrigated land from ground water to surface water and waste water supplies, the ongoing enrollment of ground water irrigated lands in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the ongoing voluntary curtailment of specific ground water irrigated acres under ground water rights held by SWID and GCID members, and seasonal aquifer recharge through injection of surface water to ground water wells and/or open ditches. SWID and GCID propose that the amount of mitigation provided each year may vary relative to the availability of surface water for its mitigation projects and that annual mitigation cannot be submitted until the end of the water year in order to determine the total amount of mitigation provided.

The Department has not determined the adequacy of the proposed plan. A complete copy of the proposed plan is available for review at either the Department's State Office in Boise, the Department's Regional Office in Twin Falls, or may be viewed online at the following website along with other related documents:

<http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/News/MitigationPlan/SWC/SWID.htm>

Any protest against approval of the plan must be filed with the Department, together with a protest fee of \$25, on or before **July 12, 2010**. The protest must include a certificate of service showing that a copy of the protest has been mailed to or served on SWID and GCID, and their counsel.

Gary Spackman, Interim Director

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