



State of Idaho

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

June 7, 2017

**RE: Notice of First Settlement Discussion Meeting in the Matter of Whether to Designate the Big Lost River Basin a Critical Ground Water Area or a Ground Water Management Area (P-CGWA-2016-001)**

Dear Parties,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources' (Department) Director Gary Spackman, acting as hearing officer in the matter of *Whether to Designate the Big Lost River Basin a Critical Ground Water Area or a Ground Water Management Area*, held a prehearing conference on May 3, 2017. During the prehearing conference, parties to the matter requested an opportunity to enter into settlement discussions to resolve their difference regarding management area designations in the Big Lost River Basin. The hearing officer agreed to the request and subsequently issued a scheduling order on May 9, 2017, establishing a hearing timeline that accommodated settlement discussions.

Idaho State Senators Steve Bair (District 31) and Jeff Siddoway (District 35) have both agreed to co-chair settlement discussions with support from Jennifer Sukow, a Senior Engineer with the Department, and myself. Senators Bair and Siddoway are well qualified to mediate this issue due to their experience with water resource issues across the state and in the Big Lost River Basin, gained through many years of service on the Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

**The first settlement discussion meeting has been scheduled for 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Wednesday June 28, 2017, at the Butte County Memorial Annex Building, 326 W. Grand Ave., Arco, Idaho.**

An agenda has not yet been prepared for the meeting, but the settlement discussion co-chairs have requested presentations at the first meeting by Jennifer Sukow on the hydrogeologic conditions of the ground water basin and by me on the statutory and legal differences between a Critical Ground Water Area and a Ground Water Management Area.

Documents related to this contested case can be found at the Department's webpage at the following web link:

<https://idwr.idaho.gov/legal-actions/administrative-actions/Big-Lost-River-Basin-CGWA-petition.html>

Please email me at [mathew.weaver@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:mathew.weaver@idwr.idaho.gov) or call me at (208) 287-4800 with any questions prior to our first settlement discussion.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Weaver'.

Mat Weaver, PE  
Deputy Director

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
IN THE MATTER OF THE BIG LOST RIVER BASIN  
PETITION FOR CRITICAL GROUND WATER AREA  
P-CGWA-2016-001  
(Updated June 1, 2017)**

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