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## Senate confirms four Idaho Water Resource Board members

BOISE - (Feb. 16, 2017) – The Idaho Senate has voted to confirm four members of the Idaho Water Resource Board who were reappointed to new four-year terms by Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter.

Idaho Water Resource Board Chairman Roger Chase of Pocatello was confirmed for a third term; Albert Barker, a Boise attorney, was confirmed for a second term; Vince Alberdi of Kimberly, retired, was confirmed for a third term; and John “Bert” Stevenson of Rupert, retired, was confirmed for a second term.

In addition, the Water Resource Board re-elected Chase as the chairman, Jeff Raybould of St. Anthony as vice-chairman, and Alberdi as treasurer.

Chase is a former Idaho legislator who represented the Pocatello area in the Idaho House of Representatives from 1996-2002. He was Mayor of Pocatello for eight years after serving on the Pocatello City Council from 1988-1996. Chase also worked for the Simplot Company as a chemical plant operator for 19 years.

“It’s an exciting time to serve on the Water Resource Board,” Chase said. “We are marking important progress on recharging the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, thanks to the financial support of Governor Otter and the Idaho Legislature, and the cooperation of many canal companies participating in that effort.

“We are working to ensure that we manage our water resources on a sustainable basis throughout the state, with aquifer management plans, water rights adjudications, a new Sustainability Policy in the State Water Plan, and working with water users and stakeholders.”

A former general manager of the Twin Falls Canal Co. for 16 years, Alberdi was first appointed to the board in 2009. He also worked for the Northside Canal Company, Intermountain Gas, and Wills Inc., a home-building business.

Barker has been practicing law in Idaho since 1982. He’s one of three founding partners of Barker, Rosholt and Simpson LLP. Barker specializes in water issues, hydropower operations, natural resources, environmental issues, construction law and more.

Stevenson, a retired farmer, served in the Idaho Legislature for 16 years prior to his appointment to the Idaho Water Resource Board. Stevenson served as chairman of the House Resources and Conservation Committee for ten years. Stevenson also has been a director of the Minidoka Irrigation District and a Minidoka County commissioner.

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