

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF GROUND WATER) A RESOLUTION
CONSERVATION GRANTS)
_____)

WHEREAS, House Bill 547 passed and approved by the 2014 legislature allocated \$5 million annually from the Cigarette Tax to the Idaho Water Resource Board ("IWRB") for statewide aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, many aquifer across Idaho are declining and have existing or potential conjunctive administration water use conflicts, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, the Wood River Aquifer, the Mountain Home Aquifer, the Treasure Valley Aquifer, the Palouse Basin Aquifer, the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and others; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2016, the IWRB Finance Committee met and recommended a Fiscal Year 2017 budget that included \$200,000 for ground water conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2016, the IWRB adopted by resolution a budget for Fiscal Year 2017 authorizing the use of continuously appropriated Secondary Aquifer Planning and Management and Implementation Fund for ground water conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, the budget resolution adopted on May 20, 2016 by the IWRB required the IWRB to develop a criteria for the award of ground water conservation grants prior to any grants being awarded; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the criteria attached hereto in Attachment A for the award of ground water conservation grants for Fiscal Year 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any funds awarded for ground water conservation grants shall be approved by the IWRB by resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may modify these criteria during Fiscal Year 2017 at a properly noticed meeting of the IWRB.

DATED this 2nd day of November 2016.


ROGER CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
VINCE ALBERDI, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF WATER
SUSTAINABILITY AND TREASURE
VALLEY RECHARGE

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR
TREASURE VALLEY MANAGED RECHARGE
FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, House Bill 547 passed and approved by the 2014 Legislature allocates \$5 million annually through 2019 from the Cigarette Tax to the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund) for statewide aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1402 passed and approved by the 2016 Legislature allocated \$5 million ongoing to the General Fund and \$2.5 million in Economic Recovery Reserve Funds to the IWRB's Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, many aquifers across Idaho are declining or have existing or potential conjunctive administration water use conflicts, including the Wood River, the Mountain Home Aquifer, the Treasure Valley Aquifer, the Palouse Basin Aquifer, the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and others; and

WHEREAS, Governor Otter directed the Idaho Water Resource Board to develop a water sustainability policy and support water sustainability and aquifer stabilization projects across Idaho to address declining ground water levels, existing or potential conjunctive administration water use conflicts, alternative water supplies and long-term water management needs; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Water Plan states that aquifer recharge may be an appropriate means for enhancing ground and surface water supplies, optimizing existing water supplies to meet demand and should be promoted and encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 137 directing the IWRB to address statewide aquifer stabilization and sustainability projects including aquifer recharge studies for the Treasure Valley Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2016, the IWRB adopted the Secondary Aquifer Fund Fiscal Year 2017 Budget which included \$200,000 for a Treasure Valley Managed Recharge Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) to assess whether managed recharge has the potential to enhance water supplies or provide other water management benefits in the Treasure Valley; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditures not to exceed \$200,000 from the Secondary Aquifer Fund, for a Treasure Valley Managed Recharge Feasibility Study; and

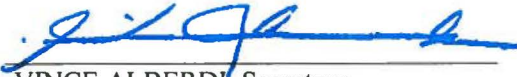
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, Brian Patton, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to complete the Feasibility Study.

DATED this 2nd day of November 2016.



ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST



VINCE ALBERDI, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF	)	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE ISLAND PARK	)	FUNDS FOR THE
RESERVOIR ENLARGMENT	)	LAND AND REAL ESTATE
PROJECT	)	ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the 2008 Legislature passed House Joint Memorial No. 8 encouraging the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), in coordination with other public and private entities, to initiate studies to determine the potential for additional water storage projects in the state; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB and the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) completed the Henrys Fork Basin Study, July 2014 (Basin Study), which evaluated a number of potential alternatives for additional surface water storage in the Henrys Fork Basin including an enlargement of the Island Park Reservoir, a Reclamation facility; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 479 passed and approved by the 2014 Idaho legislature appropriated \$2.5 million to pursue the enlargement of Island Park Reservoir (project); and

WHEREAS, additional evaluation of potential impacts to land, real estate, roads and utilities and other appurtenant structures as a result of a raise of the Island Park Reservoir is required to determine the viability of the project; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB authorized expenditure of up to \$100,000 from the Revolving Development Account for advisory services in the coordination between the IWRB and Reclamation, and for the completion of the Island Park Reservoir Enlargement Land and Real Estate Assessment (Assessment); and

WHEREAS, a portion of the of the authorized funds (\$55,570) were expended to collect airborne Lidar and orthoimagery of the Island Park Reservoir and project area to provide high resolution elevation data and geometrically corrected aerial photographs for use in the Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the new elevation data and imagery will be used to complete the inventory of impacts to property and infrastructure and the development of estimated associated costs under a range of increased reservoir water surface elevations; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the remaining work to complete the Assessment is approximately \$100,000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes the expenditure of up to \$100,000 from the Revolving Development Account to complete the Assessment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, Brian Patton, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to complete the Assessment.

Dated this 2nd day of November 2016.



ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

Attest: 

Vince Alberdi, Secretary
Idaho Water Resource Board

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF)
CHANGE TO THE)
IDAHO STATE WATER PLAN)
_____)

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board), pursuant to its planning authorities in Article XV, Section 7 of the Idaho Constitution, and Idaho Code 42-1734, 1734A, and 1734B developed a proposed Sustainability section for the Idaho State Water Plan (Plan) adopted on November 28, 2012; and

WHEREAS, as required under Idaho Code 42-1734A, the Board has sought substantial public participation and comment on the proposed change to the Plan by providing a public comment period greater than 60 days, including opportunity for submission of written comments and for oral testimony at seven public hearings throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the record of public comments consisting of oral testimony and written comments and has modified its proposed change to the Plan accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, having considered the proposed draft change to the Plan and the record of public comments, the Board hereby adopts the attached final version of the change to the Plan. The Board directs that the adopted change be submitted to the Idaho Legislature as required by Idaho Constitution Article XV, Section 7 and Idaho Code 42-1734B(6), and that copies also be provided to the Office of the Governor and Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources and be published and distributed generally as required by Idaho Code 42-1734B(5).

DATED this 2nd day of November, 2016


Roger Chase, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST


Vince Alberdi, Secretary

8. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability focuses on the overall stewardship of the state's water resources for the good of the people of the State of Idaho.

8A - SUSTAINABILITY OF IDAHO'S WATER RESOURCES

Sustainability is the active stewardship of Idaho's water resources to satisfy current uses and assure future uses of this renewable resource in accordance with state law and policy.

Discussion:

This Sustainability Policy depends on the state's sovereignty over its water resources. Water is the foundation of Idaho's economy and culture; the lives and livelihoods of Idahoans depend on a reliable supply of water. Stewardship of Idaho's water resources begins with the realization that the water resources of the state are not inexhaustible. Therefore, it is necessary to manage and administer Idaho's water resources and protect Idaho's water quality. Stewardship, by necessity, also includes taking affirmative steps to address declining trends in the resource, where those trends exist, and to establish policies that will prevent future unsustainable declines. The goal must be overall stewardship of the state's water resources for the good of the people of the State of Idaho.

The State of Idaho encompasses some of the most diverse and awe-inspiring physical and geological features in the country. From the depths of Hells Canyon to the peak of Mount Borah, from sagebrush deserts to the extensive agricultural farm and ranch land, from alpine forests and meadows to the cities and towns, the ecosystems of each of these varied areas all rely on the water resources of the state. The people of the state interact with and depend upon the water resources in these different landscapes in many different ways. Therefore, the water sustainability policy of the State of Idaho must embrace the diversity of the state, while recognizing the potential for a use or activity in one place to affect the water resources in another part of the state.

Sustainable water management strategies to meet current and future needs must be based on adequate knowledge regarding available supplies, existing use, trends, competing economic and social demands, and future needs. Planning and management actions to promote water sustainability must be designed and implemented to ensure that existing water rights are protected and the economic vitality of Idaho is optimized.

The goal of sustainable use of water resources of the state must recognize that the goals of sustainable economic growth and protection of existing rights must coexist with and are enhanced by measures that protect and maintain surface and ground water resources and the

aquatic, riparian, fish and wildlife, recreational, and human resources that depend on these water resources. Recognizing these needs will promote economic and environmental security and enhance the quality of life for the people of the State of Idaho.

Implementation Strategies:

- Ensure that all actions taken toward a sustainable water future protect and respect private property rights both in the land and water rights.
- Inventory Idaho's water supply, current uses, and future water supply needs.
- Evaluate long-term and short-term trends in water availability for present and future uses.
- Identify areas where present water supplies are either inadequate for present uses or not sustainable, and develop management plans to address supply in an appropriate time frame, while respecting private property rights.
- Identify management alternatives and projects that optimize existing and future water supplies without compromising water quality.
- Prioritize and implement management alternatives and projects where competing demands and future needs are most critical.
- Enhance water transfer mechanisms in Idaho law, policy, and regulations to allow future economic opportunities to utilize existing water supplies, while protecting existing uses.
- Utilize the Idaho Water Resource Board's Funding Program and prioritize allocation of funds for projects that ensure water sustainability across the state.
- Utilize the state protected river system and the Idaho Water Resource Board minimum stream flow water rights to sustain water supplies for fisheries and recreational opportunities.
- Educate the public about water uses and the need for water conservation measures.
- Identify water conservation measures that water users, municipalities, governmental agencies, and other entities can undertake to help protect the water resources of the state and provide guidance to those entities on best practices to implement those conservation measures.
- Recognize that conservation measures may reduce water supplies utilized by others in other parts of the resource.
- Identify measures and provide funding for aquifer stabilization strategies, including managed recharge, throughout the state with due regard to the priorities of basin-specific Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plans.
- Pursue enhancement of surface water storage supply as a mechanism for meeting Idaho's future water needs.
- Recognize weather modification may help to achieve water sustainability goals.
- Cooperate with flood control entities to ensure flood control actions are consistent with water sustainability.

- Use a grassroots approach to identify problems and develop optimal solutions. The needs of individual basins must be taken into consideration in how the resource should be managed, while recognizing the potential for decisions in one basin to affect the resources of another basin. An integrated and collaborative approach to water resource management is critical for the sound and efficient use of Idaho's water resources. The State of Idaho, when appropriate, should work together with water users, tribes, local communities, neighboring states, and the federal government to resolve water issues.
- Protection of the quality of existing water supplies, particularly those ground water resources that are used for drinking water supplies, to ensure the vitality of local communities. This goal requires other state and local agencies to exercise their appropriate authorities to protect the water resource and to assist in meeting the goal of sustainable economic growth.

Milestones:

- Protect and respect private property rights in accordance with state law and policy.
- Identify number of basins where water supply and demand have been inventoried.
- Identify number of basins where management alternatives have been identified and implemented to optimize existing and future water supplies, including surface water storage, ground water recharge, conservation measures, and weather modification.
- Obtain more accurate water supply, water measurement, and forecasting information.
- Disseminate water supply forecasts and trends to water users in cooperation with other federal and state agencies.
- Measure utilization of the Water Supply Bank and transfer procedures to allow sustainable use of the resource.
- Determination and implementation of measures and policies to enhance the utility of the Water Supply Bank and transfer procedures.
- Financial programs and funding strategies that meet the future water resource needs of the State of Idaho. Secure funding and resources in cooperation with the Governor and legislature. Reliable on-going, long-term funding will be needed to enable and support active stewardship of Idaho's water resources.
- Basin aquifer stabilization—stabilization of ground water levels in basins where declines are occurring to restore and maintain sustainable aquifer levels.
- Initiate and facilitate construction of additional surface water storage to meet current and future needs.
- Use of adaptive management to identify and address uncertainties for success, including those related to data, modeling, and impacts of climate variability.
- Balance water supply and demand—supply and demand must be in balance to support current and future use within a particular basin.
- Consider impact of water use changes and water supply trends on future water availability.

- Improve data management—accurate and abundant data is necessary to assist with ensuring stewardship of Idaho’s water resources to satisfy current and future uses.
- Coordination with state and local entities on measures to protect and enhance ground water and surface water resources so that these resources are available for use by the people of the State of Idaho.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF RENEWING)	
AN INTERIM GROUND WATER)	
RENTAL POLICY AND	)	A RESOLUTION PERTAINING
ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM	)	TO ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY
GROUND WATER RENTAL POLICY	)	OF THE WATER SUPPLY BANK
FOR THE WATER SUPPLY BANK IN)	
THE WOOD RIVER VALLEY)	

WHEREAS, section 42-1761, Idaho Code provides that the Idaho Water Resource Board shall have the duty of operating a Water Supply Bank; and

WHEREAS, section 42-1762, Idaho Code provides that the Idaho Water Resource Board shall adopt rules and regulations governing the management, control, delivery and use and distribution of water to and from the Water Supply Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board authorized the Water Supply Bank to implement a temporary ground water right rental policy in the Wood River Valley, to facilitate efficient administration of ground water rentals while the Department of Water Resources concluded work on a ground water model for the Wood River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the ground water model is now complete but no formal policy has yet been issued regarding the use of the model and administration of rental requests for ground water rights in the Wood River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board may evaluate and utilize the results of modeled ground water rental scenarios to develop a long-term, ground water right rental policy for the Water Supply Bank in the Wood River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Water Supply Bank Subcommittee is the recommended forum in which modeled rental scenarios should be discussed as policy is crafted; and

WHEREAS, Wood River Valley water users should have the opportunity to provide public comments at Water Supply Bank Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board and Wood River Valley water users would also benefit from the continuance of the interim rental policy for an additional year, while a new, long-term policy is crafted and enacted by the Idaho Water Resource Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Water Resource Board commits to holding Water Supply Bank Subcommittee meetings, including meetings in the Wood River Valley, during calendar year 2017, in which Committee members, IDWR staff and interested members of the public will evaluate the modeled impacts of Wood River Valley ground water rental scenarios, and from which a long-term ground water rental policy will be established for the Water Supply Bank in the Wood River Valley; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Water Resource Board authorizes a renewal of the interim ground water rental policy until December 31, 2017.

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2016.



ROGER W. CHASE
Idaho Water Resource Board Chairman

Attest: 
VINCE ALBERDI
Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
PRIEST LAKE	)	FUNDS FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	)	PRIEST RIVER OUTFLOW GAGE

WHEREAS, the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) owns the Priest Lake Dam (Dam) which was constructed in 1951 as an outlet control structure to maintain lake levels and downstream flows in the Priest River in accordance with Idaho Code § 70-507; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 70-507 authorizes the director of IDWR to contract operation and maintenance of the dam, and requires that the water surface level of Priest Lake be maintained at 3.0 feet on the US Geologic Society (USGS) Priest lake Outlet gage (located upstream of the Dam) after run-off of winter snowpack until the close of the main recreational season; and

WHEREAS, the USGS operated a streamflow gage on the Priest River approximately four miles downstream of the Dam until 2006; however, the closest operational streamflow gage is now located 45 miles downstream of the Dam which measures flows in the Priest River, including inflow from tributary streams below the Dam, and therefore, does not reflect the discharge rate from the Dam; and

WHEREAS, limited water supply and drought conditions in northern Idaho in 2015 limited the director's ability to maintain required pool levels and downstream flow in the Priest River during the recreational season; and

WHEREAS, Priest Lake, Upper Priest Lake and the Priest River are significant draws for tourism and recreation, and are highly valued environmental and economic assets for Bonner County and the state of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, IDWR recognizes the need for potential improvements to the Priest Lake Dam to address general maintenance needs, and improve measurement of lake levels, outflow, and operation of the outlet structure to help manage available water supplies into the future; and

WHEREAS, Governor Otter directed the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to develop a water sustainability policy and support water sustainability and aquifer stabilization projects across Idaho to address declining ground water levels, existing or potential conjunctive administration water use conflicts, alternative water supplies and long-term water management needs; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB, with support from Bonner County, the community, local officials and the Lake Pend Oreille, Pend Oreille River, Priest Lake and Priest River Commission, has initiated the Priest Lake Water Management Study (Study) to evaluate options to improve operation of the Priest Lake and Priest River system, and identify potential

improvements to the Outlet Dam, lake level and streamflow measurement, and options for rehabilitation of the Thorofare; and

WHEREAS, the USGS is prepared to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) for installation, operation and maintenance, and publication of data collected for a new streamflow gage located immediately downstream of the Dam to provide accurate outflow data and to assist with reservoir and dam operations; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of installation plus operation and maintenance (O&M) for a new gage for Fiscal Year 2017 is \$24,500, and annual O&M costs in subsequent years are estimated to be \$16,400; and

WHEREAS, the IDWR Safety of Dams Program secured a FEMA grant in the amount of \$7,500 to assist with installation expenses for the new outflow gage; therefore, the total remaining expenses for installation and O&M in Fiscal Year 2017 are \$17,000; and


WHEREAS, the USGS expects to share costs associated with the O&M in subsequent years, though the amount will be defined on an annual basis;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of funds not to exceed \$17,000 from the Revolving Development Account for the installation of a new gage below the Priest Lake Outlet Dam and the first year of operation and maintenance by the USGS.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes an annual expenditure of funds beginning in Fiscal Year 2018 not to exceed \$10,000 from the Revolving Development Account for expenditures associated with operations and maintenance of the Priest River Outflow gage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, Brian Patton, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to complete the installation and ongoing operation and maintenance of the new Priest River Outflow gage.

Dated this 2nd day of November 2016.


ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

Attest: 
Vince Alberdi, Secretary
Idaho Water Resource Board