

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

**IN THE MATTER OF EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN
AQUIFER STABILIZATION AND MANAGED
AQUIFER RECHARGE**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ACCEPTING AND
RECHARGING WATER AS PART OF A
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
SURFACE WATER COALITION AND VARIOUS
CITIES THROUGHOUT THE ESPA AND
PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY**

1 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho relies on spring discharge from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
2 (ESPA) through the Thousand Springs to assist in the meeting minimum streamflow water rights at the
3 Murphy Gage established under Swan Falls Agreement; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the ESPA has been losing approximately 216,000 acre-feet annually from aquifer
6 storage since the 1950's resulting in declining groundwater levels in the aquifer and declining spring flows
7 from the aquifer; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (ESPA
10 CAMP), identified managed recharge as a key strategy of achieving the goal of aquifer stabilization and
11 recovery; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the 2016 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 136
14 directing to IWRB to develop the capacity to achieve 250,000 acre-feet of annual average managed
15 recharge to the ESPA by December 31, 2024; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Surface Water Coalition (SWC) filed a delivery call in 2005 with the Idaho
18 Department of Water Resources (IDWR) under the Conjunctive Management Rules (IDAPA 37.03.11 et
19 seq.)
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21 WHEREAS, the ground water rights of the cities on the ESPA have been subject to IDWR
22 administration, including curtailment, as a result of the SWC delivery call; and
23

24 WHEREAS, IDWR designated the ESPA as a Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) on
25 November 2, 2016
26

27 WHEREAS, a group of cities (Cities) on the ESPA desire to implement a long-term resolution to
28 mitigation obligation under both the SWC Delivery Call and the ESPA-GWMA (Settlement Agreement) that
29 allows for cities to continue to grow and develop
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31 WHEREAS, the Cities as part of the Settlement Agreement between the SWC, Participating
32 Members of the IGWA, and Cities ("Final Settlement Agreement"), seeks a contract with Board through
33 which it can assign to the Board variable amounts of City water to be recharged by the Board
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35 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB agrees to utilize water transferred from the
36 Cities as part of the IWRB ESPA managed Recharge Program to recharge the ESPA aquifer; and
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38 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB will be compensated for recharging
39 the water received from the Cities; and
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41 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee,
42 Brian Patton, Executive Officer to the IWRB, to execute the necessary agreements or conduct managed

43 recharge for the Cities as part of the Final Settlement Agreement.

DATED this 25th day of January, 2019.



ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

VINCE ALBERDI, Secretary