To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: ESPA CAMP Implementation Committee Members Representing the Following:
A&B Irr. Dist., Burley Irr. Dist., North Side Canal C.C., Twin Falls C.C.
City of Twin Falls
Clear Springs Foods, Inc.
Idaho Power Company
Trout Unlimited

Date: 7/19/19

Re: ESPA CAMP Implementation Committee

The purpose of the Implementation Committee was set forth in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Plan (hereinafter "Plan"):

> To ensure that the valuable input of stakeholders continues during the implementation of Phase I and the design and implementation of subsequent phases, this Plan establishes an Implementation Committee. This committee will provide recommendations to the Board concerning Phase I implementation, assessment of Phase I effectiveness, definition of subsequent phases, and coordination of activities necessary for implementation. This committee will also evaluate the effectiveness and viability of continuing Plan implementation during Phase I. The Implementation Committee will include representation, at a minimum, from all interest groups currently represented on the ESPA Advisory Committee.
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> ... the Plan includes an adaptive management component which requires ongoing coordination between the Board's staff and the Implementation Committee. The Plan provides for continued effort to identify and address all water use needs affected by this Plan, including the integration of environmental considerations in decision making.

Plan at 4, 5.

The above-referenced entities (Members) all participated in the Board's development of the ESPA CAMP and hold vital interests to the aquifer. All Members support the Board's efforts to restore and sustain the aquifer for Idaho water users. Further, each entity had a person participate as a member of the Implementation Committee (Committee).

Although, the Committee was active and met as part of the initial planning process, after funding proposals failed, the Committee has essentially been inactive for several years.

Despite this inactivity, as acknowledged at last month's Joint Aquifer Stabilization & Planning Committee meeting held on June 26th (Jerome – IDFG), the Plan envisions an important role for the Committee to play in making recommendations to the Board and ensuring effective and proper implementation.

It is the Members' understanding that the Board is now undertaking a CAMP review process that will culminate with a 10-year progress report to submit to the Idaho Legislature later this year. In support of that effort the Members desire to re-engage with the Committee and assist with the Board's efforts as provided in the Plan.

At the outset, the Members do not seek to disrupt the progress report schedule or prevent the Board and staff from responding to Speaker Bedke's request. If the progress report will simply serve as a catalogue of past actions and provide the Legislature with an update of implementation to date, the Members support that effort. However, the Members would like clarification that the progress report is not intended to substitute or replace the Implementation Committee's charge of continued involvement in the implementation of CAMP or prevent further Adaptive Management after the Committee has a full opportunity to carefully perform its designated role in making recommendations to the Board on future actions.

Importantly, Section 4.0 of the Plan details an adaptive management strategy which includes coordination and implementation. *See* Plan, Sec. 4.1. Specifically, the Committee is charged to provide "guidance and recommendations concerning the implementation of management strategies and review of goals and objectives." *See id.* The Committee is further charged to accomplish the following:

1) Provide a forum to discuss Phase I implementation;
2) Establish benchmarks for evaluating action effectiveness;
3) Coordinate with water users and managers;
4) Evaluate and address environmental issues; and
5) Identify and pursue funding opportunities.

Plan, Sec. 4.1, p. 26.

The Members believe a lot has happened since the Plan's initial adoption in 2009. However, accomplishing the above tasks (#1 - #5) may take several meetings and coordination with the Board and staff. A proper review of past actions is critical to evaluating the initial goals to determine if adaptive management is necessary. Given the critical importance of the aquifer to the Members and all water users in southern and eastern Idaho, having sufficient time and resources to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the above factors is paramount.

To that end, the Members request that the Board and staff coordinate with the Committee for purposes of reinitiating meetings and participation as either part of or in parallel with the Board's current progress report process.

To restart the work of the Committee, the Members believe updating the Committee list is the first task to complete and would respectfully ask the Board to appoint new members to replace initial Committee members who have either left the respective entity or are no longer in that former position. As noted in a recent letter from Mayor Shawn Barigar, the City of Twin Falls seeks to have City Manager Travis Rothweiler appointed as its representative. Necessary replacements for other undersigned Members will be presented to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting Rexburg (July 25-26).

Again, if the Board seeks to undertake an Adaptive Management review as part of the CAMP progress report, the Members would respectfully request to re-engage with the Implementation Committee as contemplated by the Plan. However, if the Board confirms that the progress report is not a substitute for the Plan's Adaptive Management and Implementation processes, then that will help provide guidance for that process moving forward, which the Members understand may take several months.

In conclusion, the Members again wish to communicate their appreciation for the Board's efforts and commitment to restore and sustain the ESPA. The Members all rely upon the aquifer for their interests and are willing to continue to participate and work with the Board to ensure the Plan is implemented in the most efficient and effective way possible. We look forward to your prompt response.

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