

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF ALLOCATING WATER
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDS

RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR NEAR
BLACKFOOT TO MINIDOKA REACH GAIN
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

1 WHEREAS, the Water Management Account (WMA) was created pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-
2 1760 and is administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) for certain purposes; and
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4 WHEREAS, on July 1, 2024, through Resolution No. 32-2024, the IWRB approved a Fiscal Year 2025
5 spending plan for appropriations made to the WMA under following legislation:
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- 7 • House Bill 285, Section 1; passed by the 2019 Idaho Legislature (FY 2020)
- 8 • Senate Bill 1121, Section 1; passed by the 2021 Idaho Legislature (FY 2022)
- 9 • House Bill 769, Section 6; passed by the 2022 Idaho Legislature (FY 2023)
- 10 • House Bill 361, Section 1; passed by the 2023 Idaho Legislature (FY 2024)
- 11 • Senate Bill 1411, Section 3; passed by the 2024 Idaho Legislature (FY 2025)
- 12

13 WHEREAS, the WMA Spending Plan considers projects currently identified on the IWRB's Regional
14 Water Sustainability Projects (RWSP) Priority List, Aging Infrastructure Grants, certain IWRB approved
15 loans, and other potential projects and programs; and
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17 WHEREAS, in accordance with direction from the Idaho Governor and Legislature, the IWRB has
18 supported efforts to stop the decline of ground water levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA)
19 through the development of a managed aquifer recharge program and funding other projects intended
20 to reduce ground water use from the ESPA; and
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22 WHEREAS, on August 27, 2024, Idaho Governor Little announced that Idaho would commit \$10
23 million to improve the long-term health of the ESPA and directed the IWRB to support this effort with
24 funds from the WMA in addition to other existing IWRB funding commitments for ESPA improvement
25 projects; and
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27 WHEREAS, on September 13, 2024, the IWRB reallocated \$10 million of the \$70 million budgeted
28 for the future Dworshak/Clearwater River Pipeline project to ESPA improvement projects; and
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30 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB further allocates \$5 million of the \$10 million
31 reallocated for ESPA improvement projects on September 13, 2024, to projects designed to improve reach
32 gains in the Near Blackfoot-to-Minidoka reach of the Snake River.
33

34 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB will develop procedures for accepting
35 and approving project proposals for the use of this \$5 million.

DATED this 6th day of November 2024.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary