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## BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF BASIN 37 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING

Docket No. AA-WRA-2021-001

BIG WOOD & LITTLE WOOD WATER USERS ASSOCIATION & BIG WOOD CANAL COMPANY MOTION IN LIMINE

BWLWWUA & Big Wood Canal Company Motion in Limine -Page - 1 sb/big&littlewoodwater.mil The Big & Little Wood Water Users Association, as the representative of its individual parties to the above entitled matter ("BLWWUA") and the Big Wood Canal Company ("BWCC"), collectively "Movants", move the court, pursuant to IDAPA 37.01.01.260 and other applicable law, to enter an Order *In Limine*, prohibiting parties who are not at risk of curtailment from calling expert witnesses and fact witnesses in the administrative proceeding that is currently pending in the above entitled matter.

### FACTS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION

In this action the Director issued a *Notice of Administrative Proceeding, Pre-Hearing Conference, and Hearing* dated May 4, 2021 ("Notice"), that was subsequently amended. The Notice limited the proceeding to "ground water wells in the Wood River Valley south of Bellevue (commonly referred to as the Bellevue Triangle)" and limits the senior surface water rights involved in the proceeding to "senior surface water rights on Silver Creek and its tributaries". A "potential area of curtailment" described in the Notice was reduced in the *Director's Prehearing Order; Scheduling Order* dated May 21, 2021 ("Order").

Various ground water users with no ground water diversions in the Bellevue Triangle, as defined by the Director's Order, and no risk of curtailment, have filed Disclosures that they intend on calling expert and fact witnesses. For example, Sun Valley Company and the Cities of Bellevue and Hailey have disclosed that they intend on calling Greg Sullivan of Spronk Engineering as an expert. Sun Valley Company has disclosed that it may call Gary Allen, the City of Hailey Brian Yeager and the City of Bellevue Chris Johnson, all of whom would testify as to each entity's use of water. South Valley Ground Water District and Galena Ground Water District filed a joint

BWLWWUA & Big Wood Canal Company Motion in Limine -Page - 2 sb/big&littlewoodwater.mil disclosure of fact witnesses, and it is unknown how many of those do not divert groundwater within the Bellevue Triangle. There may be others with no risk of curtailment who have disclosed expert or fact witnesses.

### ARGUMENT

The Director's Notice and Order effectively removed from this proceeding multiple senior surface water users located in the Wood River basin who are being injured by ground water pumping. By limiting the geographical area to be considered at the hearing, many Basin 37 senior surface water users who cannot establish that ground water diversions on the Bellevue Triangle are diminishing their water supply do not have standing because of the limitations imposed by the Notice and Order.

By the same token, ground water users who are not diverting from the Bellevue Triangle and therefore have no risk of curtailment are being allowed to challenge the case of senior surface water users who are being injured by ground water diversions from the Bellevue Triangle. At the Pre-hearing in this matter, when asked about the participation of those diverting outside the Bellevue Triangle, the Director made a comment stating that at some point the proceeding may be expanded to include others in Basin 37. If that happens, those diverting outside the Bellevue Triangle will be afforded an opportunity to present their case and put on witnesses. The possibility of expansion of the proceeding in the future should not be grounds to allow witnesses by those parties at this limited proceeding.

Testimony of fact witnesses on how they use water outside the Bellevue Triangle is not relevant or material to this proceeding, at least to the extent the scope of the proceeding has been defined by the Director. There is no reason to allow those diverting exclusively outside the Bellevue Triangle to call expert witnesses, especially considering that South Valley Ground Water District has listed three experts. Allowing those who are not diverting within the Bellevue Triangle to call expert and fact witnesses will only prolong the hearing, perhaps by as much as two or three days and will allow ground water diverters outside the Bellevue Triangle to unfairly contest this matter while seniors located in other areas of the Wood River Basin have no remedy this year.

#### **REQUESTED REMEDY**

For the foregoing reasons, Movants request that the Director enter an order prohibiting ground water users who have no diversions located within the Bellevue Triangle from calling any witnesses, either expert or factual, at the hearing in this action. Since the hearing in the matter is scheduled to start June 7, 2021, leaving four business days for discovery before the start of the hearing, Movants request that the Director issue an order on this motion as expeditiously as possible.

## DATED This 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2021

Lerry R. Rigby Kent Fletcher

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 1st day of June, 2021, the above and foregoing was served on the following by the method(s) indicated below:

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