

**From:** [Anna Owsiak](#)  
**To:** [Ragan, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** comments about including trib basins into Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer  
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Brian,

Thank you again for your time at the McCammon meeting on this subject, it was very informative. My comments are below.

The issue of fairness plays heavily in all of this and I struggle to find a reasonable way to support joining the ESPA without changes to Idaho law so that all water users are involved in a solution to the ultimate issue of Twin Falls placing a water call. From what I learned at the meeting, if the tributary water users join the ESPA, then they are carrying the burden to meet the call, without the assistance of all the other water users who impact the aquifer, including the Twin Falls Canal Company's infrastructure (if I have the correct name). No matter what the Supreme Court has ruled, if almost 2/3 of the water in the canal fails to reach its destination, there would seem to be an obligation by those canal owners to take reasonable steps to improve that situation, either before or in conjunction with subjecting others to water impacts to meet the call.

Focusing on the upper basin irrigation users as the solution to a water call also fails to place responsibility on developers and other property owners, who do have a large impact on groundwater. Just look at the acres of irrigated lawn in the desert that is the Snake River Basin as an example - insanely poor use of water. Even with the new rule that was mentioned affecting new development, there needs to be accountability from existing development as part of the solution. Again, there needs to be changes in Idaho law to allow this to occur.

I could be more supportive of the tributaries joining ESPA as a first step if there were adaptive solutions that involved all groundwater users also in the works to address the larger water issue for the long term. Without that I do not see how agreeing to join the ESPA will actually solve the problem, especially when 2/3 of the water never reaches its intended use, no matter where that water starts from. It will only delay for the short term the need for even more drastic cuts by tributary basin users and more severe impacts to their lives and livelihoods as water resources are further stressed from changing precipitation patterns and continued growth and development in Idaho.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue.

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