

**NOTICE OF INTERIM MITIGATION PLAN SUBMITTED BY SOUTHWEST AND GOOSE CREEK
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS AND THE SURFACE WATER COALITION**

Notice is hereby given that, on December 21, 2016, Southwest Irrigation District and Goose Creek Irrigation District (collectively, "SWID"), and A&B Irrigation District, American Falls Reservoir District #2, Milner Irrigation District, Minidoka Irrigation District, North Side Canal Company, and Twin Falls Canal Company (collectively, the "Surface Water Coalition"), through counsel of the firms Parsons, Smith, Loveland, Stone & Shirley LLP, 137 West 13th St., P.O. Box 910, Burley, Idaho, 83318; Barker Rosholt & Simpson LLP, P.O. Box 63, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0063; and Fletcher Law Office, P.O. Box 248, Burley, Idaho 83318, submitted to the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department") a *Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Interim Mitigation Agreement for 2017* ("Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017").

SWID represents numerous landowners who hold ground water rights for irrigation, commercial, and other non-*de minimis* consumptive uses located within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and other areas of Cassia and Twin Falls Counties. Certain of these ground water rights have priority dates junior to the priority dates of surface water rights held by the Surface Water Coalition ("SWC"). The Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017 intends to benefit senior water rights held by members of the SWC involved in the SWC delivery call.

In 2013, the Director of the Department approved a stipulated interim mitigation plan submitted by SWID and the SWC that proposed certain aquifer mitigation activities to be undertaken by SWID on an annual basis including groundwater recharge, conversions, and voluntary curtailment. In exchange, the SWC agreed that SWID's members' junior-priority ground water rights would not be subject to curtailment in response to the SWC water delivery call. The stipulated interim mitigation plan expired December 31, 2015. In 2016, the Director approved a request by SWID and the SWC to extend the stipulated interim mitigation plan for another year from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016. SWID and the SWC now request that the Director approve extension of the stipulated interim mitigation plan through December 31, 2017. *Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017* at 2.

The Department will process the Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017 pursuant to the Department's Conjunctive Management Rules (IDAPA 37.03.11). A complete copy of the Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017 is available for review at either the Department's State Office in Boise, the Department's Regional Office in Twin Falls, or at the following website link:

<http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/legal-actions/mitigation-plan-actions/SWC/SWID.html>

The Department has not determined the adequacy of the proposed Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017. Any protest against approval of the Interim Mitigation Plan for 2017 must be filed with any Department office, together with a protest fee of \$25, on or before **January 23, 2017**. The protest must include a certificate of service showing that a copy of the protest has been mailed to or served upon counsel for SWID and the SWC.

Gary Spackman, Director

Published in the Idaho Mountain Express, Mountain Home News, and Power County Press on January 4th & 11th, 2017; and the Times News, Idaho Statesman, Post Register, and Idaho State Journal on January 5th & 12th, 2017; and the Rexburg Standard Journal on January 6th & 13th, 2017.