

**ROBERT E. WILLIAMS**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 1693  
WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTHSPREICH, LLP  
Attorneys at Law  
153 East Main Street  
P. O. Box 168  
Jerome, Idaho 83338  
Telephone: (208) 324-2303  
Facsimile: (208) 324-3135  
[rewilliams@cableone.net](mailto:rewilliams@cableone.net)  
Attorney for City of Bliss,  
City of Heyburn, and City of Paul

**JOHN B. LOTHSPREICH**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 4221  
WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTHSPREICH, LLP  
Attorneys at Law  
153 East Main Street  
P. O. Box 168  
Jerome, Idaho 83338  
Telephone: (208) 324-2303  
Facsimile: (208) 324-3135  
[jblothspreich@cableone.net](mailto:jblothspreich@cableone.net)  
Attorney for City of Jerome,  
and City of Hazelton

**ADAM B. KING**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 5585  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
PO Box 4962  
Ketchum, ID 83340-4962  
Tel: (208) 721-7859  
Fax: (208) 726-8116  
[abk@ketchumlegal.com](mailto:abk@ketchumlegal.com)  
Attorney for City of Carey

**CINDY L. CAMPBELL**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 3367  
GOODING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
PO Box 86  
Gooding, ID 83330  
Tel: (208) 934-4493  
Fax: (208) 934-4494  
[ccampbell@co.gooding.id.us](mailto:ccampbell@co.gooding.id.us)  
Attorney for City of Wendell

**DAVID F. SHIRLEY**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 5834  
PARSONS SMITH STONE LOVELAND & SHIRLEY, LLP  
PO Box 910  
Burley, ID 83318  
Tel: (208) 878-8382  
Fax: (208) 878-0146  
[dshirley@pmt.org](mailto:dshirley@pmt.org)  
Attorney for City of Burley and  
City of Declo

**CRAIG D. HOBDEY**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 3199  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
PO Box 176  
Gooding, ID 83330  
Tel: (208) 934-4429  
Fax: (208) 934-4420  
[hobdeycraig@gmail.com](mailto:hobdeycraig@gmail.com)  
Attorney for the City of Dietrich,  
City of Gooding, and City of Richfield

**MICHAEL P. TRIBE**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 6816  
ROBINSON & TRIBE  
PO Box 396  
Rupert, ID 83350  
Tel: (208) 436-4717  
Fax: (208) 436-6804  
[mpt@idlawfirm.com](mailto:mpt@idlawfirm.com)  
Attorney for City of Rupert

**E. SCOTT PAUL**

IDAHO STATE BAR NO. 4235  
LINCOLN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
PO Box 860  
Shoshone, ID 83352  
Tel: (208) 886-2454  
Fax: (208) 886-9824  
[sgregory@lincolncountyid.us](mailto:sgregory@lincolncountyid.us)  
Attorney for City of Shoshone

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF THE MITIGATION  
PLAN FILED BY THE IDAHO GROUND  
WATER APPROPRIATORS FOR THE  
DISTRIBUTION OF WATER TO WATER  
RIGHT NOS. 36-02551 AND 36-07694 IN  
THE NAME OF RANGEN, INC.

CM-MP-2014-001

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION ON  
BEHALF OF THE IDAHO CITIES OF  
BLISS, BURLEY, CAREY, DECLO,  
DIETRICH, GOODING, HAZELTON,  
HEYBURN, JEROME, PAUL,  
RICHFIELD, RUPERT, SHOSHONE,  
AND WENDELL

The cities of Bliss, Burley, Carey, Declo, Dietrich, Gooding, Hazelton, Heyburn, Jerome, Paul, Richfield, Rupert, Shoshone and Wendell ("Cities") by and through their counsel as above noted, hereby petition to be granted status as Intervenors pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Rules of Procedure") Nos. 154, 156, and 350-354. Intervention in this proceeding is sought for the purpose of allowing the Cities, through counsel designated by them, to present information, examine witnesses, and provide argument on issues related to the mitigation plan filed by Idaho Groundwater Appropriators, Inc. ("IGWA").

BACKGROUND

On February 11, 2014 IGWA filed its Mitigation Plan and Request for Hearing ("Mitigation Plan") with the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") in response to IDWR's Final Order Regarding Rangen, Inc.'s Petition for Delivery Call; Curtailing Groundwater Rights Junior to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1962, dated as of January 29, 2014 in Docket No. CM-DC-2011-004 ("Order"). The hearing on the Mitigation Plan has been set for March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Each of the Cities has one or more water rights that will be subject to curtailment under the Order. (Order, pp. 11-12)

Rule 43.02 of the Rules for Conjunctive Management of Surface and Groundwater Resources of the IDWR provides that:

“Notice and Hearing. Upon receipt of a proposed mitigation plan, the Director will provide notice, hold a hearing as determined necessary, and consider the plan under the procedural provisions of Section 42-222, Idaho Code in the same manner as applications to transfer water rights.”

The Director of the IDWR has caused Notice of Hearing complying with this rule to have been published in the Times News, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Other than IGWA, who filed the mitigation plan under consideration and is therefore a Petitioner, it is not clear if any other person has been named as party to this proceeding. Rule 150 of the Rules of Procedure of IDWR (“Procedural Rules”) provides, in part, that:

“Parties to contested cases before the agency are called Applicants or Claimants or Appellants, Petitioners, Complainants, Respondents, Protestants or Intervenors...”

Three (3) of the Cities, namely Jerome, Heyburn, and Rupert are currently members of IGWA. The remaining eleven (11) cities are not members. In their separate Petition for Intervention filed by Petitioners In the Matter of Distribution of Water to Water Right No. 36-02551 and 36-07964, Docket Number CM-DC-2011-004 the Cities sought intervention in order to join in IGWA’s request for a stay of the Order. That petition has not been ruled on, perhaps because the Director of IDWR on February 21, 2014, entered an order issuing a stay pending the resolution of the present matter.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING INTERVENTION

Rule 351 of the Rules of Procedure provides that a potential intervenor state the direct and substantial interest of the potential intervenor in the proceeding.

The Cities have a substantial interest in this proceeding for the following reasons:

1. The Cities collectively deliver water to tens of thousands of residences, together with other local governmental use, such as school districts, businesses, industries and food processing plants. Implementation of the Order

would create immediate, severe and prolonged economic impacts on the Cities and their water users.

2. Cities support the mitigation plan proposed by IGWA.

3. Cities intend to propose their own mitigation plan in the near future. Proceedings in the IGWA mitigation plan are likely to establish precedent that will affect the mitigation plan to be offered by the Cities, therefore making it necessary for the Cities to participate in the current proceeding involving IGWA's mitigation plan.

4. The scope of the mitigation plan which may be approved by IDWR in the current proceedings will have substantial influence on the mitigation plan to be proposed by the Cities.

5. Cities met on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014, and determined to assert their collective interests in response to the Order. A steering committee was established by the Cities and is in the process of making recommendations to each individual city to formally adopt in open meetings of each city council. It is anticipated that prior to the hearing scheduled for the matter on March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>, all cities will have authorized the consolidation of its representation in one or more attorneys. The hearing will not be prolonged by examination or production of evidence by separate attorneys or representatives for each of the Petitioners.

Rule 352 of the Rules of Procedure require that petitions to intervene be filed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date set for formal hearing. This petition is timely in that the hearing has been set for March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>. Cities also observe that even had their current petition for intervention been filed late, untimely filing of a petition for intervention is not fatal under Rule 352 which indicates that an untimely filed petition to intervene must provide good cause to be considered. The same rule requires that petitioners who seek intervention must demonstrate that intervention will not disrupt the proceedings, prejudice existing parties or unduly broaden the issues. This Petition does not violate any of those standards.

Rule of Procedure 353 provides in substance that a petition for intervention will be granted if it meets the requirements of Rules 351 and 352, unless the petitioner's interest is adequately represented by existing parties. IGWA is the Petitioner in this proceeding. Although it is true that three (3) cities are members of IGWA, eleven (11) cities are not. The vast majority of IGWA's members own irrigation water rights which are consumptive in nature. Municipal water rights owned by the Cities are a mixture of consumptive and non-consumptive uses. The quantity of flow rates for rights owned by the Cities are extremely modest when compared to the flow rights for irrigation rights owned by other IGWA members. Nonetheless, the economic impact of the curtailment of the Cities' water rights is overwhelmingly disproportionate to the amount of water curtailed because it would directly affect tens of thousands of individuals, governmental entities, businesses and industries. Because the Cities have many years of experience in the use and delivery of water to their customers, and have developed specialized knowledge concerning their water as a consequence, Cities are best suited to represent their interests in this proceeding.

Finally, the Notice of Hearing published by the IDWR for this proceeding may be fairly construed as an invitation to any person who has a direct interest in the proceeding to participate in it and present information, examine witnesses and provide argument. If no persons could participate in this proceeding other than parties in Docket No. CM-DC-2011-004, the Rangen Call, publication of a notice of hearing of this proceeding would serve no purpose.

#### CONCLUSION

The Cities respectfully request that they be granted intervenor status with the rights to present information, examine witnesses and provide argument.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTHSPEICH, LLP

**ROBERT E. WILLIAMS,**  
Attorney for City of Bliss, City of Heyburn, and City  
of Paul

WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTH SPEICH, LLP

**JOHN B. LOTH SPEICH,**  
Attorney for City of Jerome, and City of Hazelton

**ADAM B. KING,**  
Attorney for City of Carey

GOODING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

**CINDY L. CAMPBELL,**  
Attorney for City of Wendell

PARSONS SMITH STONE LOVELAND & SHIRLEY, LLP

**DAVID F. SHIRLEY,**  
Attorney for City of Burley and  
City of Declo

**CRAIG D. HOBDEY**  
Attorney for the City of Dietrich,  
City of Gooding, and City of Richfield

ROBINSON & TRIBE

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**ROBERT E. WILLIAMS,**  
Attorney for City of Bliss, City of Heyburn, and  
City of Paul

WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTH SPEICH, LLP



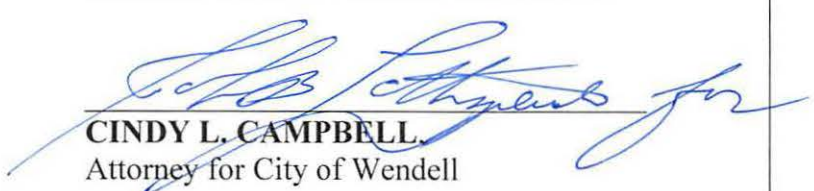
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**JOHN B. LOTH SPEICH,**  
Attorney for City of Jerome, and City of Hazelton

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**ADAM B. KING,**  
Attorney for City of Carey

GOODING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



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**CINDY L. CAMPBELL,**  
Attorney for City of Wendell

PARSONS SMITH STONE LOVELAND & SHIRLEY, LLP

---

**DAVID F. SHIRLEY,**  
Attorney for City of Burley and  
City of Declo

---

**CRAIG D. HOBDEY**  
Attorney for the City of Dietrich,  
City of Gooding, and City of Richfield

ROBINSON & TRIBE

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**ROBERT E. WILLIAMS,**  
Attorney for City of Bliss, City of Heyburn, and  
City of Paul

WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTHSPICH, LLP

---

**JOHN B. LOTHSPICH,**  
Attorney for City of Jerome, and City of Hazelton

---


**ADAM B. KING,**  
Attorney for City of Carey

GOODING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

---

**CINDY L. CAMPBELL,**  
Attorney for City of Wendell

PARSONS SMITH STONE LOVELAND & SHIRLEY, LLP



---

**DAVID F. SHIRLEY,**  
Attorney for City of Burley and  
City of Declo

---

**CRAIG D. HOBDEY**  
Attorney for the City of Dietrich,  
City of Gooding, and City of Richfield

ROBINSON & TRIBE

---

---

**ROBERT E. WILLIAMS,**

Attorney for City of Bliss, City of Heyburn, and  
City of Paul

WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTHSPICH, LLP

---

**JOHN B. LOTHSPICH,**

Attorney for City of Jerome, and City of Hazelton

---

**ADAM B. KING,**

Attorney for City of Carey

GOODING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

---

**CINDY L. CAMPBELL,**

Attorney for City of Wendell

PARSONS SMITH STONE LOVELAND & SHIRLEY, LLP

---

**DAVID F. SHIRLEY,**

Attorney for City of Burley and  
City of Declo



---

**CRAIG D. HOBDEY**

Attorney for the City of Dietrich,  
City of Gooding, and City of Richfield

ROBINSON & TRIBE

---

**ROBERT E. WILLIAMS,**  
Attorney for City of Bliss, City of Heyburn, and  
City of Paul

WILLIAMS, MESERVY & LOTHSPREICH, LLP

---

**JOHN B. LOTHSPREICH,**  
Attorney for City of Jerome, and City of Hazelton

---

**ADAM B. KING,**  
Attorney for City of Carey

GOODING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

---

**CINDY L. CAMPBELL,**  
Attorney for City of Wendell

PARSONS SMITH STONE LOVELAND & SHIRLEY, LLP

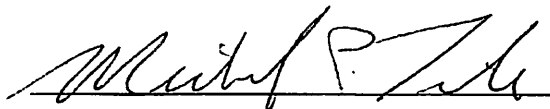
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**DAVID F. SHIRLEY,**  
Attorney for City of Burley and  
City of Declo

---

**CRAIG D. HOBDEY**  
Attorney for the City of Dietrich,  
City of Gooding, and City of Richfield

ROBINSON & TRIBE



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**MICHAEL P. TRIBE**  
Attorney for City of Rupert

LINCOLN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



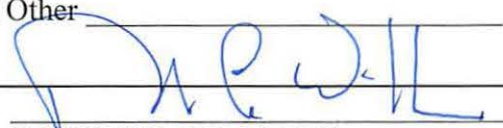
**E. SCOTT PAUL,**  
Attorney for City of Shoshone

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY That on this 28 day of February, 2014, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document on the person(s) whose names and addresses appear below by the method indicated:

Director Gary Spackman IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720 <a href="mailto:deborah.gibson@idwr.idaho.gov">deborah.gibson@idwr.idaho.gov</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Deputy Attorney General Attn: Garrick L. Baxter IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0098 Fax: 208-287-6700 <a href="mailto:garrick.baxter@idwr.idaho.gov">garrick.baxter@idwr.idaho.gov</a> <a href="mailto:kimi.white@idwr.idaho.gov">kimi.white@idwr.idaho.gov</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
J. Justin May MAY BROWNING & MAY, PLLC 1419 W Washington Boise, ID 83702 Fax: (208) 342-7278 <a href="mailto:jmay@maybrowning.com">jmay@maybrowning.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Robyn M. Brody ATTORNEY AT LAW PO Box 554 Rupert, ID 83350 Fax: (208) 434-2780 <a href="mailto:robynbrody@hotmail.com">robynbrody@hotmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Fritz X. Haemmerle HAEMMERLE & HAEMMERLE, PLLC PO Box 1800 Hailey, ID 83333 Tel: (208) 578-0520 Fax: (208) 578-0564 <a href="mailto:fxh@haemlaw.com">fxh@haemlaw.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Randall C. Budge Thomas J. Budge RACINE OLSON NYE BUDGE & BAILEY CHARTERED PO Box 1391 Pocatello, ID 83204-1391 Fax: (208) 232-6109 <a href="mailto:rcb@racinelaw.net">rcb@racinelaw.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

<p>Sarah Klahn Mitra Pemberton WHITE &amp; JANKOWSKI 511 16<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 500 Denver, CO 80202</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p>C. Tom Arkoosh ARKOOSH LAW OFFICES PO Box 2900 Boise, ID 83701 Fax: (208) 343-5456 <a href="mailto:tom.arkoosh@arkoosh.com">tom.arkoosh@arkoosh.com</a></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p>John K. Simpson Travis L. Thompson Paul L. Arrington BARKER, ROSHOLT &amp; SIMPSON, LLP 195 River Vista Pl, Ste 204 Twin Falls, ID 83301-3029 Tel: (208) 733-0700 Fax: (208) 735-2444 <a href="mailto:jks@idahowaters.com">jks@idahowaters.com</a></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p>W. Kent Fletcher ATTORNEY AT LAW PO Box 248 Burley, ID 83318 Tel: (208) 678-3250 Fax: (208) 878-2548 <a href="mailto:wkf@pmt.org">wkf@pmt.org</a></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p>Jerry R. Rigby Hyrum Erickson Robert H. Wood RIGBY, ANDRUS &amp; RIGBY LAW, PLLC PO Box 250 Rexburg, ID 83440-0250 Tel: (208) 356-3633 Fax: (208) 356-0768 <a href="mailto:jrigby@rex-law.com">jrigby@rex-law.com</a></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p>A. Dean Tranmer POCATELLO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PO Box 4169 Pocatello, ID 83205 Tel: (208) 234-6148 Fax: (208) 239-6986 <a href="mailto:dtranmer@pocatello.us">dtranmer@pocatello.us</a></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail, Postage Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Via Facsimile - <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-Delivered - Court Folder <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>

  
ROBERT E. WILLIAMS