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Attorneys for Buckeye Farms, Inc.

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

In the matter of the Second 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.

Docket No. CM-MP-2014-003

Buckeye's Response to IGWA's Motion in Limine

COMES NOW, the Protestant, Buckeye Farms, Inc., and hereby submits this opposition

to the Motion in Limine filed by Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. ("IGWA") in the above

captioned matter.

IGWA invokes the Department's Rule of Procedure 600 (IDAPA 37.01.01.600) in an ef-

fort to prevent Buckeye from presenting evidence at the hearing on IGWA's Second Mitigation

Plan. In particular, IGWA seeks to prevent the following evidence from Buckeye:

3. All testimony and evidence of injury that derives from the transfer of the place of use of Idaho Department of Fish & Game water rights to include the Rangen hatchery, for the reason that the pending Application for Transfer is the proper forum for presenting such claims of injury.

4. In the event number 3 above is not granted, testimony and evidence from protestants having water rights in Tucker Springs or downstream on Riley Creek should be limited only to alleged injury resulting from the reduction in 10 cfs return flow from the Hagerman State Hatchery resulting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitigation Plan transfer of water to Rangen. Protestants should not be allowed to present evidence of other injury to their water rights caused by drought, changes in incidental recharge, or junior ground water pumping which is unrelated to and not relevant to this mitigation plan. *Motion* at 2. According to IGWA, "If such testimony and evidence is allowed, IGWA will be unfairly prejudiced by its inability to evaluate, prepare and defend its position against same." *Id.* 

IGWA's motion should be denied. First, the Director has already addressed – and rejected – IGWA's request to delay consideration of harm to other water rights. During the prehearing conference, held April 30, 2014, IGWA suggested that the non-Rangen Protestants – including Buckeye – should wait to have their protests addressed until the transfer proceedings.<sup>1</sup> Importantly, however, IGWA explained that it did not intent to force the Protestants to delay – confirming that "it's their decision to make what proceeding they want to be involved in." Tr. at 10, ll.24-25. The Director explained that he agreed – the Protestants should be able to participate in the mitigation hearing:

**THE DIRECTOR:** I neglected just to state for the benefit of the other protestants that I know Randy Budge was suggesting that perhaps the more appropriate forum would be the protestants in an application for transfer, *but I would not exclude you from participating in the mitigation plan hear-ing.* <u>It would be your choice whether you wanted to withdraw or whatever you wanted to do with respect to the mitigation plan</u>.

But, you are protestants, you're parties to this contested case, <u>and you're</u> <u>entitled to participate</u>. I wanted to make sure you knew that for the discussion.

Id. at 14, 11.4-14 (emphasis added). Given that the Director made this decision very early in the-

se proceedings, IGWA cannot complain that it has had insufficient time to "evaluate, prepare and

defend its position."

Second, Rule of Procedure 600 provides the Hearing Office with the following authority:

The presiding officer, with our without objection, may exclude evidence that is irrelevant, unduly repetitious, inadmissible on constitutional or statutory grounds or on the basis of any evidentiary privilege provided by statute or recognized in the courts of Idaho.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excerpts from the Reporter's Transcript of Recorded Hearing (Apr. 30, 2014) (CM-MP-2014-13) are attached hereto.

Accordingly, evidence may only be excluded if it falls into one of these categories.

Importantly, however, IGWA fails to identify which of the categories the evidence it would have excluded falls into. This is likely due to the fact that none of the categories applies to the evidence sought to be excluded. The evidence of injury to Buckeye's water rights is relevant in this mitigation plan proceeding. Rule 43.03.j of the Conjunctive Management Rules (IDAPA 37.03.11) makes that clear by providing that the Hearing Office should consider the impacts of the proposed mitigation on "other water rights." The evidence of injury to Buckeye's water rights will not be "unduly repetitious" as there will be no other party providing any testimony or evidence as to the impacts of the proposed mitigation on Buckeye's water rights and operations. IGWA identifies no constitutional or statutory grounds to render the information in-admissible and makes no claim that the evidence sought is privileged. In fact, IGWA admits that it is relevant by requesting that any approval of the mitigation plan be conditioned on consideration of injury in future proceeding. Since the evidence sought to be excluded does not fall within any of the categories of excludible evidence under Rule of Procedure 600, IGWA's motion should be denied.

Finally, the Conjunctive management Rules specifically call for the analysis IGWA seeks to prevent. The CM Rules provide that the Hearing Office should consider:

Whether the mitigation plan is consistent with the conservation of water resources, the public interest *or injures other water rights*, or would result in the diversion and use of ground water at a rate beyond the reasonably anticipated average rate of future natural recharge.

CM Rule 43.03.j (emphasis added). The Rule specifically calls for consideration of the impacts of the proposed mitigation on "other water rights" – particularly, whether the mitigation will "injure" those other water rights. This is a question that must be addressed in the mitigation plan proceedings. The fact that some of the analysis may overlap with the transfer proceeding does

## Buckeye's Response to IGWA's Motion in Limine – 3

not mean that the question can be ignored during the mitigation plan proceeding. Indeed, the Hearing Office already recognized that the information on impacts to other water rights would be considered in these proceedings. *See supra*.

IGWA's motion appears to be driven by a misunderstanding of the mitigation plan review process. It appears to assume that the Director can approve the mitigation plan without consideration of the impacts to other water rights, because, according to IGWA, those impacts will be addressed in a separate forum (i.e. the transfer proceedings). A plain reading of the CM Rules, however, reveals that IGWA is wrong. The mitigation plan review process <u>includes</u> consideration of impacts to other water rights. As such, a mitigation plan cannot be approved – even in "concept" – if it cannot be shown that the mitigation will be accomplished without injuring other water rights. The Second Mitigation Plan seeks to mitigate injury to Rangen by moving water from one spring reach to a separate, unconnected spring reach. The total removal of water from a spring reach (i.e. Tucker Springs) that is already suffering significant shortages is not appropriate mitigation. The CM Rules specifically allow Buckeye to explain to the Hearing Office why the mitigation plan is inappropriate by presenting evidence of the impacts of the proposed miti-gation. Accordingly, IGWA's motion in limine should be denied.

IGWA would have the Hearing Officer delay consideration of injury to other water rights – concluding that the same process was followed in the Over-the-Rim mitigation plan proceedings. However, as explained by Buckeye during the pre-hearing conference, this situation is not the same. Importantly, the Director agreed:

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Director, on that point, I guess I would just, because I was involved in that prior proceeding, just raise the fact that in the Clear Springs case it dealt with basically the same drainage, if you will, the ground water flows to Snake River farms in that case. *Wherein, in this case, we're essentially talking about moving water from one drainage to another,* 

# and it is an important distinction that needs to be considered.<sup>2</sup>

**THE DIRECTOR**: That's a good point.

And I think the other point in this discussion is that the water rights, as I recall, that were being proposed as the authorization for the diversion of ground water to Clear Springs, the water right holders were not objecting to the use of that water, the delivery of that water.

Here we have a <u>different situation</u> where there are actual protestants or potential protestants who feel they might be injured by a diversion of the water that's proposed. So just that difference factually is a distinction that needs to be addressed that we need to be cognizant of as well.

So there are differences and I need to sort through them.

Tr. at 33-34 (emphasis added).

Since injury to other water rights is an important part of the mitigation plan review pro-

cess, IGWA's motion should be denied and Buckeye should be permitted to present its evidence

at the hearing on this matter.

DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2014.

## **BARKER ROSHOLT & SIMPSON LLP**

John K. Simpson

Paul L. Arrington

Attorneys for Buckeye Farms, Inc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See, generally, Catskills Mts. Chptr. Of Trout Unlimited, Inc. v. E.P.A., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 42535 (S. Dist. N.Y.) (Mar. 28, 2014).

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2014, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Buckeye's Response to IGWA's Motion in Limine** upon the following by the method indicated:

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	Paul L. Arrington

### BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF THE SECOND ) 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-2014-13

#### REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED HEARING

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LOCATION: Idaho Department of Water Resources 322 East Front Street Boise, Idaho

BEFORE: Director Gary Spackman

Transcribed by: SABRINA VASQUEZ, CSR #377 Official Reporter

1

1	gives us some plan a week ahead of that hearing, and	1	wanted to make them aware that the transfer application
2	our only avenue would be to request a continuance. I	2	would be filed and that deals with the water right that
3	mean, then they get their continuance. This matter	3	would affect their interest.
4	drags out. Of course we want to be fair.	4	As far as not seeing a plan, I think Fritz
5	So we want to see that plan. We want time	5	must be referring to final engineering drawings. The
6	to review it. So, and I haven't heard Mr. Budge tell	6	plan is laid out in our mitigation plan. This is not
7	us you know, it's April 30th now when we can	7	complex. This is not rocket science. This is simple
8	expect to see it.	8	pumping of water from Tucker Springs through some land
9	THE DIRECTOR: I guess, Fritz, I want the senior	9	to the head of the Rangen hatchery.
10	water right holder to drive the timetable in this. In	10	With respect to the engineering design work,
11	other words, if you want to see a plan within two weeks	11	that is in process. We do not obviously intend to have
12	or something, then, or three weeks, then let's	12	100 percent complete engineering studies complete until
13	MR. HAEMMERLE: I would like to see a plan if	13	we get approval of the plan with whatever conditions
14	we're going at the end of this month or start of June,	14	are imposed, similar to the over-the-rim plan at Clear
15	I want to see that plan the end of next week, you know,	15	Springs.
16	and I want to know who is behind the plan and how it	16	We anticipate to have conceptual plans and
17	was developed, you know, the whole thing.	17	drawings completed, which engineers describe as a 60
18		18	percent completion, available in approximately mid-May,
19	iťs	19	approximately two weeks. So that would give Rangen an
20	THE DIRECTOR: Sure. I'll come back to you.	20	ample opportunity to depose the SPF witness, Bob
21	MR. BUDGE: I didn't want to interrupt, but just	21	Hardgrove, on that. And, of course, when we have the
22	a couple of quick points. I can appreciate the fact	22	plans available, we're happy to submit them.
23	that Fritz wants to speak on behalf of the other	23	On the idea that they haven't seen anything,
24	-	24	I assume they're not referring to the plan. They're
25		25	referring simply to the engineering drawings, which we
	10		11
1	appreciate. So we've proposed suggested dates that	1	It's not the only one we had. Obviously we
1		1	It's not the only one we had. Obviously we had nine different proposals in our first plan, all of
	would provide a couple of weeks from the time the plan		•
2	would provide a couple of weeks from the time the plan would be available, and they would have an opportunity	2	had nine different proposals in our first plan, all of
2	would provide a couple of weeks from the time the plan would be available, and they would have an opportunity to depose Mr. Hardgrove or others at SPF. It would	2 3	had nine different proposals in our first plan, all of which Rangen opposed. We're certainly not surprised.
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1	THE DIRECTOR: Fritz, or Rangen, why don't you,	1	they are intertwined.
2	if you want to respond, and then let's give the other	2	With respect to Buckeye's interest,
3	protestants an opportunity to speak.	3	obviously they have rights in Riley Creek, which is
4	I neglected just to state for the benefit	4	part of Upper Tucker Springs, and any plan that would
5	of the other protestants that I know Randy Budge was	5	propose to take water out of Upper Tucker Springs,
6	suggesting that perhaps the more appropriate forum	6	hence the Riley Creek drainage, from our perspective,
7	would be the protestants in an application for transfer,	7	not only is it a real possibility, it would impact
8	but I would not exclude you from participating in the	8	flows available for Buckeye Farms. So there's our
9	mitigation plan hearing. It would be your choice	9	interest.
10	whether you wanted to withdraw or whatever you wanted	10	At this point we prefer to be involved
11	to do with respect to the mitigation plan.	11	throughout the process, and my understanding is that
12	But you are protestants, you're parties to	12	there hasn't been a transfer application filed, at
13	this contested case, and you're entitled to participate.	13	least one that I'm aware of. So, hence, this is the
14	I wanted to make sure you knew that for the discussion.	14	proceeding that's in front of everyone.
15	Fritz, or	15	THE DIRECTOR: Okay. Leo.
16	MR. HAEMMERLE: I'll let any of the protestants	16	MR. RAY: I have leases with the Salmon Falls
17	comment if they want to first.	17	Land and Cattle and with Big Bend Ditch to use that
18	THE DIRECTOR: Okay.	18	water for fish. We're short on water at Salmon Falls.
19	MR. HAEMMERLE: Then you can come back to me.	19	We're not getting near all of our water at the present
20	THE DIRECTOR: John, should we start with you or	20	time, and they are talking about taking water away from
21	do you want to be last?	21	us there. With Big Bend, my water right, I've been
22	MR. SIMPSON: No, I'll go first.	22	getting most of my water there, but Salmon Falls is
23	Well, I appreciate what Randy has said	23	where we are short.
24	about his view of the mitigation plan being set before	24	Ways to find out the rumors is not through
25	a transfer. I guess I don't share that view because	25	the rumor mill. We would like to know what's going on.
	14		15
1	THE DIRECTOR: You're entitled to participate.	1	We're just here we don't want to see a
2	So, thanks.	2	loss of water. We have been approached by the pumpers
23	So, thanks. Starla.	2 3	loss of water. We have been approached by the pumpers to sell some of our water in exchange for piping the
2 3 4	So, thanks. Starla. MR. RAY: She's with me.	2 3 4	loss of water. We have been approached by the pumpers to sell some of our water in exchange for piping the ditch, and so far we've seen no concrete plans. And
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1	THE DIRECTOR: Nonetheless, Fritz, I would start	1	figure out what's going on and take it from there if
2	and	2	there's any technical aspects that the state is doing.
3	MR. HAEMMERLE: If that's true, that's true. We	3	THE DIRECTOR: I'd suggest that you call Garrick
4	just don't know.	4	and I'll talk to him. He would have been here today,
5	THE DIRECTOR: From the state's side	5	but he had a family emergency this morning. I'd suggest
6	MR. BUDGE: If we did the term sheets so you can	6	you call Garrick and arrange either a deposition or an
7	pursue state people if you want to go take issue with	7	informal discussion with him, and that informal
8	the term sheets, but there are other venues to do that	8	conversation might be more helpful to start with.
9	and that seems a little bit irrelevant to our plan.	9	MR. HAEMMERLE: Yeah, we would be happy to start
10	THE DIRECTOR: Nonetheless, it might lead to	10	there.
11	discoverable it might lead to admissible evidence.	11	THE DIRECTOR: Yeah, okay.
12	So, Fritz, I guess what I would tell you is	12	Okay. Other I haven't asked the other
13	if you want to set up either formal or informal	13	protestants, other issues that you want to raise with
14	discussions with either Matt Weaver or Brian Patton in	14	respect to the timing, with respect to discovery, with
15	the office, they have been the two point people that	15	respect to how you want to participate?
16	have been working on this, and they could disclose to	16	Tim, I don't want to forget about you on
17	you other people who might be involved either	17	the phone as well, so speak up.
18	technically, or otherwise, inside the department.	18	MR. STOVER: I'll speak up. I don't have
19	As I've said before, I've been insulated	19	anything to add.
20	from a lot of the process by design and, frankly, feel	20	THE DIRECTOR: Okay. Thanks.
21	a little adrift that I don't even know what's going on	21	MR. SIMPSON: Well, Mr. Director, you know that
22	there.	22	informal conversation that Fritz was referring to and
23	MR. HAEMMERLE: Director, that process with the	23	you've identified, I recall back in some discussions on
24	department, I think, has worked out well and served the	24	previous delivery calls where the parties wanted to
25	parties well. And we're happy to have a discussion to	25	talk to Alan Wiley, for example, on modeling. That
	30		31
	was done informally, but it was done with notice to the	1	into our hydrology staff. I suspect there are some
1	was done informally, but it was done with house to the		
2	parties so that anybody they didn't have to have	2	measurements out there. I don't know whether they
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1	to another, and it is an important distinction that	1	MR. BUDGE: And that we would update our
2	needs to be considered.	2	discovery after the 12th as new information came
3	THE DIRECTOR: That's a good point.	3	available before the hearing, and we would expect
4	And I think the other point in this	4	Rangen to do the same.
5	discussion is that the water rights, as I recall, that	5	THE DIRECTOR: Yes.
6	were being proposed as the authorization for the	6	MR. HAEMMERLE: Director, well, you understand
7	diversion of ground water to Clear Springs, the water	7	the bind we're under. We haven't seen any part of this
8	right holders were not objecting to the use of that	8	plan yet. All we know is SPF is working on it. We
9	water, the delivery of that water.	9	haven't seen their witnesses. They have all the time
10	Here we have a different situation where	10	to prepare and then do, for lack of a better word, a
11	there are actual protestants or potential protestants	11	dump on us of information, and then we're expected to
12	who feel they might be injured by a diversion of the	12	come back one week later.
13	water that's proposed. So just that difference	13	THE DIRECTOR: We're under a significant time
14	factually is a distinction that needs to be addressed	14	crunch.
15	that we need to be cognizant of as well.	15	MR. BUDGE: Well, if you want more time, that's
16	So there are differences and I need to sort	16	fine, but we don't we want the same courtesy. If
17	through them.	17	you don't
18	Okay. Anything else?	18	MR. HAEMMERLE: No, that's fine. We believe in
19	MR. BUDGE: Director, one other point of	19	a reciprocal discovery.
20	clarification. On the discovery order that will be	20	(Both parties speaking at same time.)
21	part of your scheduling order, we had discussion that	21	MR. HAEMMERLE: two weeks.
22	Rangen would also disclose its witnesses and exhibits	22	MR. BUDGE: Excuse me. I think we were speaking
23	one week later on the 19th. So I just wanted to make	23	over each other.
24	sure that was going to be included in the order.	24	MR. HAEMMERLE: I apologize.
25	THE DIRECTOR: Yes.	25	MR. BUDGE: Can I finish my sentence?
	34		35
1	MR. HAEMMERLE: Yes.	1	document delivery via e-mail. We have accepted service
2	MR. BUDGE: I was simply saying if that doesn't	2	of documents and we've served documents by e-mail.
2 3	MR. BUDGE: I was simply saying if that doesn't work for them, we still will have to have ample time	2 3	-
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3 4	work for them, we still will have to have ample time for discovery. We don't want to be in a situation	3 4	of documents and we've served documents by e-mail. That's been efficient and certainly more timely than putting stuff in the mail.
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1	questions that have been raised. We're assuming that	1	THE DIRECTOR: I don't see it having a
2	the cease and desist order to Rangen is being stayed	2	relationship to this proceeding.
3	consistent with the stay of the current order on the	3	MR. BUDGE: Just making an inquiry.
4	ground water users. We haven't seen anything on that.	4	MR. HAEMMERLE: Interesting point of
5	THE DIRECTOR: I don't know that there's a need	5	intelligence. I don't know.
6	for us to do anything with respect to the cease and	6	THE DIRECTOR: I don't either.
7	desist order, at least right now. There's not an	7	All right. Thanks everyone. Have a good
8	immediate requirement that Rangen cease and desist	8	day.
9	based on the consent order that was signed, unless you	9	(Conclusion of proceedings.)
10	recall differently, Fritz or Justin.	10	(conclusion of proceedings.)
11	I don't see a need for me to do anything on	11	
12	that particular matter at this point. I guess I want	12	
12	to keep some separation between the relationship of	13	
14	that matter and this particular hearing.	14	
15	MR. HAEMMERLE: Director, I think you've been	14	
16	fair in that respect, and the consent order simply says	16	
17	if you believe there's a need to change it, give us	17	
18	notice, and we'll be back.	18	
10	THE DIRECTOR: Yeah. Okay.	10	
20	All right. Thanks, everyone.	20	
20	MR. BUDGE: The only reason I ask is we haven't	20	
21	been a party to that proceeding and we've received	21	
22	information that fish have been removed out at the		
		23	
24 25	facility, so we didn't know if something had changed on	24	
20	that.	25	20
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### TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF IDAHO ) ) ) County of Twin Falls )

The undersigned does hereby certify that she correctly and accurately transcribed and typed the above transcript of the recording of the hearing that was recorded on April 30, 2014, in the above-entitled action or proceeding.

Dated and certified this 9th day of May, 2014.

/s/ Sabrina Vasquez Official Reporter Fifth Judicial District Twin Falls, Idaho CSR #377