June 7, 2017

RE: Notice of First Settlement Discussion Meeting in the Matter of Whether to Designate the Big Lost River Basin a Critical Ground Water Area or a Ground Water Management Area (P-CGWA-2016-001)

Dear Parties,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources’ (Department) Director Gary Spackman, acting as hearing officer in the matter of Whether to Designate the Big Lost River Basin a Critical Ground Water Area or a Ground Water Management Area, held a prehearing conference on May 3, 2017. During the prehearing conference, parties to the matter requested an opportunity to enter into settlement discussions to resolve their difference regarding management area designations in the Big Lost River Basin. The hearing officer agreed to the request and subsequently issued a scheduling order on May 9, 2017, establishing a hearing timeline that accommodated settlement discussions.

Idaho State Senators Steve Bair (District 31) and Jeff Siddoway (District 35) have both agreed to co-chair settlement discussions with support from Jennifer Sukow, a Senior Engineer with the Department, and myself. Senators Bair and Siddoway are well qualified to mediate this issue due to their experience with water resource issues across the state and in the Big Lost River Basin, gained through many years of service on the Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

The first settlement discussion meeting has been scheduled for 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Wednesday June 28, 2017, at the Butte County Memorial Annex Building, 326 W. Grand Ave., Arco, Idaho.

An agenda has not yet been prepared for the meeting, but the settlement discussion co-chairs have requested presentations at the first meeting by Jennifer Sukow on the hydrogeologic conditions of the ground water basin and by me on the statutory and legal differences between a Critical Ground Water Area and a Ground Water Management Area.

Documents related to this contested case can be found at the Department’s webpage at the following web link:


Please email me at matthew.weaver@idwr.idaho.gov or call me at (208) 287-4800 with any questions prior to our first settlement discussion.

Respectfully,

Mat Weaver, PE
Deputy Director
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE BIG LOST RIVER BASIN
PETITION FOR CRITICAL GROUND WATER AREA
P-CGWA-2016-001
(Updated June 1, 2017)

ROSE BERNAL
PO BOX 116
ARCO ID 83213-0016

MOJ BROADIE
BIG LOST RIVER GWD
PO BOX 721
ARCO ID 83213

BRUCE BLACKMER
3265 W 2900 N
MOORE, ID 83255

MELVIN MARX HINTZE
4372 W HOUSTON ROAD
MACKAY ID 83251-4507

COLE ERB
UPPER BIG LOST RIVER GWA
PO BOX 122
MACKAY ID 83251

VAL C AND HEATHER I CARTER
1025 S 1500 W
PINGREE ID 83262

KENT FLETCHER
FLETCHER LAW OFFICE
PO BOX 248
BURLEY ID 83318-0248

JIM SPECK
SPECK & AANESTAD
PO BOX 987
KETCHUM ID 83340

FRITZ X HAEMMERLE
HAEMMERLE LAW PLLC
PO BOX 102
HAILEY ID 83333

KATHRYN J CONANT
JAMIE GOUGH
USDA FOREST SERVICE
324 25TH STREET
OGDEN UT 84401

LIN F HINTZE
PO BOX 125
MACKAY ID 83251

NANCY MCCASLIN
RICK MAUTHE
PO BOX 9
MACKAY ID 83251

RICK REYNOLDS
3253 W 2800 N
ARCO ID 83213

JAMES RINDFLEISCH
3258 N 3350 W
MOORE ID 83255