June 23, 2017

RE: Notice of Cancellation of Settlement Discussions 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.

On June 7, 2017, I sent out notice to parties coordinating the first settlement discussion meeting, which was scheduled for June 28, 2017, in Arco. On June 20, 2017, the Department received a Notice of Withdrawal of Petitions from Rose Bernal, Butte County Commissioner and Moj Broadie Big Lost River Ground Water District Chairman, withdrawing their respective petitions. On June 23, 2017, the hearing officer ordered “that the Petitioners’ request to withdraw their respective petitions is granted and the contested case in this matter is dismissed.” The hearing officer further ordered “that the dates scheduled for the second prehearing conference and the hearing schedule adopted in the Scheduling Order are vacated.”

Given that there are no longer petitions for the designation of a ground water management area or a critical ground water area or even an active contested case, the settlement meeting scheduled for 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Wednesday June 28, 2017, at the Butte County Memorial Annex Building, 326 W. Grand Ave., Arco, Idaho and all future settlement discussions are hereby cancelled.

Documents related to this contested case, including the petitioner’s notice of withdrawal and the hearing officer’s order dismissing the 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)

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