Albert P. Barker John A. Rosholt John K. Simpson Travis L. Thompson Shelley M. Davis Paul L. Arrington



1010 W. Jefferson, Suite 102 Post Office Box 2139 Boise, ID 83701-2139 (208) 336-0700 telephone (208) 344-6034 facsimile brs@idahowaters com

113 Main Avenue West, Suite 303 Twin Falls, ID 83301-6167 (208) 733-0700 telephone (208) 735-2444 facsimile jar@idahowaters.com

John K. Simpson jks@idahowaters.com

April 13, 2007

## Sent Via E-Mail David Tuthill Idaho Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

## **Re:** WMC Mitigation Agreement

Dear Director,

Attached please find a jointly submitted Mitigation Agreement for your consideration and action. This Agreement is the result of extensive negotiations on the part of the parties to this Agreement in an effort to move management of Idaho's water resource on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer in a positive direction. If approved, this Agreement will provide the Water Mitigation Coalition ("WMC") members with the certainty that their operations will not be curtailed as a result of the Idaho Department of Water Resources on-going conjunctive administration of the ESPA and hydraulically connected reaches of the Snake River. It is anticipated that the mitigation provided herein will more than adequately mitigate for the depletions occurring as a result of the operations. Moreover, senior water right holders will be mitigated for those effects and welcome the initiative of the WMC to step forward with such a complete plan.

The parties look forward to the expeditious processing of this Agreement and hope that it can form the framework for additional mitigation agreements in the near future. Solutions like

Idaho Department of Water Resources April 11, 2007 Page 2

this one will hopefully lead to a resolution of the conjunctive management issues facing the State.

Very truly yours,

## BARKER ROSHOLT & SIMPSON LLP

John K. Simpson

JKS/jm Enclosure cc: Jo Beeman Terry Uhling Governor C.L. Otter