



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Idaho Water Resource Board contact: Brian Patton, Chief, Planning Bureau, 208-287-4800

## **Idaho Water Resource Board approves 18 new Aging Infrastructure Grants statewide at a cost of \$12.5 million, three AIG loans**

BOISE - (Jan. 24, 2023) – The Idaho Water Resource Board voted to approve 18 new Aging Infrastructure Grants statewide at a cost of \$12.5 million in its regular Board meeting here last Friday.

The Board also approved three Aging Infrastructure Loans and updated the Regional Water Sustainability List in its regular Board meeting here last Friday.

The new Aging Infrastructure Grants (AIG) were awarded to a wide variety of canal companies and irrigation districts across Southern Idaho and to the Hayden Lake Irrigation District in Kootenai County (see AIG spreadsheet for details). A total of 36 applications were received statewide. Board staff scored the applications based on detailed evaluation criteria previously adopted by the Board.

In the 2022 session, the Idaho Legislature allocated \$75 million to the Idaho Water Resource Board to finance Aging Infrastructure Projects, Flood Management Grants, and other water sustainability projects. The funding was supported by Gov. Brad Little as part of the Leading Idaho initiative.

In other action, the Board approved the following loans:

- 15-year, \$500,000 loan to the King Hill Irrigation District. The King Hill District also received a \$828,501 AIG for the Cold Springs irrigation pipeline project. The total cost of the King Hill Cold Springs project is estimated to be \$2.7 million.
- 20-year, \$5 million loan to the North Side Canal Co.. The loan is for a project to reline the North Side Canal for a distance of 4,200 linear feet downstream of Milner Dam. North Side Canal also received a \$2 million AIG from the Board. The total cost of the relining project is estimated to be \$7.3 million.
- A 20-year, \$14 million loan to the Raft River Recharge Group. The loan will be used to construct a pump station, pipeline, and recharge basins to improve the long-term sustainability of the Raft River aquifer. The Raft River Recharge Group will form a new irrigation district to secure the loan. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$48 million.

The Board also updated the Regional Water Sustainability List. The Board had invited cities, counties, canal companies, irrigation districts and other entities to submit new projects to be considered for the list. The Board in November adopted criteria for evaluating projects. To be eligible, the projects must “help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide basis,” among other

things. The Board has noted that inclusion on the list does not necessarily guarantee the project will be funded.

Please see attached spreadsheets for details on the Aging Infrastructure Grants and updated Regional Water Sustainability Project list. More information can be found here: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb/>

#####