



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700 • Web Site: www.idwr.idaho.gov

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Interim Director

June 9, 2011

Dear Eastern Snake Hydrologic Modeling Committee Member:

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) technical staff recently informed me they are calibrating version 2.0 of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model (ESPAM). They also informed me they have scheduled a meeting later this month for the Eastern Snake Hydrologic Modeling Committee (ESHMC) to review their work to date. I know development of ESPAM 2.0 has been a lengthy endeavor. I congratulate both the technical staff and the ESHMC on their progress to date.

In the discussions with IDWR technical staff, I reminded staff that the purpose of the ESPAM is to provide technical information with regards to water management and administration, water right transfers and permits, and water planning. The Idaho Water Resource Board and various stakeholders also use ESPAM to assess the effects of, and to help guide investments in, various water management measures such as managed recharge and conversion projects. For these and other purposes, ESPAM 2.0 should be fair, reliable, consistent, and verifiable.

In order to accomplish the foregoing, I have instructed IDWR technical staff to subject ESPAM 2.0 to rigorous testing, including: 1) calibration; 2) validation; and, 3) uncertainty analysis. In addition, ESPAM 2.0 must be run using factual inputs and additional hypothetical factual inputs. Simulations from these inputs must be compared with the outcomes of the previous model version.

IDWR looks forward to the continuing progress of developing and testing of ESPAM 2.0 and to the outcomes of the rigorous testing protocol noted above. I welcome input from and dialogue with the ESHMC as IDWR staff further tests ESPAM 2.0.

Again, thank you for your participation on the ESHMC. The committee has assisted IDWR in enhancing its technical capabilities.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Spackman
Interim Director, IDWR

cc: Office of the Attorney General
Office of the Governor
Idaho Water Resource Board