White, Kimi

Subject: FW: GWMA

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

From: Neil Morgan [mailto:nmorgan1941@q.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Spackman, Gary
Cc: Neil Morgan
Subject: Fw: GWMA

Director Spackman

I had a lengthy letter written in response to the proposed GWMA designation for the ESPA.

I will forgo the lengthy letter and respond with saying the only practical solution to the alleged decline of the ESPA storage is to implement an aggressive recharge/storage activity of the ESPA along with constructing off stream surface reservoir storage for aquifer recharge/storage or to reduce the demand on ground water use. Any water passing Milner is a basin wide reduction in storage.

I would like to have IDWR to provide a graph of the amount of unappropirted water passing Milner over the past 50 years so we can determine if there has been an increase in out of basin releases for that time period. If there has been an increase in the water passing Milner what is the explanation for the change ?

As I have stated before the best location for aquifer recharge/storage to increase the return flows to the Snake River is in the area from Ririe-Rexburg to Springfield. There are areas in this region for short and long term retention in the aquifer that will satisfy the SWC and power generation stake holders. The ESPA is the most economical location to store the water.

According to the State Water Plan the State is obligated to store any un-appropriated water above Milner either in the ESPA or surface water reservoirs, refer to DISCUSSION: on page 46 of the Water Plan.

I disagree with Matt Weavers approach where he believes curtailment or reduction is the only solution to the ESPA recovery. Matt recently told a group where I was in attendance, that aquifer recharge/storage was not a solution to the ESPA aquifer recovery. As the Deputy Director Matt must change his mind set and be more proactive with the ground water users and supportive of aquifer recharge.

In lieu of a GWMA please use your authority and engineering knowledge to develop a more aggressive aquifer storage plan. Please take some time to study the options available to ESPA recovery/storage.

I personally would rather pay a per acre fee to the Ground Water District for recharge/aqufer storage on the ground water acres in lieu of the fees we are currently paying to BGWD for implementation of the SWC Agreement. We are spending money that most likely will not have any impact on recovery of the ESPA.

What is your definition, as the director, of aquifer recovery? At what elevation in the desinganted wells, acre feet in the ESPA or the acre feet of return flows is the goal met? We must know what the departments goal is, not just an arbitary statement of aquifer recovery of the ESPA.

Thank you for the opporunity to comment and I look forward to your response.

Neil Morgan