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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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Ground Water District
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American Falls Aberdeen Area Ground Water District

July 13, 2016

Gary Spackman, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
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Boise, ID 83702-7374

The American Falls-Aberdeen Ground Water District (AFAGWD) has reviewed and discussed the letter from the Department of Water dated July 7, 2016 and has provided the following response.

Over the past year and a half, AFAGWD has participated in many hours of informational and negotiating meetings in an effort to understand the trends in the ESPA and come up with solutions to address those trends. AFAGWD recognizes the importance of having a healthy aquifer and believes that through implementation of the plans set forth in the SWC agreement for recharge and reduction we can be successful in managing the health of the aquifer.

AFAGWD believes that it is the responsibility for all water users to participate in those efforts and recognizes that there are users that are outside the ESPA but whose pumping has an effect on the levels of the ESPA. AFAGWD supports the idea of expanding the area of common groundwater supply to include these outlying users and would encourage the Department to achieve this goal by expanding the Rule 50 boundaries to make the area reach from "mountain top to mountain top," as it's commonly referred to.

In regards to GWMA, AFAGWD does not see the necessity to develop another layer of bureaucracy to impose rules and regulations that would duplicate a majority of those already put into place by the existing district. We are only a few months into the beginning of our reduction plan to comply with the negotiated settlement. We have spent countless hours and many dollars coming up with a plan that will achieve the goals of the settlement, improve the health of the aquifer and allow our members to continue to operate the farms and businesses. AFAGWD would like the opportunity to continue to work towards successfully achieving these recovery efforts through the district, without the complications of a GWMA.

Respectfully submitted,

Nic Behrend
Chairman
American Falls-Aberdeen Ground Water District