White, Kimi

From: alan hansten [ahansten@cableone.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 2:25 PM
To: White, Kimi
Subject: Proposed ESPA Groundwater Management Area Comments

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Hi Ms. White

My name is Alan Hansten and I am the manager of the North Side Canal Company and a private well owner. The North Side Canal Company and I support the formulation of a groundwater management area for the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer for the following reasons:

1. A portion of North Side Canal Company's water supply comes from springs in the American Falls area that drain into the Snake River. These springs have been following the same decline in water flow as has been presented in many forums by the state. In turn, North Side's farmers irrigation water supply has been declining.

2. The formulation of a groundwater management area, will give the director of the department of water resources the tools necessary to administer the aquifer to help place it on a path towards sustainability.

3. Sustainable surface water development over the last 100+ years, has demanded that the water supply be managed and regulated so that farmland could be developed with a reliable water supply. Groundwater is no different and surface water irrigators have proven that water management is possible.

4. The data presented so far shows that current methods to address a declining aquifer have not been adequate to manage it to a point of sustainability.

Now, as a private well owner with a domestic right, I would like to be part of the solution. It's been argued that those water rights with the domestic exemption do not withdraw enough water to significantly impact the levels of the aquifer. That may be the case, but I submit that those of us with domestic exemptions have a stake in the aquifer as well even though our use is minimal. My investment in my 1 acre of land and home becomes worthless without water and it will cost me thousands of dollars to deepen my well should the levels continue to decline. I would prefer to pay a little now as a homeowner to bring the aquifer to a stabilized level so that I know that my investment in my home is protected as opposed to facing the real possibility of having no water at all.

In conclusion, we all need to make adjustments in the amount and ways that we use water and a groundwater management area will give us the tools needed for on the ground solutions to bring the ESPA to a sustainable level and allow us to sustain our economy, homes, and quality of life that we all enjoy here.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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