BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE A&B IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S RECHARGE INJECTION WELLS	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE SECONDARY AQUIFER PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION FUND AND PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) has been losing approximately 216,000 acre-feet annually from aquifer storage since the 1950's resulting in declining ground water levels in the aquifer and reduced spring flows to the Snake River; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Plan includes a goal to accomplish managed recharge in the ESPA averaging 250,000 acre-feet annually; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 547 passed and approved by the 2014 Legislature allocates $5 million from the Cigarette Tax to the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund) for statewide aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1402 passed and approved by the 2016 Legislature allocated $5 million in ongoing General Fund dollars and $2.5 million in Economic Recovery Reserve Funds to the IWRB's Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 136 directing the IWRB to develop the capacity to achieve 250,000 acre-feet of annual average managed recharge to the ESPA by December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2019, the IWRB adopted Resolution 7-2019, the Secondary Aquifer Fund Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, which included $500,000 for the development of A&B Injection Wells to improve managed recharge capacity in the ESPA; and

WHEREAS, the A&B Irrigation District (ABID) and Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) propose development of the Mid-Snake Recharge Injection Wells Project (project) which includes construction of six deep injection wells to recharge the ESPA with Snake River water during the non-irrigation and irrigation seasons. Total project costs are estimated to be $630,000; and

WHEREAS, the US Bureau of Reclamation approved a $250,000 Water SMART grant for the project; and

WHEREAS, ABID and TFCC submitted a joint proposal for development of two injection wells off TFCC's main canal below the Milner Pool (TFCC injection wells) and development of four injection wells off ABID's pipeline from the Milner Pool (ABID injection wells).

WHEREAS, total project costs for development of the ABID injection wells are estimated to be $337,016, $135,016 of which will be funded through the approved Water SMART grant. ABID is requesting funding from the IWRB in the amount of $202,000 for the remainder of the project costs.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditures not to exceed $202,000 from the Secondary Aquifer Fund for the development four injection wells for recharge purposes off the ABID main canal as part of the Mid-Snake Recharge Injection Wells Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, Brian Patton, Executive Officer to the IWRB, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to complete development of the ABID injection wells.

DATED this 20th day of September, 2019.

ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST

VINCE ALBERDI, Secretary