Mayor Tammy de Weerd
**City Council Members:**
Keith Bird
Joe Borton
Luke Cavener
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Anne Little Roberts

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JUL 18 2016
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Received via email 7-15-16 SN

July 15, 2016

Mr. Jeff Peppersack
Hearing Officer
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

RE: West Ada Area of Drilling Concern

Dear Mr. Peppersack:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed West Ada Area of Drilling Concern ("WAADC"). Please accept this letter as follow up public comment from the City of Meridian based on recent discussions held between Meridian, the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department") and Idaho State Legislators from our area.

On Monday, July 11, I met with staff from Meridian Public Works, the Department and State Legislators from Districts #14, 20, 21, and 22 to facilitate a short overview of the presentation during the June public meeting and to discuss questions raised by Legislators about the WAADC since the public hearing held on June 1, 2016.

During this meeting, Legislators expressed some concern over which specific regulations the Department might institute under designation of the WAADC. Because the majority of the domestic wells drilled within the proposed WAADC are drilled at a depth of less than 200 feet, the Legislators seemed particularly concerned about the proposed drilling standard impacts on those individual wells. The City could support an exemption for domestic wells drilled to a depth of less than 200 feet in the WAADC if that was the decision made by the Department. However, we stand firm that the WAADC declaration and its associated protections are critical safeguards for our public water supply that provides drinking water to the designated area.

We have followed the process outlined by the State of Idaho for designation of an Area of Drilling Concern to help protect the ground water resource for all. This resource is critical for all who use it. Property owners share both a personal and moral responsibility to protect this resource to not introduce contaminants which can impact the lives of others - unknowingly or without their consent. The spread of 'unwanted' contaminated water to others via comingling of aquifers through unsealed wells, could easily constitute 'water trespass' taking place underground. This 'trespass' would not be allowed above ground and should be true for our ground water resource.

We greatly appreciate the Department's willingness to go above and beyond the minimum public process required, ensuring all voices are heard and considered. Establishing the WAADC is a step in the right direction to ensure that safe, clean groundwater is available for everyone in the future.

Sincerely,

Tammy de Weerd
Mayor