



State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

January 28, 2014

### **RE: Notice of Potential Curtailment of Ground Water Rights in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer**

Dear Water Right Holder,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that you are the water right holder of record for one or more water rights that could be subject to curtailment during the 2014 irrigation year (November 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014) as a result of the Surface Water Coalition (SWC) delivery call. The SWC delivery call applies to ground water rights that affect reaches of the Snake River in the American Falls area that are hydraulically connected to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). The Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) is administering water rights by priority as required in the order of June 23, 2010, issued in response to the water delivery call made by members of the SWC, which includes the A&B Irrigation District, the American Falls Reservoir District #2, the Burley Irrigation District, the Milner Irrigation District, the Minidoka Irrigation District, the North Side Canal Company, and the Twin Falls Canal Company. A copy of the order can be found on the Department's website:

[www.idwr.idaho.gov/News/WaterCalls/Surface%20Coalition%20Call/2010/06Jun/20100623\\_AmendedFinalOrder.pdf](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/News/WaterCalls/Surface%20Coalition%20Call/2010/06Jun/20100623_AmendedFinalOrder.pdf)

The SWC called for delivery of their water rights under the Department's Rules for Conjunctive Management of Surface and Ground Water Resources (IDAPA 37.03.11). The call applies to ground water rights for irrigation, commercial, industrial, municipal, non-exempt domestic uses, and other consumptive uses. Non-consumptive uses and culinary in-house uses of water are not subject to curtailment under the order.

The Director is required to predict the extent of material injury reasonably likely to occur to members of the SWC during the 2014 water year as a result of depletions caused by the diversion of water under junior priority ground water rights. The Director will issue his first prediction in April 2014 following the issuance of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and United States Army Corps of Engineers Joint Forecast of unregulated inflow volume at the Heise Gage for the period of April 1 through July 31. Depending on the forecasted runoff, the determination could result in the curtailment of consumptive ground water rights during the 2014 irrigation season.

The Department has completed preliminary curtailment predictions based on the water supply conditions presented at the Department's January Idaho Water Supply Committee by the USBR and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Curtailment predictions were based on years with similar carryover conditions as presented by the USBR coupled with years of similar runoff forecasts as presented by the NRCS for the Snake River at Heise. Based on those

predictions, there is a 50% chance that no curtailment will be required and a 30% chance that ground water rights with priority dates junior to May 31, 1989, may be curtailed. If the predicted runoff is the same as in 2001, the lowest runoff water year since 1981, ground water rights with priority dates junior to September 23, 1974, may be subject to curtailment. All curtailment predictions assume that no mitigation water is provided by junior ground water users.<sup>1</sup>

A copy of this notice has been sent to affected ground water right holders in the SWC delivery call curtailment area. A map showing the location of the SWC curtailment area and a list of ground water rights within the curtailment area junior to September 23, 1974, may be accessed from the Department's website: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov) (select the link **ESPA 2014 Curtailment Warning Notice** under the **What's New** tab).

I hope this letter assists you in planning your beneficial use of water during the remainder of the year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Spackman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Spackman  
Director

<sup>1</sup> On November 25, 2013, the Department approved an interim mitigation plan for Southwest Irrigation District (SWID) and Goose Creek Irrigation District (GCID). Accordingly, junior ground water users who are members of SWID and GCID will be excluded from any potential curtailment ordered this year in response to the SWC delivery call.