



North Ada County Foothills Association

One voice. One goal. One plan.

Mr. David Tuthill
Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

January 16, 2007

Subject: Status of Comprehensive Water Resource Evaluation In North Ada County /
Follow-Up on May 12, 2006 Correspondence with Director Dreher.

Dear Director Tuthill:

I am the water resources chairman for the North Ada County Foothills Association, also known as NACFA. We are a sizeable group of concerned citizens and property owners who have been actively studying the proposed land use changes and large scale development of the foothills just north of the City of Eagle from State Highway 55 to State Highway 16. Over the past four years, our organization has spent thousands of hours in the collection and analysis of data, providing information and testimony at a myriad of hearings and public meetings, and building consensus among different interest groups concerned with traffic, air quality, wildlife, recreation and open space. In all of this effort, our highest concern remains that of a long-term sustainable groundwater resource in this area. Please see enclosed our Request for Comprehensive Groundwater Resource Evaluation and Consideration of New Water Rights Moratorium addressed to Messrs. Dreher and Westra on January 25, 2006, as well as Mr. Dreher's formal response to our group on May 12, 2006.

Over the past six months, we have received a large increase in inquiries and concerns from citizens about groundwater in the north Ada County foothills. We attribute this to a growing general awareness of groundwater issues across the State of Idaho, but also specifically from recent proposals and/or applications for large planned communities in the north foothills. From the date of our first letter to Mr. Dreher one year ago, there have been additional applications or general proposals submitted to City and County agencies for combined totals that range from 25,000 to 30,000 houses in this area. Specific to water, this is evidenced in part by pending municipal water rights applications by Suncor Corp (5cfs) and the M3 Companies (42cfs). This does not include what we believe will be imminent municipal water rights applications for large planned communities on properties owned by Suncor (second/third phases west of Highway 55), Kastera, Connolly, Harmon and Dry Creek Ranch.

With the above stated increase in development pressure and increased demand on groundwater that will result, we hope that Mr. Dreher's request for a comprehensive hydro geologic study of this area will be successful in the budget fulfillment process in the 2007 legislative session, and will then proceed into reality, ultimately resulting in a water budget for the northern foothills area as soon as possible.

We are grateful that IDWR shares the concerns we have about the groundwater in north Ada County, and the recognition that to date there is not enough data to know if the large scale development that is pending can be supported by the aquifer below. We know that this is a very busy time for IDWR, and that many critical functions occur during the legislative session, but we believe this matter carries some urgency and thus request a response as soon as possible. If appropriate, we also stand ready to meet with you to discuss this in person if that would be more efficient and timely.

Sincerely,

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Representatives John Stevenson, Mike Moyle, Maxine Bell, Raul Labrador
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