



North Ada County Foothills Association

One voice. One goal. One plan.

NACFA meeting with IDWR

February 12, 2007

IDWR HQ Offices

Subject: Response to request for water study in North Ada County

IDWR: David Tuthill, Director. Hal Anderson, Division Administrator

NACFA: John Petrovsky, John Thornton, David Head

1. IDWR is highly limited at present due to a lack of resources (personnel and budget). They have had several hydrologists leave for the private sector and have not been able to replace them. Additionally, the current staff is dedicated on efforts to finalize the Eastern Snake River Plain (ESRP) issues. This effort may be resolved during this fiscal year.
2. The next priority for IDWR is to greatly improve their knowledge of the Treasure Valley aquifers and the increased demand related to areas of rapid growth. It is fully recognized by IDWR that half of Idaho's population lies in the larger Treasure Valley, that development demand on water is skyrocketing and much more data and knowledge is required to "get in front of the curve" before over appropriation of the water resources begins.
3. ESRP will be the IDWR's strategic focus for the fiscal 2007/08 year (beginning July 2007); however the study and focus on the Treasure Valley aquifer (including North Ada County) can begin in the 2007/08 budget year in terms of setting out a strategic & technical framework for planning, studies and solutions.
4. IDWR will organize a collaborative stakeholder meeting to discuss the Treasure Valley aquifer strategic study plan following the recess of the 2007 Idaho Legislature. This would be the first step involving all stakeholders represented by IDWR, concerned citizens, development, city, county and other interested agencies. This collaborative process would lead to the maturation of a technical and strategic "framework" to understand the key water issues facing North Ada County and the resolution of pending and future uses of water resources.
5. One key result of the framework would be IDWR's development of a line item request for funding the Treasure Valley Aquifer Study presented to the appropriate Idaho legislative committees in August 2007 for inclusion in the 2008/09 budget. IDWR will be looking at the potential for partnership funding of this study from developers, city and county agencies.
6. IDWR will consider the concerns of NACFA and other interested stakeholders and prepare a response to our mid-January 2007 letter in the next 2 to 3 weeks.