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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

DISTRICT COURT-SRBA
TWIN FALLS CO., IDAHO
FILED _____

2005 DEC 13 PM 3 19

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

In Re SRBA	)	SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT AND
	)	RECOMMENDATION; FINDINGS OF
Case No. 39576	)	FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
	)	
	)	WATER RIGHT: 25-00224
	)	(Digital Boundary – Idaho Irrigation Dist.)

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

A claim was filed for this water right pursuant to I.C. § 42-1409. The Director of the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources examined the water system for this reporting area. The *Director's Report* contained a recommendation for the elements of this water right.

Objections were filed by the United States Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Irrigation District. The *Objections* were resolved on September 28, 2005 with the filing of a *Standard Form 5*. An *Amended Standard Form 5* was filed on October 12, 2005. All parties to the subcase and IDWR are signatories to the *Standard Form 5* and the *Amended Standard Form 5*.

II. ANALYSIS

A. Place of Use/Digital Boundary

The place of use element for this water right is described by a digital boundary rather than by legal description with legal subdivisions such as Township, Range, Section, and Quarter-Quarter designations. The place of use element was changed during the litigation process and differs from the digital boundary on file with IDWR at the time the *Director's Report* was filed.

B. Recommendation for Place of Use Description Using Digital Boundary.

On July 1, 2002, the Idaho Legislature approved the use of digital boundaries for describing the place of use for water rights meeting certain criteria. I.C. § 42-219(2) (licenses) and I.C. § 42-1411 (2) (h) (*Director's Reports*) Digital boundary descriptions of the place of use rely on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology. This technology provides a description of the place of use for a water right to be identified and visually displayed in a map overlay format through the aid of computer technology.

Digital boundary descriptions of the place of use are permitted for water rights that are for irrigation purposes of use and meet one of the following criteria: (1) used in conjunction with an irrigation project where the canals constructed cover an area of twenty-five thousand (25,000) acres or more; (2) the place of use for the water rights is located within an irrigation district organized pursuant to the laws of the State of Idaho; or (3) the water rights are for an irrigation project developed by an association, company, corporation or the United States to divert and deliver or distribute surface water under any annual charge or rental for beneficial use by more than five (5) water users in an area less than twenty-five thousand (25,000) acres. I.C. § 42-219(2)(5)(6); I.C. § 42-1411 (2) (h)

This water right meets the statutory criteria and may be described by a digital boundary.¹ Therefore, this water right is recommended using a digital boundary and with the following additional language as set forth in the attached *Recommendation for Partial Decree*:

The boundary encompassing the place of use for this water right is described with a digital boundary as defined by I.C. § 42-202B(2) and authorized pursuant to I.C. § 42-1411(2)(h). The data comprising the digital boundary are incorporated herein by reference and are stored on a CD-ROM disk issued in duplicate originals on file with the SRBA District Court and the Idaho Department of Water Resources. A map depicting the place of use is attached hereto to illustrate the place of use described by the digital boundary.

¹ In incorporating a digital boundary into a partial decree, the electronic or digital data is what is actually decreed as opposed to the map generated from the data. The map generated from the data is for illustrative purposes. The digital data is stored on a CD-ROM and is incorporated by reference into the *Special Master's Report and Recommendation* and recommendation for partial decree. Duplicate originals of the CD-ROM will be issued. The SRBA District Court retains one original together with the original partial decree, and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) retains the other original. Upon request, the claimant can obtain a copy of the CD-ROM from IDWR at no cost, although GIS software will still be required to access the data. Subsequent administrative changes, if any, to the place of use will also be stored in a digital format and kept on file and maintained by IDWR. IDWR will maintain all computer software and/or hardware necessary for reducing the data to a usable format that is accessible to the general public, including access through the IDWR Internet website (www.idwr.state.id.us) or its successor Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

C. Digital Boundary on CD-Rom Filed December 5, 2005.

The place of use agreed on by the parties and IDWR is illustrated by the map overlay attached to the *Recommendation for Partial Decree*. The digital boundary for the place of use is described on the CD-Rom filed December 5, 2005.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Therefore, based on the file and record herein, IT IS RECOMMENDED that this water right be decreed with the elements set forth in the attached *Special Master's Recommendation for Partial Decree*.

DATED: December 13, 2005.



BRIGETTE BILYEU
Special Master
Snake River Basin Adjudication

DISTRICT COURT - SRDA
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RULE 54(b) CERTIFICATE

With respect to the issues determined by the above judgment or order, it is hereby CERTIFIED, in accordance with Rule 54(b), I.R.C.P., that the court has determined that there is no just reason for delay of the entry of a final judgment and that the court has and does hereby direct that the above judgment or order shall be a final judgment upon which execution may issue and an appeal may be taken as provided by the Idaho Appellate Rules.

John M. Melanson
Presiding Judge of the
Snake River Basin Adjudication

IDAHO IRRIGATION DIST

Service Area Boundary

Water Right: 25-224

Boundary

 Township/Range
 Sections

0 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

03N37E

03N38E

02N37E

02N38E

01N37E

01N38E

01S37E

02S36E

02S37E

02S38E

GIS Place of Use Illustration
1987 NAPP Photography
Prepared by: E. Carlsen
Date: September 2005



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STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

In Re SRBA)
)
Case No. 39576)
)
_____)

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF
SPECIAL MASTER'S
RECOMMENDATION

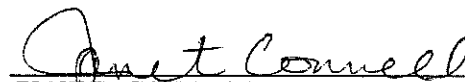
Water Right(s): 25-00224

On December 13, 2005, Special Master BRIGETTE BILYEU
issued a SPECIAL MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION for the above subcase(s)
pursuant to SRBA Administrative Order 1 (AO1), Section 13a.

Pursuant to SRBA Administrative Order 1, Section 13a, any party
to the adjudication including parties to the subcase, may file a Motion
to Alter or Amend on or before the 28th day of the next month.

Failure of any party in the adjudication to pursue or participate
in a Motion to Alter or Amend the SPECIAL MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION
shall constitute a waiver of the right to challenge it before the
Presiding Judge.

DATED December 13, 2005.



JANET CONNELL
Deputy Clerk

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In Re SRBA)
Case No. 39576)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Water Right(s): 25-00224

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that a true and correct copy of the SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT, SPECIAL MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PARTIAL DECREE and NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION were mailed on December 13, 2005, with sufficient first-class postage prepaid to the following:

DIRECTOR OF IDWR
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

IDAHO IRRIGATION DIST
Represented by:
BLAIR J. GROVER
215 FARNSWORTH WAY
PO BOX 36
RIGBY, ID 83442-0036
Phone: 208-745-6653

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Represented by:
US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ENVIRONMENT & NATL' RESOURCES
550 WEST FORT STREET, MSC 033
BOISE, ID 83724

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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JANET CONNELL 12/13/05
Deputy Clerk