

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 2020
To: Transfer 83505 File
From: Benny Walker
Re: Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information Submitted

Application proposes transferring a 19.7 acre portion (0.16 cfs) of a groundwater irrigation right from a farm located approximately 0.6 - 1.0 miles north and 0.5 - 0.9 miles east of Minidoka to commercial and stockwater use at an existing CAFO located 1.0-2.2 miles west and 6.5-7.0 miles north of Shoshone. The application also proposes adding a new well as an authorized diversion point for the domestic and stockwater right currently utilized at the CAFO site. The transferred portion (0.16 cfs) and the existing domestic and stockwater right (0.17 cfs) for a total of 0.33 cfs, will be diverted from two wells at the CAFO site, one existing and one to be drilled.

The irrigation to commercial and stockwater use conversion was based on an acre to volume conversion factor of 3.3038 af/acre taken from the University of Idaho precipitation deficit volumes for pasture grass for 19.7 acres for the Minidoka Dam area. This was based on information received from the USDA that pasture grass was being grown on the farm. The wells involved with the transfer are located within the ESPA smooth model boundary area so a ground water model analysis was required. A model analysis was included with the application showing increased depletions to Snake River reaches are less than two acre-feet per trimester and verified during departmental analysis. The transfer's proposed changes are within Water District 130, therefore watermaster comments were sought. The watermaster had no objections of transfer approval.

- **Authority to File:**
The applicant is listed as the current of the water rights involved in the transfer according to Department records
- **Water Right Validity:**
The water rights involved in the transfer were decreed in 2001. Aerial photography indicates that the land has been irrigated in recent years.
- **Injury to Other Water Rights:**
None anticipated. Watermaster comments were solicited, the water master had no objections.
- **Enlargement of Use:**
None anticipated. There will be a reduction in use from irrigation conversion to commercial and stockwater use.
- **Local Public Interest:**
No negative impacts anticipated. Application was subject to public notice and protest. The application was protested, protest was withdrawn and resolved
- **Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:**
Proposed uses are recognized as beneficial uses of water.
- **Effect on Economy of the Local Area:**
None anticipated.
- **Effect of the Agricultural Base of the Local Area:**
None anticipated.

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-222 Idaho Code preventing processing of this application.