

MEMO

State of Idaho

Department of Water Resources

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Date: July 3, 2014

To: Rick Raymondi

From: Remington Buyer

cc: Sean Vincent, James Cefalo

Subject: Assessing the Hydraulic Connectivity Between Groundwater and Surface Water from the Blackfoot River on the Eastern Snake Plane Aquifer in an Area North of Equalizing Reservoir

In April 2014, the Department received two separate but similar applications seeking to appropriate Blackfoot River water from a groundwater pump located in close proximity to the river, on a property owned by Tanner Lane Ranch PLLC. Tanner Lane Ranch has submitted both a Water Supply Bank rental application and an amended Application for Permit, both seeking to divert river water via the groundwater pump. The amended Application for Permit proposes to cease diversion of Blackfoot River water under 27-13B in order to mitigate for pumping groundwater under the permit 27-7568.

Tanner Lane Ranch contracted JCH Engineering & Consulting to assess the hydraulic connectivity of the river and groundwater in this area. A singular assessment of hydraulic connectivity has been submitted in support of both the rental and permit applications. Review of the hydraulic connectivity assessment is required in order to move forward on either application.

On behalf of the Watermaster for Water District 120 and the Water Supply Bank, I am seeking an opinion from the Hydrology Section of the Technical Services Bureau to confirm the accuracy and veracity of the data used to argue that groundwater and Blackfoot River water within this area are hydraulically connected. Dependent upon acceptance of the hydraulic connection between groundwater and surface water, the Watermaster and Bank further require confirmation from Hydrology that the proposed diversion of Blackfoot River water via the proposed groundwater pump, as identified on the permit and rental applications, is both plausible and permissible.

Attachments: Amended Application for Permit (Received 04/11/2014); Water Supply Bank Rental Application (received 04/14/2014); Tanner Lane Ranch Water Supply Bank Rental Application Report (Hydraulic Connectivity Assessment) prepared by JCH Engineering; Memo on the Impacts of Ground Water Pumping on the Lower Blackfoot River (Prepared 10/09/2009).