



Mr. Keith Franklin
Idaho Department of Water Resources
7600 Mineral Drive, Suite 100
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-7763

Subject: Rule 45 (IDAPA 37.03.08) Financial Resources

Dear Mr. Franklin:

This letter is provided by the Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District (LOID) to demonstrate the financial support that has been collectively put forth plus the ability of the LOID as an irrigation district in the State of Idaho operating under Title 43 to have the financial resources for completion of this project and beneficial use of the water. This letter supports the application that was submitted for the water exchange project that the LOID is collaborating with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The USBR has demonstrated full faith in providing funds to move this project forward. For the successful completion of the first stage of this project, the USBR has funded \$2.3 million in conjunction with \$2.3 million in funds from the LOID.

It is very reasonable that this collaborative approach of funding between the USBR and the LOID will continue to completion. The LOID also has the authority to levy and collect assessments as necessary for the operations and maintenance of the district. The LOID is also authorized under Title 43 Chapter 4 to issue bonds as a funding source. Moving this water right application forward is a foundational element in reducing the water conflict that exists in the Lewiston Basin area between competing uses.

The LOID intends to work with the USBR to leverage all possible financial resources, including Federal, Tribal, State, and local, to perfect this proposed water right. This water right application is a foundational element in reducing conflict surrounding water management in the Lewiston Basin. Easing water restrictions, ensuring quantities of water for good water stewardship, and increasing in stream flows for endangered species makes this solution a positive step for all within the community

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barney Metz". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Barney Metz
General Manager



Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District Water Exchange Synopsis

The Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District (LOID) water rights permit application No. 85-15755 has been prepared to appropriate water needed to satisfy the District's domestic and irrigation water needs. The LOID is a dual water purveyor committed to provide reliable water service for domestic, municipal, industrial, commercial, and non-commercial uses. The LOID serves a population of approximately 18,500 residents in the Lewiston Orchards through a dual water system installed with funding and support from the US Bureau of Reclamation in the 1940s.

The irrigation system is currently supplied by a surface water collections system owned by Reclamation known as the Lewiston Orchards Project (LOP). The LOP utilizes water storage reservoirs and conveys water through a gravity system of open canals and piped sections to serve the District. The gravity conveyance system is partially located on the Nez Perce Reservation, and use of the LOP has been the subject of recurring Endangered Species Act (ESA) litigation between the Nez Perce Tribe and the United States. The domestic system has been supplied from groundwater sources for nearly 30 years.

In an effort to reduce conflict regarding use of the LOP, Reclamation has partnered with the LOID to initiate replacement of the LOP through a wellfield intended to serve the District's water needs from groundwater.

Permit Application No. 85-15755 has been prepared to appropriate 11,543 acre-feet of water, providing 3,043 acre-feet of fire protection storage and 8,500 acre-feet of miscellaneous municipal uses. The Permit identifies four (4) new points of diversion through wells No. 5 through No. 8 to replace the LOP and continue to meet the District's water needs. The District is moving forward with the first of these wells with construction of Well No. 5, and is currently wrapping up a project to prepare the proposed site for well drilling. Well No. 5 is a pilot project with a target yield of 2,000 gpm and will initially be utilized to serve the irrigation side of the system. It will be drilled to domestic water standards to facilitate future use as a domestic water source.