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OCT 07 2013

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

October 7, 2013

LETTER OF PROTEST

Idaho Department of Water Resources
1341 Filmore Street, Suite 200
Twin Falls, Idaho
Jana M Reeder
SENIOR WATER RESOURCE AGENT

Dear Mrs. Reeder,

I, Gary Steed, and my wife, Sonia, live and farm 11 miles south of Malta, Idaho in an area called Bridge. Our 155 acre farm is surrounded by the Halderman/Pinnacle Great Plains Operating Company, LLC. This company has proposed as you know a water transfer involving the drilling of 7 new wells. We are writing to protest the request to drill seven new wells because of the personal harm we would realize if this is approved.

For example, the well designated as Well "E" would be placed about three hundred feet from our only farm well and one hundred feet from our culinary well. In 2011 we had to deepen our farm well and install new bowls because of the drop in the level of the water table. We also lowered our domestic well, but the water table is still dropping. Our home was vacant from April until August when our son moved in. But even without anyone using the house well it dried up in June and has not regenerated since field irrigation ceased. We have had to take a loan out for \$10,000 to drop our domestic well another 150 feet. A year before, Pinnacle Great Plains Operating Co. deepened and enlarged a well one half mile south of this well and it would appear that this is what lowered the water table and dried up our domestic well. Well "D" is also upstream of our water table. It is a given that if Well "E" and Well "D" are permitted it will be devastating to the water supply for our home and farm.

When you look at the map it's obvious that all of the wells they want to drill are in areas where the water is better quality than the salty wells watering up about half of their farm ground. They want to pump the good water back down to the ground where the poor wells are, but they are not even proposing to shut off the salty wells. We don't understand how that can be a legitimate water transfer. They should have known about the water quality of the saltier wells before they purchased the farm, or they did not do due diligence in ascertaining the water situation. Now they expect they can change that by drilling all these new wells at the expense of all of the south end of the Raft River Basin.

The proposal to trade surface water for ground water is a farce. The present water right deals with any water in Clear Creek which manages to make it out of Utah. We farm the Matt Gardner place located next to the collecting pond that this water is pumped out of. In the last five years there has only been one year where there was enough water

Transfer 78632

to pump, let alone any water on down the dry drainage a half mile where they want to put a second well. Previously when Matt Gardner applied for an increase in the water we were allowed to pump on his acreage he was denied. In talking to Matt, he informed us that Pinnacle Great Plains Operating Co. called him recently and asked him to withdraw his protest and when he said he would not, they threatened him with a lawsuit. That, in and of itself, speaks for the people we are dealing with who have no interest as to how much these transfers and new wells would damage their neighbors whose livelihoods depend on the water they are willing to take.

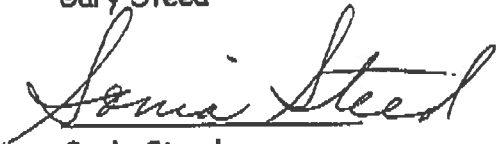
One other factor which should have some bearing on the situation is that Grant 4-D Farms who is currently operating the farm operated it for at least one year prior to the purchase by Pinnacle Great Plains Operation Co., LLC. So Grant 4-D in continuing to operate the farm would have surely made Pinnacle Great Plains Operating Co. aware of the water situation on the farm before they purchased the farm.

We are including the map showing the location of our farm and the Gardner farm we rent.

Please do not allow any of these transfers or new wells to be drilled.



Gary Steed



Sonia Steed

2354 E. 2775 S.

Malta, Idaho 83342

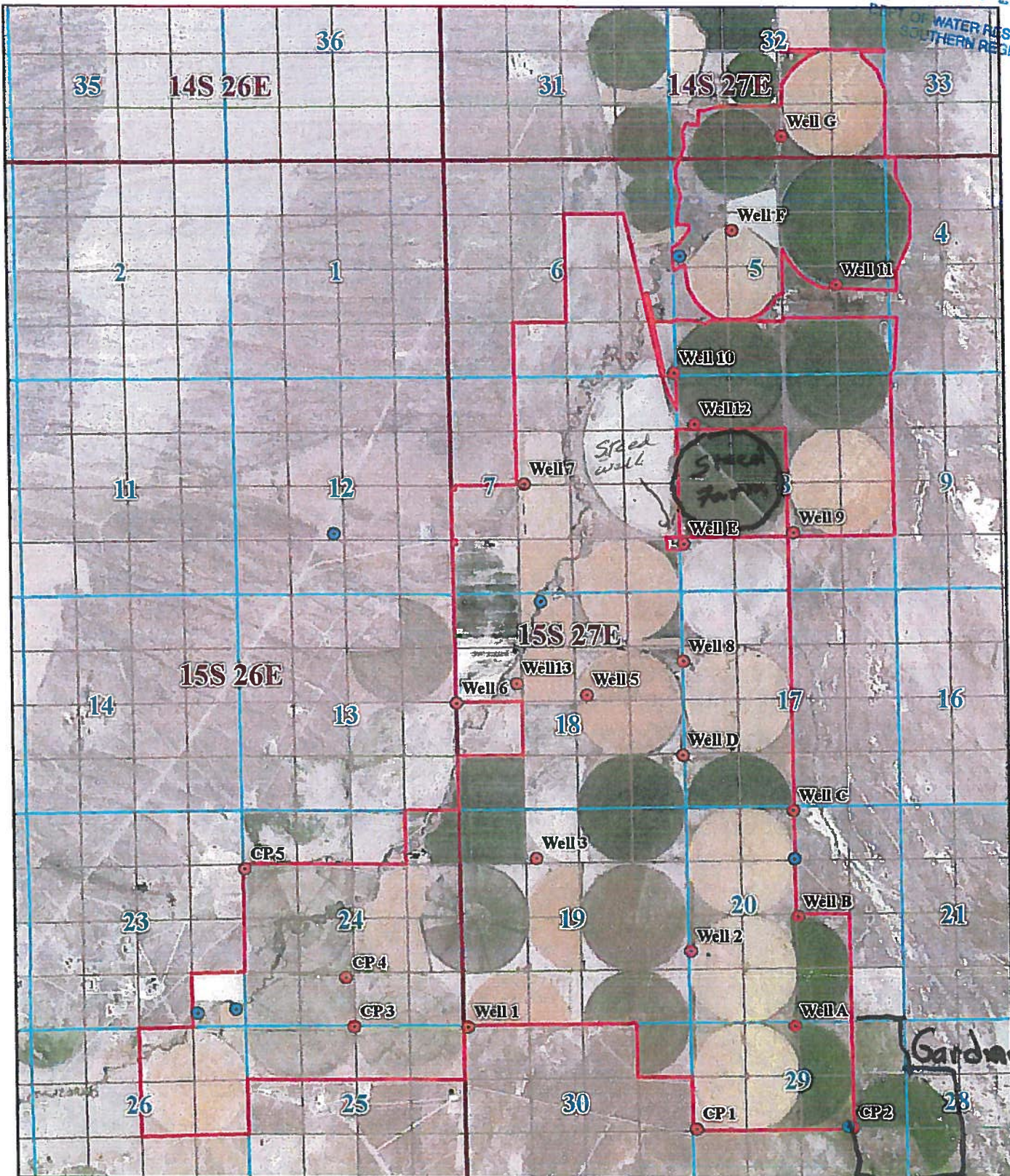
Phone 208-312-5581

\$25- received
10/7/2013 by DM

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JUL 05 2013
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

HALDERMAN PROPOSED PPU/POD TRANSFER 2013 MICROSOFT BING AERIAL PHOTO

BROCKWAY ENGINEERING, PLLC
ALR - JULY 2, 2013

- Legend**
- Surface Water POD
 - Proposed POD
 - Proposed PPU
 - twship
 - Sections





Just the FAX, please!

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

To: Idaho Department of Water Resources

Attention: Jana M. Reeder

Fax Number: 1-208-736-3037

From: E. Gary and Sonia Steed

Home Phone: 1-208-312-5581 or 1-208-431-3964

Contents: A letter of protest involving a transfer of water rights and drilling of new wells.

Transfer #
78632