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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

UPPER SNAKE REGION

4279 Commerce Circle
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

August 2, 2013

James Cefelo
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 N Skyline Drive, Suite A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

RE: Water Right Application Number 01-10626, Snake River Valley Irrigation District (Recharge), Surface Water-Snake River, Bonneville County, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Cefelo:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff has reviewed the above referenced Application for Permit to appropriate public surface waters from the Snake River near Shelley, Idaho. The applicant, Snake River Valley Irrigation District (SRVID), business address 221 South Emerson, Shelley, ID 83274, seeks to divert 585 cubic feet per second (cfs) of surface water from the Snake River through an existing diversion structure located in Bonneville County. The proposed beneficial use of public water is for groundwater recharge from January 1 to December 31 (inclusive). Based on the submitted application, it is our understanding that this proposed water right will be used for managed groundwater recharge in the SRVID's system of canals and existing place of use.

IDFG has fishery and wildlife resource concerns about public waters being over appropriated within this reach of the Snake River below SRVID's diversion structure. We desire to provide Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and the Idaho Water Resource Board with information about potential fishery and wildlife effects from water right authorizations that may diminish or possibly eliminate flows in this reach of the Snake River. Reducing flows from the Snake River may have potentially negative consequences to fish and wildlife resources and hunting and fishing opportunities.

It is the role and responsibility of IDFG when fulfilling its mission of protecting, preserving, and managing fish and wildlife resources to provide technical information regarding the potential effects of the proposed water right on these resources and assess how any adverse effects can be avoided, minimized or mitigated. In accordance with provisions of Idaho Code § 42-203A(4) IDFG understands that a formal protest is required to provide information in the water right application process.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game does not support or oppose the application, but is instead

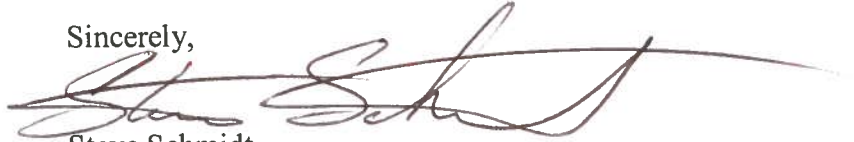
Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

filing protest to assist IDWR in the decision-making process.

Please initiate the Interagency Billing for the applicable fee for this protest. The PCA is 11606 and the ABC code is B7/TX. Please send the billing documents to IDFG Headquarters, Attention: Dr. Walt Poole, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707.

If you have questions, please contact our Environmental Staff Biologist Tom Bassista at 525-7161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Steve Schmidt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Schmidt
Regional Supervisor

SLS:TPB:jms

cc: Walt Poole (IDFG-HQ)
Cindy Robertson (IDFG-HQ)
Dallas Burkhalter (IDFG, Deputy Attorney General)
Harriet Hensley (IWRB, Deputy Attorney General)
Jim Mende (IDFG-Region 5)
Snake River Valley Irrigation District (Applicant)