

MEMORANDUM

To: File(s) 29-51 and 29-11277

From: Monica Van Bussum

Date: February 24, 2011

Re: Review of Application to Rent a Water Right from the State Water Supply Bank

PURPOSE/NARRATIVE: On February 24, 2011, the Department received an amended application to lease 29-51 and 29-11277 from Portneuf Irrigating Company and a joint rental application from Portneuf Marsh Valley Canal Co Ltd.

The two companies have a private rental agreement for 600 acres of water.

AUTHORITY TO FILE: The applications were signed by designated authorities from the irrigation companies.

WATER RIGHT VALIDITY: 29-51 and 29-11277 had already been accepted into the Bank in 2011. The lease application merely amended the rental amount and the lease term.

INJURY TO OTHER WATER RIGHTS: No injury is apparent.

ENLARGEMENT OF USE: No enlargement is apparent.

LOCAL PUBLIC INTEREST:

Review staff has no information to suggest this application is inconsistent with the local public interest.

BENEFICIAL USE/CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES:

The leases appear to be consistent with conservation of water resources in Idaho. The applicant/owner has been operating under an approved permit and a right licensed with the State of Idaho.

DEPARTMENT STAFF OR WATERMASTER COMMENTS:

None. A phone conversation with Watermaster for Water District 29 Steve Hebdon indicates some concern about the junior water users who rely on Portneuf Irrigating Company to send its extra water down to them. This lease-rental combination will cause that practice to cease.