

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 23, 2009
To: Application for Permit 45-14183 (Southwest Irrigation) File
From: Jana Reeder
Re: Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information Submitted

Application for permit filed in the name of the Southwest Irrigation District (SWID) proposes diverting 60 cfs from a Burley Irrigation District (BID) wastewater stream (locally known as G & J canals), tributary to the Snake River. The proposed point of diversion is located approximately 5.4 miles west and 0.3 miles north of the city of Burley (intersection of Main and Overland). The wastewater will be used within the SWID service area located approximately 9.4 mi. east - 25.1 mi. west and .6 - 20.5 mi. south of the center of Burley. The wastewater historically is BID return flow. The application purposes the wastewater to be diverted to a settling pond and then redistributed via the pipeline but actually the new system consists of two open channels merging from opposite directions. One is the combination of G+J waste and one is a connection channel coming straight from the Snake River. The connection channel from the Snake River is bi-directional and can either spill G and J wastewater to the Snake River, or it can divert water from the Snake River. At the point where the G+J merges with this connection channel, a set of pumps T's off at a 90 degree angle to supply three SWID pipelines (West Cassia Pipeline) that then redistributes the wastewater to landowners that have purchased shares in the system. A mitigation plan included with the application proposes that the shareholders of the pipeline agree to shut off groundwater pumping to offset the amount of surface water they will receive from the pipeline.

- **Effect on Other Water Rights:**

If application is approved, and a permit is granted, it will keep existing groundwater rights from being diverted.

- **Sufficiency of Water Supply:**

The wastewater stream flows fluctuate during irrigation season and if the surface water is not available then groundwater rights will be relied on as historically pumped.

- **Application Made in Good Faith:**

The applicants have started the West Cassia Pipeline and are working to provide agricultural best management practices within the Southwest Irrigation District service area and for the Snake River.

- **Financial Resources:**

A copy of the Golden Valley Water Proposal was also submitted with the permit application that lists the shareholders/property owners that are going to finance the project. The proposal also lists Farm Credit, DL Evans and Rabo Bank as being private financiers.

- **Local Public Interest:**

The Department has solicited comments from interested agencies, and comments have been received from the Burley Irrigation District and Department of Fish & Game Idaho with no negative comments or concerns raised. The Department of Environmental Quality did not respond for comments. Potential benefits are better water quality in the Snake River, enhanced environment for fish and other aquatic species, and substantial power savings.

- **Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:**

Proposed use is a beneficial use of water and will reduce sediment being put into the Snake River. Potential benefits are better water quality in Snake River, enhanced environment for fish and other aquatic species, and substantial power savings.

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-203A Idaho Code or the Water Appropriation Rules (IDAPA 37.03.08) preventing processing of this application.