

Lester, Steve

From: Maria Minicucci [MMinicucci@cityofboise.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 1:53 PM
To: Lester, Steve
Cc: John Priester; Mollie Holt; Scott McGeachin
Subject: Application for Transfer No. 69327, Water Right No. 63-9276

Steve,

On September 12, 2008, the Department of Parks & Recreation sent a letter to you regarding the above-referenced transfer application. In that letter the City requested approval of the application without further delay. The City has not yet received a response from IDWR to that request.

In the mean time, the City is nearing the end of design work for an \$800,000 upgrade of the facilities at Warm Springs Golf Course. These upgrades include fire protection water at a new maintenance building, per City Fire Codes. Without the right to use the existing well for Municipal uses, the City will have to install approximately 2,200 linear feet of 6 - 8 inch pipe across the golf course from a United Water well to the new building. Not only will the installation be very expensive and time consuming, the City will be forced to fight the unfortunate, if unlikely, fire event with expensive, potable water. This is an unreasonable expense to the taxpayer of the City of Boise, given there is a water source within 200 feet of the new building - a water source that cannot be used because the paperwork for approval has been sitting at IDWR since 2001.

It is frustrating for the City to have completed its paperwork only to have IDWR hold approval for over 7 years. The only response from IDWR, finally sent to the City in 2008, is that IDWR policy dictates that cold and hot waters are considered separate sources, ineligible for transfer. This policy, of course, went into effect after IDWR had the application in its possession for a year. Applying the new policy retroactively is contrary to the public interest, and certainly was not the justification used when approving the transfer of water right no. 63-9661 (State of Idaho) to this very same well.

The City must complete this project during the FY09 budget cycle. Design work must be completed and construction bids released to meet this deadline. Accordingly, the City requests that IDWR approve the application for transfer by January 30, 2009.

Thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to forward this email to the appropriate staff at IDWR.

Maria Minicucci
Property Administrator
City of Boise
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
1104 Royal Blvd
Boise ID 83706 -2898
(208) 384-4060 Ext. 323
mminicucci@cityofboise.org