

Environmental Information Document

for

Kingston Water District

January 2008

Agency Review

Prepared by



J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.
7825 Meadowlark Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815
(208)762-8787

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IDWR/North

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Cover Sheet

Applicant Information

Applicant: Kingston Water District
P.O. Box 127
Kingston, ID 83839

Project Number: 20-07-017

Contact Person: Mr. Jon Groth, Manager
PO Box 127/Kingston, ID 83839
(208)682-3892

Project Costs and Funding Sources

Estimated Construction Costs

Phase 1—Wells, Tank, and Transmission Piping	\$3,589,000
Phase 2—Fire Flow Upgrades	<u>\$3,500,000</u>
Total Estimated Costs	<u>\$7,089,000</u>

Funding

DEQ Share	\$500,000
Other Share	<u>\$6,589,000</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$7,089,000</u>

The existing user charge is currently \$35.00 per month. This project would increase the user charge by \$88.12 per month, including debt service of \$84.19 per month. The total monthly cost per household after the project is in operation will, therefore, be \$123.12 per month.

Abstract

The Kingston Water District is in need of substantial improvements and upgrades to provide a reliable, quality drinking water source and to meet future demand requirements. The 2007 Addendum to the "Kingston Water District System Upgrades Preliminary Engineering Report" outlines specific drinking water source, distribution system, and storage improvements to achieve this. The overall short- and long-term environmental impacts of the proposed project will be favorable. Some mitigation measures may be required to protect nearby wetlands and water bodies and historic places. These measures may be revised after comments are received from appropriate agencies.

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1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project

The City of Kingston water system is in need of substantial improvements and upgrades to provide a reliable, quality drinking water source and to meet future demand requirements. This Environmental Information Document (EID) is prepared in partial fulfillment of IDAPA Section 58.01.12 Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans from the Idaho Administrative Code and for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

1.1 Purpose of the Proposed Project

The City of Kingston currently receives its water from an 18-foot-deep well that was dug in the 1950s located on the north side of the Coeur d'Alene River. In 1996, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) determined this well to be Ground Water Under the Direct Influence (GWUDI) of surface water and in violation of the water quality requirements specified in IDAPA Section 58.01.08.300, Filtration and Disinfection. Three particulate analysis studies performed in 1995 and 1996 detected protozoa, amoeba, nematodes, and diatoms in the water. The copper concentration was also found to exceed the allowable limits. The near proximity of the well to the river leads to a high risk of contamination, especially during periods of high water in the river. In 1997, the Kingston Water District (District) signed an agreement with DEQ formalizing a Voluntary Consent Order (VCO) intended to bring the water system into compliance with regulatory requirements. This VCO has since been revised three times.

The District has proactively engaged in finding a solution to the water system deficiencies and has met all of the conditions of the current VCO. A report was completed in 1997 by Inland Northwest Consultants (INC) entitled "Water System Evaluation of the Kingston Water District." This report was amended in 2003 by J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. (J-U-B) and again in 2007. The purpose of the addendums was to identify system improvement alternatives that would return the District's water system to compliance and satisfy the requirements of the VCO. In October 2007, one of these alternatives was identified as the best option and was recommended as a proposed project.

The purpose of this EID is to identify potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed project. Impacts to local natural environmental features such as wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, and flora and fauna are considered as well as social element impacts such as the local economy, population, and cultural resources. Mitigation measures are proposed for any impacts deemed significantly adverse.

1.2 Need for the Proposed Project

The District authorized the 2003 "Kingston Water District System Upgrades Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum" as a proactive approach to managing its water system. This report and the 2007 Addendum identified several problems and improvement needs. The need for the proposed project is based on key conclusions from the addendums, including the following:

- The turbidity and copper levels of the existing supply well do not meet current water quality requirements. There is also a high risk of well contamination during high water levels in the river.
- The existing water storage facilities are not large enough to meet current storage requirements. Two of the water storage tanks are susceptible to freezing and cannot be used during the winter.
- Many of the system distribution mains are deteriorating due to their age and the corrosivity of the source water. This allows excessive leakage into the surrounding soil and threatens public health.
- Many of the system distribution mains are undersized and are inadequate for providing necessary fire flows.
- The capacity of the existing well used for public water supply is insufficient to meet projected future demands.

2 Alternatives and Proposed Action

2.1 Alternative 1—No Action

The District's existing water supply wells have historically registered peak turbidity levels approximately three times greater than the maximum turbidity limit of 1.0 NTU (nephelometric turbidity unit) specified in the Surface Water Treatment Rule. These instances of peak turbidity levels have consistently matched occasions of high turbidity in the nearby Coeur d'Alene River, suggesting that the wells are under the direct influent of surface water. The greatest concern is the high risk of contamination during these high water periods, subjecting the public to disease, sickness, and system shutdown.

The deteriorating condition of the existing water mains leads to a significant amount of water loss each year, resulting in unnecessary energy costs and burdening the District with additional maintenance and repair obligations.

Inadequate emergency storage puts the community at a high level of risk in the event of an extensive power failure, fire, or natural disaster.

Failing to provide an alternative water supply source and improved system capacity will continue to threaten public health and safety. For these reasons, the No Action Alternative was deemed unacceptable.

2.2 Alternative 2—Connection to CSCWD

The second alternative considered by the District was to connect to the nearby Central Shoshone County Water District (CSCWD). This option was evaluated in detail in the 2003 Engineering Report and involves abandoning the existing supply source and purchasing water directly from CSCWD.

As identified in the 2003 Addendum, the primary disadvantage to connecting to CSCWD is the GWUDI classification. Since CSCWD is faced with the same requirements as the Kingston

Water District, the water purchased from CSCWD would need to be treated to comply with regulatory requirements. The costs of treatment facilities would be distributed to ratepayers in the Kingston Water District and CSCWD.

Additional expenses with this alternative include the construction of approximately 5,500 feet of connecting transmission main and a new pump station. The expected total present worth cost of this alternative is \$4,348,000 for a 30-year period at 4 percent interest. Appendix A includes a summary cost estimate and the effect on user rates.

2.3 Alternative 3—Proposed Action

The recommended alternative and proposed project is broken into two phases. The expected cost and effect on user rates are summarized in Table 2.3-1 in Appendix A.

2.3.1 Phase 1

Phase 1 includes a new groundwater well and well house, transmission piping from the well to the distribution system, a new 250,000-gallon storage tank, and the inclusion of a water metering program. The 2007 Addendum recommends drilling the new wells in Pinehurst where the aquifer is known to be productive. It is expected that each well will be able to satisfy the 2023 projected demand of 300 gallons per minute (gpm), since the Pinehurst Water District currently draws from the aquifer in that area at a rate of 900 gpm. Having two wells will provide a measure of redundancy should one well be decommissioned.

The District has purchased a vacant lot on the corner of 3rd Street and Oregon Street. The lot is not large enough to meet the minimum setback requirements of 50 feet from the two planned wells to the property line with 20 feet of separation between the wells. DEQ has approved a waiver for the setback requirements for this lot.

A test well was constructed on this property and suggest the geology is similar to the Pinehurst Water District wells. The corrosivity of the water in this aquifer will require treatment to raise the pH. The proposed treatment method is the use of calcite contactors.

This phase of the proposed project will involve the construction of an 8-inch transmission main from the well house to the distribution system. This will require crossing Pine Creek and the Yellowstone Pipeline near the northwest edge of Pinehurst and south of Interstate 90. This is shown on Figure 2.3-1 in Appendix A.

A 250,000-gallon storage tank is proposed to replace the two existing 15,000-gallon tanks. The new tank will provide equalization and emergency storage to satisfy projected 2023 demands.

In order for the District to be eligible for receiving project funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or DEQ, it will be necessary to provide a metering system. The proposed system will incorporate radio transmission, allowing the District to log meter readings without physically visiting each meter. The metering system is expected to have the added benefit of reducing water usage.

2.3.2 Phase 2

Phase 2 will replace nearly 22,000 lineal feet (LF) of deteriorating or undersized distribution mains to reduce lost water and improve the available fire flow. Approximately 21 fire hydrants will also be added throughout the District.

3 Affected Environment

3.1 General

The District service area is located in Shoshone County just west of the confluence of the Coeur d'Alene River and the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. The project area includes the current District boundary and a portion of the City of Pinehurst, as shown on Figure 2.3-1 in Appendix A.

3.2 Physical Aspects (Topography, Geology, and Soils)

3.2.1 General

The topography of the project area is depicted on the topographic map shown on Figure 3.2-1 in Appendix A. As shown on the map, the area is characterized by a well-defined river valley with steep valley slopes. The project area is relatively flat with a gradual slope to the west. The ground surface elevation across the Planning Area is approximately 2,400 feet above mean sea level.

The geology of the area consists primarily of rocks that are Precambrian metasediments, mineralized along a series of subparallel fault zones. The Silver Valley itself is filled with thick deposits of sands, gravels, and clays. Volcanic ash and windblown silts have mantled the area and vary in thickness at different locations.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service identifies the primary soils within the Study Area as silt loams with 0 to 25 percent slopes as shown on Figure 3.2-2 in Appendix A (Source: NRCS).

3.2.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

Short-Term Impacts and Significance

The proposed project will involve shallow excavation for tank and waterline construction. The soils in the project area are susceptible to some erosion during excavation due to the shallow saturation zone and cut bank instability.

Appropriate measures will be taken to control stormwater runoff and erosion during construction. All construction and site modification activities will follow EPA and DEQ guidelines and specifications for stormwater control and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Short-term impacts are not expected to be significant. No long-term impacts are expected to occur.

3.2.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.3 Climate

3.3.1 General

The Kingston area typically has warm summer temperatures in the valleys and cooler temperatures in the surrounding mountains. Winter temperatures, however, typically are cooler in the valleys than the lower mountain slopes. The average monthly precipitation is 2.57 inches, with a yearly average snowfall of 53.9 inches. Prevailing winds are northeasterly in the fall and winter and southerly in the spring and summer. Warm, dry Chinook winds in the spring melt the winter snow pack.

Climatic data for the area is recorded in nearby Kellogg. A summary of this data is provided in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 - Kellogg Climate Summary

Month	Monthly Average Temperatures (° F)		Average Total Precipitation ^a	Average Total Snowfall
	Maximum ^b	Minimum ^c	(inches)	(inches)
January	35.0	20.4	3.80	18.6
February	40.9	23.4	2.82	9.9
March	48.9	28.3	2.92	5.5
April	58.7	33.7	2.35	0.7
May	68.0	40.3	2.57	0.0
June	75.2	46.3	2.21	0.0
July	85.2	49.8	1.02	0.0
August	84.1	48.0	1.13	0.0
September	73.7	41.9	1.70	0.0
October	59.9	34.9	2.68	0.3
November	44.0	28.7	3.79	5.0
December	35.9	23.0	3.86	13.9

a. Western Regional Climate Center, Kellogg, Idaho; Period of Record 1905 to 2005

b. Average daily maximum temperature

c. Average daily minimum temperature

3.3.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

Short-Term Impacts and Significance

Spring rainfall may limit pipe placement and construction progress to avoid soil erosion. Appropriate sediment control measures will be taken. BMPs for constructing stormwater runoff control will be used, and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for any construction activities disturbing more than one acre of land.

3.3.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.4 Population

3.4.1 General

Residential growth is one of the key determinants in forecasting the number of future water service connections. An increasing divorce rate and a delay in the age of first marriages have increased household formation since the 1970s. In the early 1980s, Idaho, in general, suffered an economic recession. This recession was felt more strongly in the Silver Valley due to the closing of the Bunker Hill Mining Complex. These factors led to a significant drop in population (-28 percent) in the decade ending in 1990. In the 1990s and early 2000s, population growth continued to decline due to low mineral prices, additional mining complex closures, and the continuing stigma of the superfund cleanup being conducted to remediate high lead levels in area soils.

Current population trends show the population of Shoshone County has been declining. From 1996 to 2006, the County population declined 6 percent while the State population increased 22 percent. Despite a historical decline in population of the Shoshone County, there are signs of significant future growth from recreation-based industry in the Silver Valley. In particular, several large developments are planned near the Silver Mountain Ski area.

The 2000 census for the City of Kingston was 1,575 people. The 2003 and 2007 report addendums developed design criteria based on two separate growth projection alternatives. The following Table 3-2 reproduces these projections and the corresponding water demands.

Table 3-2 - Current and Future Water Demands

	Number of Connections	Average Daily Demand		Maximum Daily Demand	
		gpd	gpm	gpd	gpm
Historical (1998-2002)	242	128,000	89	275,400	191
Design Year (2023)					
Alt. No. 1	268	133,400	93	305,000	212
Alt. No. 2	372	185,200	129	423,400	294

For planning purposes, the higher rate of growth (Alternative 2) will be used.

3.4.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The proposed water system project is intended to resolve existing deficiencies. The proposed system upgrades will bring a more acceptable level of service to existing users and is not expected to have a significant impact on population trends.

3.4.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.5 Economic and Social Profile

3.5.1 General

Idaho's economy continues to grow and evolve as it enters the 21st Century. The 1980s experienced fluctuating economic performance and high unemployment rates. This period was also one of the longest periods of economic expansion in the State's history. Since 1987, non-farm employment expanded every year and consistently placed Idaho among the top ten fastest growing states in the nation. The 1990s saw a large increase of new residents in the state, causing the population to increase 29 percent from 1990 to 2000. Over this period, Idaho personal income nearly doubled. This growth did not occur in the Study Area, however, due to the loss of mining jobs.

The racial and ethnic characteristics of Shoshone County are primarily Caucasian. Shoshone County has a minority population of less than 1 percent. Persons of Hispanic origins comprise the largest sector of the minority population. The median age from 2005 census data was 37.5 years. The largest age groups are the 30 to 34 years age group and the 35 to 39 years age group; Median Family income is \$28,535 (1999 census data).

In 2005, 5,631 persons were in the Shoshone County labor force; 11 percent were unemployed; 45.6 percent were females and 54.4 percent were males. Eighty-two percent (82 percent) of commuters drove alone to work, and the mean travel time was 20 minutes. Listed below are some of the major employers in Shoshone County:

- Dave Smith Motors
- Galena Mine
- Kellogg Joint School District
- Lucky Friday Mine
- Shoshone County
- Silver Mountain Resort
- U.S. Forest Service
- Wallace School District

Source: Idaho Department of Commerce

3.5.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The total cost of the proposed projects and resulting higher rates will create an economic hardship for some ratepayers. As a result, the District is aggressively pursuing grant funding for the identified projects. New user fees will also be used to pay for capital improvements directly related to development. In general, the projects will help property values by providing an adequate and safe drinking water supply. System-wide residential metering will also help reduce the burden on low income, low water users. The facilities will provide some additional capacity for economic development in the Silver Valley, which will in turn add additional users to help share in the cost of the required improvements.

3.5.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.6 Land Use

3.6.1 General

The proposed projects will occur primarily in existing City, County, or Water District rights-of-way or on District-owned property. Acquisition of some new easements may be necessary for construction of the proposed transmission main. There is not expected to be a significant impact to nearby landowners.

3.6.2 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.7 Flood Plain Development

3.7.1 General

A floodplain consists of the following two components:

1. The floodway, which is the most severe part of the floodplain at the time of flooding, is characterized by deep and fast moving water.
2. The floodway fringe, which is less severe than the floodway and is characterized by slower moving water at the time of flooding.

Special attention and concern should be given when any structure, building, or land use is proposed within the floodplain.

3.7.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

Historically, flooding has occurred within the Study Area along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, the Coeur d'Alene River, and its tributaries. Flooding occurs primarily around Cataldo. The proposed groundwater wells and storage tank projects are not located within the 100-year flood plain. However, some of the proposed water main replacement projects are located in the 100-year flood plain, as shown on Figure 2.3-1 in Appendix A. None of the proposed projects are expected to impact the flood plain. All work will comply with existing County flood plain ordinances.

3.7.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.8 Wetlands

3.8.1 General

Wetlands are aquatic systems that serve important functions in the ecosystem. Some of the features provided by wetlands include habitat for many plant and animal species, reduced surface runoff, flood control, sediment and nutrient removal, and attractive scenery. It is important that these habitats are preserved so that these necessary functions are not compromised.

3.8.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The majority of the proposed project items will be located in existing streets. Construction activities for these items are not expected to impact any wetlands. As shown on Figure 2.3-1 in Appendix A, the proposed transmission main connecting the wells to the distribution system will cross Pine Creek near the northwestern edge of Pinehurst immediately south of Interstate 90. Construction of this transmission main will occur in the summer when the stream is dry. Appropriate stormwater runoff control measures and BMPs will be required. No significant impacts to wetlands are expected to occur.

3.8.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.9 Wild and Scenic Rivers

3.9.1 General

In 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to preserve designated rivers having valuable features such as recreation, geology, fish and wildlife, history, and culture. The State of Idaho has five rivers with this special designation (NWSRS). The State of Idaho also

passed the Idaho Comprehensive Water Planning and Protected Rivers Act in 1988 to protect certain social and environmental features of the State's river system by restricting potentially destructive activities (Source: IRU).

3.9.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

No rivers protected under these enactments are in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.9.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.10 Cultural Resources

3.10.1 General

The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted regarding cultural resources in the Planning Area (Source: ISHS). Under Section 106, Review of the National Historical Preservation Act, the only property currently listed on the SHPO's National Register of Historic Places near the project area is the Pine Creek Baptist Church located at the corner of 3rd Street and Main Street in Pinehurst.

3.10.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The proposed transmission main connecting the wells to the distribution system will be routed northwest down Main Street in Pinehurst adjacent to the Pine Creek Baptist Church. Construction activities will be confined to the existing City and District rights-of-way and utility corridors. Public comment will be sought and addressed during the design phase before construction begins to alleviate concerns and to minimize impacts to the church.

3.10.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.11 Flora and Fauna

3.11.1 General

The area surrounding Kingston provides valuable habitat for a variety of plant and animal species. Game animals most commonly found in the surrounding area include white-tailed deer, moose, elk, and black bear. Other common game species include snowshoe hare and ruffed grouse, which are abundant year-round. Bald eagles, great blue herons, western grebes, pied-billed grebes, eared and horned grebes, and loons are also found in the area.

Shorebirds, other residential and migrating birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians reflect the diverse habitat of the region.

Twenty animals and four plants are listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Threatened and Endangered Species System (TESS) list in Idaho. Some of these include the bull trout, sockeye salmon, sturgeon, bald eagle, grizzly bear, and gray wolf. Although the presence of heavy metals in the Coeur d'Alene River and the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River tends to have an adverse impact on the fish habitat, the river does support a good fishery between Mullan and Wallace, east of the Study Area.

3.11.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

Construction activities of the proposed projects will largely be limited to street rights-of-way, the existing tank site, and the well lot in Pinehurst. Therefore, the proposed development is not expected to have any adverse short- or long-term impacts to local flora and fauna.

3.11.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.12 Recreation and Open Space

3.12.1 General

The Silver Valley is an attractive location for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including hiking, biking, horseback riding, camping, fishing, hunting, boating, snow skiing and snowboarding, and snowmobiling. The area is surrounded by thousands of acres of public land, including the Panhandle National Forest. The Silver Mountain Resort near Kellogg is a popular winter skiing and snowboarding destination and also offers summer hiking and mountain biking activities. The Union Pacific Railroad line that runs through the Study Area (from west to east) was converted in the late 1990s to a pedestrian/bicycle path.

3.12.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The proposed project will be confined within the District and City of Pinehurst City limits and is not expected to have a significant impact on recreation or open space.

3.12.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.13 Agricultural Lands

3.13.1 General

Prime farmland, as defined by the 1978 EPA Policy to Protect Environmentally Significant Agricultural Lands, has ideal characteristics necessary for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses. Preservation of these valuable lands is important for protecting wildlife habitat, reducing sediment and erosion, and improving water quality. A common problem is the conversion of prime farmland to urbanization. Between 1992 and 1997, an average of 5,380 acres per year of Idaho's prime farmland was converted to urban lands (Source: NRCS 3).

3.13.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

Because the proposed project will be limited to existing facility locations and the well lot in Pinehurst, there will be no adverse impacts to prime farmland.

3.13.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.14 Air Quality

3.14.1 General

EPA has developed standards for monitoring and protecting air quality under the Clean Air Act as Amended in 1990. IDEQ is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and enforcing the air quality standards in the State of Idaho. An area that exceeds the air quality standards is considered to be a "non-attainment area" (NAA) for a particular component or for total air quality (Source: IDEQ 2007).

There are two air quality monitoring stations in the Silver Valley. One is in Osburn and the other is located in Pinehurst. Historically, the Osburn station has never registered contaminants in excess of Federal PM-10 requirements. The Pinehurst station has, however, exceeded the Federal PM-10 requirements. In years where the Federal requirement was exceeded in Pinehurst, the violation occurred in the winter due to smoke from wood burning stoves.

3.14.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

Air emissions during construction will be mitigated with dust abatement measures and by limiting allowable construction hours. No emissions are expected following completion of the project.

3.14.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.15 Energy

3.15.1 General

Avista Utilities supplies electricity to the Project Area. The electrical supply infrastructure is robust due to the power grid developed to serve historical mining operations. Many of these mines are no longer active, so adequate infrastructure exists.

3.15.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The proposed wells in Pinehurst are not expected to create a significant demand on the local energy supply, since these wells will replace the District's existing well pump. System-wide metering and leak detection/elimination will help reduce demand and, consequently, pumping and energy requirements.

3.15.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

3.16 Regionalization

3.16.1 General

As discussed in Section 2.2 of this report, connection to CSCWD was considered as an alternative to the proposed project. A detailed evaluation of this option was considered in the 2003 Addendum. The primary disadvantage to this alternative is the current GWUDI classification of CSCWD's own system. The costs of future treatment improvements to the CSCWD system would be distributed to ratepayers in the Kingston Water District in addition to the cost of purchasing water from CSCWD.

3.16.2 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Action on Significant Items

The proposed project will not limit the long-term possibility of a regionalized water district. The selected alternative will, however, allow the District and its ratepayers to have more direct management over their own system and rates as well as provide a more reliable and safe water supply source.

3.16.3 Agency Review Comments

This section will address comments received by consulted agencies after comment letters are received.

4 Means to Mitigate Adverse Environmental Impacts

The overall short- and long-term environmental impacts of the proposed project will be favorable. The existing water supply source is inadequate for continued use, and the distribution system and storage facilities are insufficient to meet current and projected future demands. The following is a list of the benefits of the proposed project:

- The proposed wells will mitigate the current potential health risk of a contaminated water supply.
- The proposed storage and distribution system improvements will increase the reliability and level of service, particularly in the event of an emergency.

Mitigation measures for potentially adverse impacts include:

- Appropriate stormwater runoff and erosion control measures will be taken, and necessary permits will be required to protect nearby wetlands and water bodies. All construction and site modification activities will follow EPA and DEQ guidelines and specifications.
- Transmission main construction near Pine Creek will occur in the summer when the stream is dry. This will reduce the risk of adversely impacting surface water.

Final Construction Plans and Specifications developed for this project will reflect the mitigation measures discussed here and in previous sections of this report. They will be submitted to DEQ, Army Corps of Engineers, and other appropriate agencies in order to obtain final permits and approval. Therefore, these agencies will have the opportunity to review the Plans and Specifications to ensure their concerns are adequately addressed prior to construction.

References

ISHS

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NWSRS

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IRU

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<<http://www.idahorivers.org/stateprotection.html>>.

Idaho

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<<http://www.idahoworks.com>>.

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<<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app>>.

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2002 Economic Census. U.S. Census Bureau.
<<http://www.census.gov/econ/census02>>.

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Air Quality Planning: Idaho's State Implementation Plan. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.
<http://www.deq.state.id.us/air/data_reports/planning/sip.cfm>.

USFWS

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<<http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html>>.

WRCC

Western U.S. Climate Historical Summaries. November 21, 2004. Western Regional Climate Center. November 2, 2007.
<<http://www.wrcc.dlr.edu/climasum.html>>.

Appendices

Appendix A - Maps, Charts, and Tables

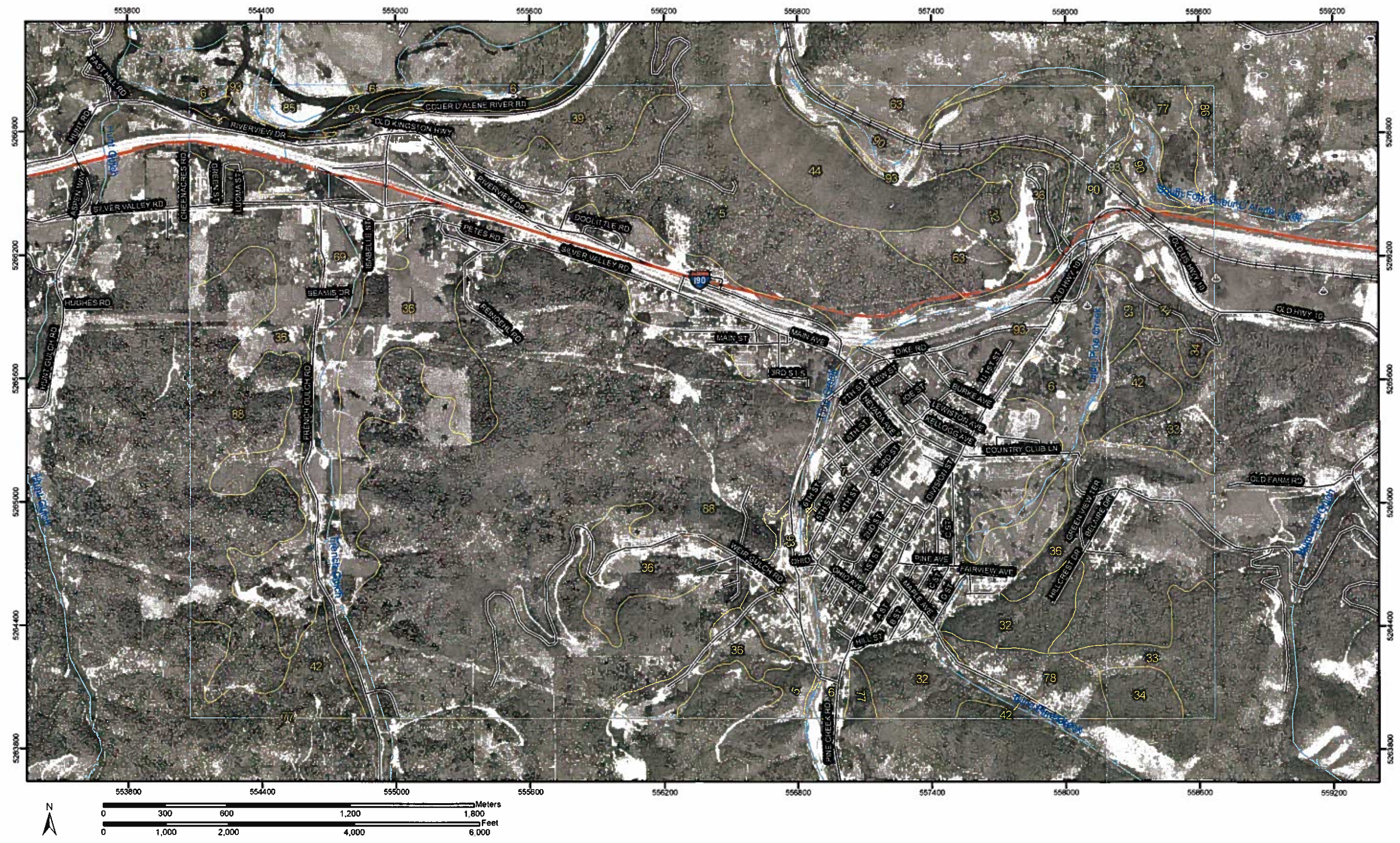
Appendix B - Public Participation

Appendix C - Agencies Consulted—Mailing List

Appendix A

Maps, Charts, and Tables

Soil Map--St. Joe Area, Idaho, Parts of Benewah and Shoshone Counties
(Figure 3.2-2 Kingston, Idaho Soil Map)



Soil Map—St. Joe Area, Idaho, Parts of Benewah and Shoshone Counties
(Figure 3.2-2 Kingston, Idaho Soil Map)

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

 Soil Map Units

Special Point Features

-  Blowout
-  Borrow Pit
-  Clay Spot
-  Closed Depression
-  Gravel Pit
-  Gravelly Spot
-  Landfill
-  Lava Flow
-  Marsh
-  Mine or Quarry
-  Miscellaneous Water
-  Perennial Water
-  Rock Outcrop
-  Saline Spot
-  Sandy Spot
-  Severely Eroded Spot
-  Sinkhole
-  Slide or Slip
-  Sodic Spot
-  Spoil Area
-  Stony Spot

 Very Stony Spot

 Wet Spot

 Other

Special Line Features

-  Gully
-  Short Steep Slope
-  Other

Political Features

Municipalities

-  Cities
-  Urban Areas

Water Features

-  Oceans
-  Streams and Canals

Transportation

 Rails

Roads

-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  State Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Other Roads

MAP INFORMATION

Original soil survey map sheets were prepared at publication scale. Viewing scale and printing scale, however, may vary from the original. Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for proper map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 11N

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: St. Joe Area, Idaho, Parts of Benewah and Shoshone Counties
Survey Area Data: Version 4, Jan 26, 2007

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 5/25/1992; 6/21/1992; 9/3/1993

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.



Map Unit Legend

St. Joe Area, Idaho, Parts of Benewah and Shoshone Counties (ID608)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
5	Ahrs-Pinecreek association, 35 to 75 percent slopes	271.4	7.1%
6	Aquic Udifluvents, 0 to 4 percent slopes	132.3	3.5%
7	Aquic Udifluvents, protected, 0 to 4 percent slopes	436.1	11.5%
32	Hobo silt loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes	108.4	2.9%
33	Hobo silt loam, moderately acid, 15 to 35 percent slopes	87.3	2.3%
34	Hobo silt loam, strongly acid, 15 to 35 percent slopes	29.0	0.8%
36	Hobo-Helmer silt loams, 5 to 25 percent slopes	775.9	20.4%
39	Honeyjones silt loam, 35 to 75 percent slopes	64.1	1.7%
42	Honeyjones-Ahrs association, 35 to 75 percent slopes	95.7	2.5%
44	Honeyjones-Rock outcrop complex, 65 to 85 percent slopes	122.5	3.2%
63	Lotuspoint-Rock outcrop complex, 35 to 75 percent slopes	73.4	1.9%
69	Miesen-Ramsdell silt loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes	197.6	5.2%
77	Pinecreek gravelly silt loam, 35 to 65 percent slopes	37.6	1.0%
78	Pinecreek-Lotuspoint complex, strongly acid, 35 to 65 percent slopes, eroded	40.0	1.1%
85	Slickens	24.4	0.6%
86	Tigley gravelly loam, very strongly acid, 30 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	13.0	0.3%
88	Tigley-Hugus association, 30 to 65 percent slopes	1,049.7	27.6%
90	Udarents-Aquic Udifluvents-Slickens complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	182.7	4.8%
93	Water	59.1	1.6%
Totals for Area of Interest (AOI)		3,800.3	100.0%

Table 2.2-1 Alternative 2 Costs - Connection to CSCWD

Costs

Opinion of Probable Cost	\$ 2,077,100.00
Present Worth of Annual O&M (4% interest rate, 30-year period)	\$ 2,271,000.00
Total Present Worth Cost	\$ 4,348,100.00

Effect on User Rates

Increase in user's fees per month (242 connections)	\$ 78.44
Increase in O&M and water cost per connection per month	45.21
Total Increase	\$ 123.65
 Existing Rate	 \$ 35.00
Total Increase	\$ 123.65
Total Rate	\$ 158.65

Note: Costs are based on 2007 dollars

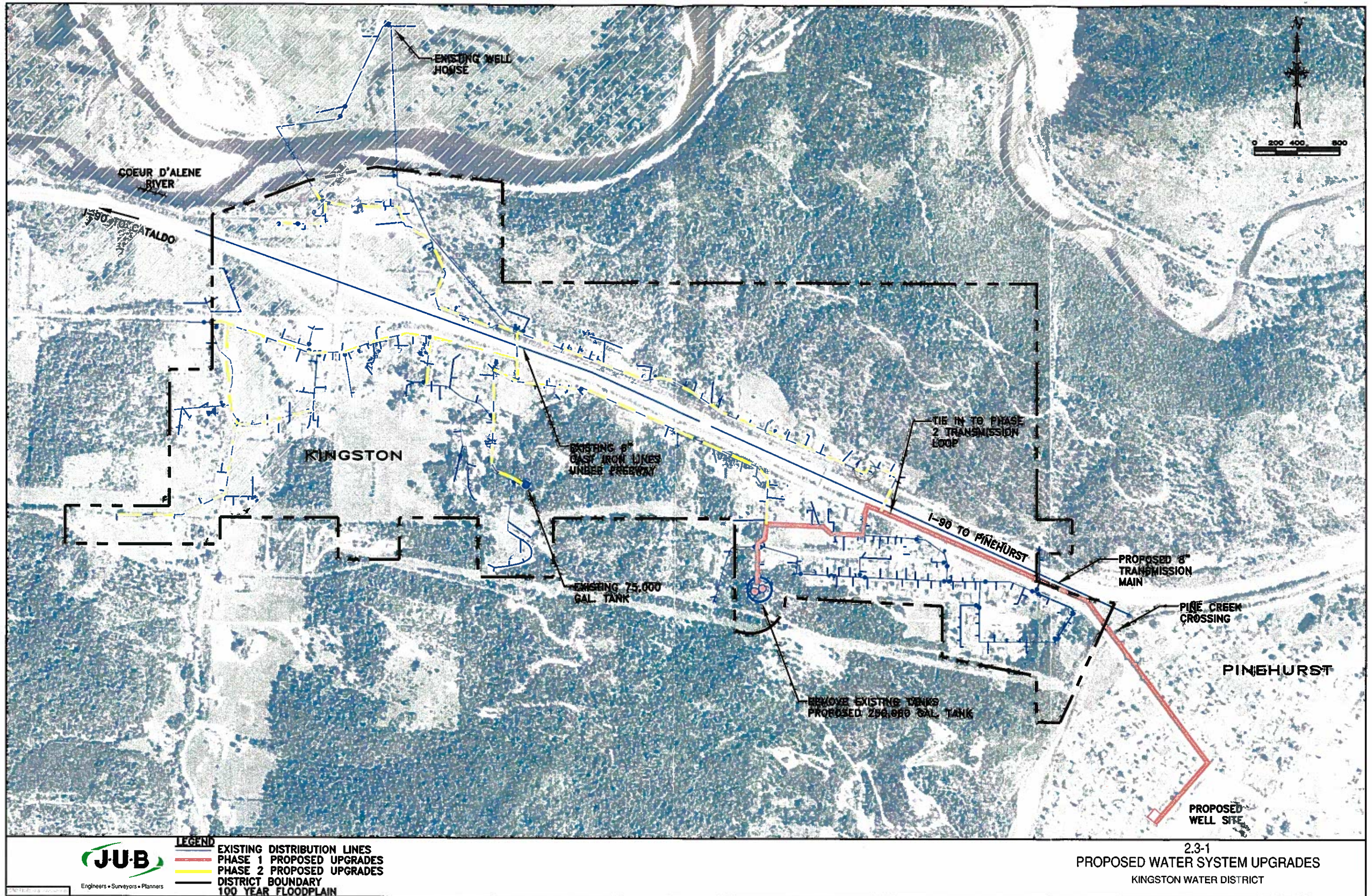


Table 2.3-1 Alternative 3 Costs - Proposed Action

Costs

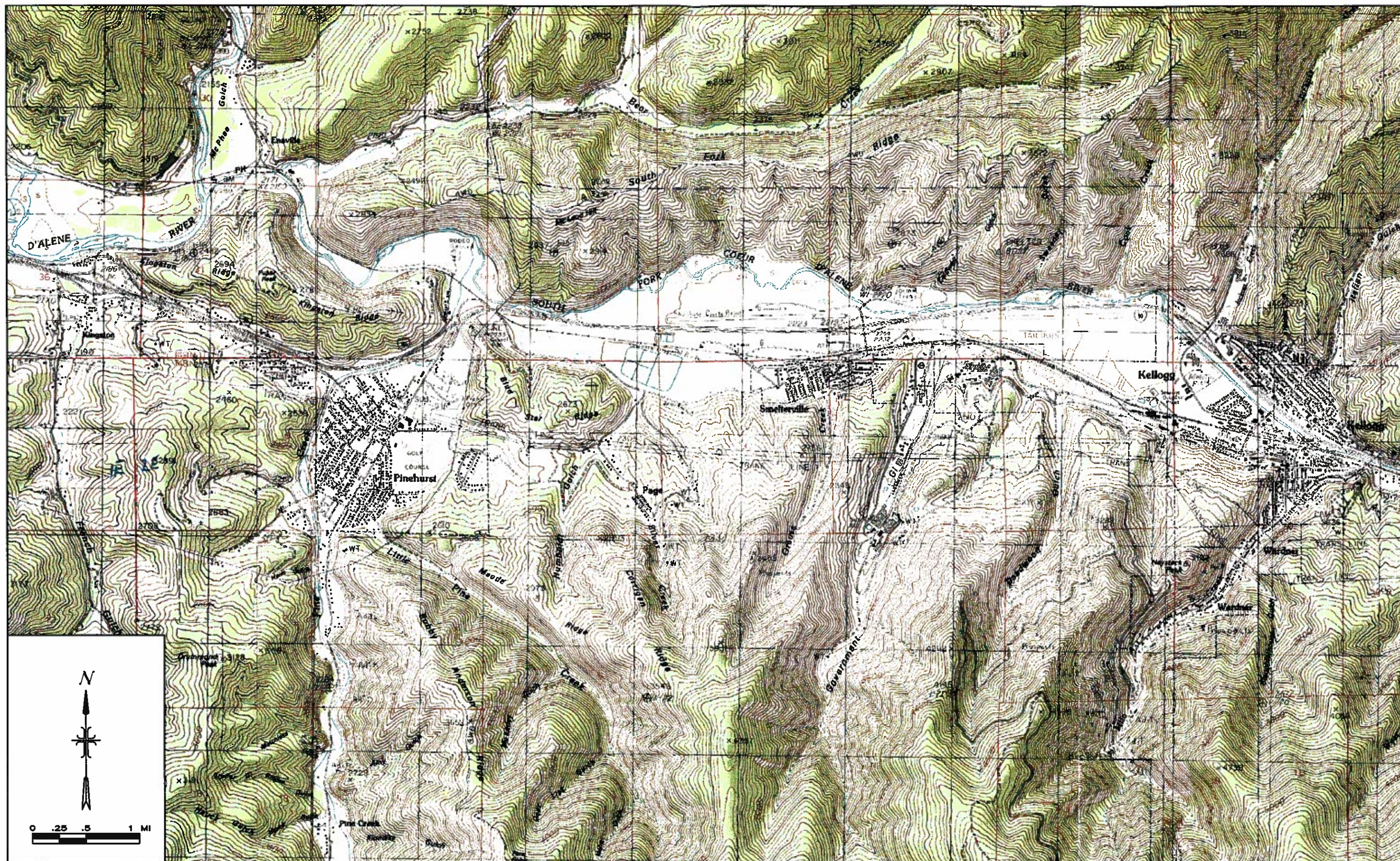
Opinion of Probable Cost	\$ 6,695,000.00
Present Worth of Annual O&M (4% interest rate, 30-year period)	<u>\$ 197,000.00</u>
Total Present Worth Cost	<u>\$ 7,088,450.00</u>

Effect on User Rates

Increase in user's fees per month (242 connections)	\$ 84.19
Increase in O&M and water cost per connection per month	<u>3.93</u>
Total Increase	<u>\$ 88.12</u>

Existing Rate	\$ 35.00
Total Increase	<u>\$ 88.12</u>
Total Rate	<u>\$ 123.12</u>

Note: Costs are based on 2007 dollars



Kingston Water District

Pinehurst Well Location Fact Sheet

Planning and Zoning Meeting May 21, 2007

The Kingston Water District has selected 202 S. 3rd Street in Pinehurst as the preferred location for their new well and wellhouse. The District understands that this requires a conditional use permit, but feel that this location would provide the Kingston Water District with a good quality water supply for their constituents, while providing long term benefits to the City of Pinehurst.

Project Benefits for Pinehurst Residents

- The Water District will be a good neighbor, maintaining the site
- This project will involve a small building (1000 sf), leaving significant green space
- This provides a potential future tie-in for the Pinehurst Water District in the event of an emergency
- The pipeline will replacing some of the pavement on Main Street and 3rd Street
- Local residents can have a voice in building aesthetics

Why Is a New Water Source Needed?

The current water source for the Kingston Water District has been determined to be ground water under the direct influence (GWUDI) by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which impacts public health. Consequently, the Kingston Water District is in violation of the surface water treatment requirements of the Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems, IDAPA 58.01.08.300. Due to this determination, DEQ required the District to evaluate treating their existing water supply, or locating an alternative supply.

What Was Recommended?

Based on an evaluation completed by Dr. Dale Ralston, PhD, P.G.E., the preferred option for the new water supply is a well in Pinehurst. The evaluation suggested that due to aquifer formations, a well in Pinehurst would provide better quality water and capacity than a well in Kingston. Based on the hydrogeologist's recommendations, the availability of power, and the relatively short distance to pump water, the District began looking for potential well sites in the center of town.

Two potential well sites became available to the District, one on the elementary school playground, and the other, at 202 S. 3rd Street. The preferred location for the District is the 3rd Street site, because there is a lower chance of contamination away from the playground and less impact to the school's recreational area.



ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

Kingston Water District

Pinehurst Well Location Fact Sheet

City Council Meeting May 31, 2007

The Kingston Water District (District) has selected 202 S. 3rd Street in Pinehurst as the preferred location for their new well and wellhouse. The District understands that this requires a Conditional Use Permit, but feels this location would provide the District with a good quality water supply for their constituents while providing long-term benefits to the City of Pinehurst. The District feels this property provides a better long-term location for the well and wellhouse.

Project Benefits for Pinehurst Residents

- The Water District will be a good neighbor, maintaining the site.
- This project will involve a small building (1,000 sf), leaving significant green space.
- This provides a potential future tie-in for the Pinehurst Water District in the event of an emergency.
- The pipeline will replacing some of the pavement on Main Street and 3rd Street.
- Local residents can have a voice in building aesthetics.

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Two potential well sites became available to the District—one on the elementary school playground and the other at 202 S. 3rd Street. The preferred location for the District is the 3rd Street site because there is a lower chance of potential contamination to the well away from the playground and less impact to the school's recreational area.

Cost Comparison of the Sites

The annual cost to the District for the School District site is greater than that of the 3rd Street site. The agreement between the School District and the District requires that the District provide up to 2 million gallons of water per year to the school and the ball field at no cost. The 20-year cost for providing the water to the school is approximately \$97,000.

The comparison between this cost and the potential lost tax revenue to the City of Pinehurst is shown in the following table based on the current taxable rate of 0.002204443. This comparison included the 20-year tax revenues for the 3rd Street site as an undeveloped site and as a fully developed property with two residences (with a total estimated valuation of \$300,000).

	Annual Cost to KWD of Wellhouse at School Site	Potential Loss of Property Tax Revenue to City of Pinehurst	
		Undeveloped 3 rd Street Site	Developed 3 rd Street Site ^b
Project Construction Cost	\$0		
20 Year Cost of Water to School and Ball Field ^a	\$97,000		
Present Value of Potential Tax Revenue		\$970	\$5,810
Total Cost	\$97,000	\$970	\$5,810

^a The estimated water cost is \$2.27 per 1,000 gallons, with a 5% annual inflation rate.

^b The estimated property value for the developed 3rd Street site is two properties worth \$150,000 each. It is assumed that property taxes increase at a rate of 3% annually.

The construction costs are not included because the total project costs are expected to be the same for both sites at \$2,165,000.

Kingston Water District

System Improvements Public Meeting FAQ's

The Kingston Water District must develop a new water supply in order to avoid a serious health risk, and meet the requirements of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

To meet the current IDEQ requirements and pay for the system upgrades, the District will place a \$3.5 million revenue bond before the public at an August 7 election at the District Office (42784 Silver Valley Road in Kingston; 8am to 8 pm). On July 10 the District hosted a public meeting, at which many good questions and comments were posed. Following are some of the frequently asked questions that were posed. A second public meeting will be taking place Thursday July 26, at Pinehurst Elementary at 7:00 pm.

Bond and Funding Questions

Q: Can we do this in stages? Can we do this without any bonds and only grants?

A: The projects could be done in stages, with the well and pipeline first, followed by the tank. The entire project could not be funded by grants however. Most grants require a minimum amount of matching funds. Generally, funding agencies expect 50% - 80% matching funds. To be competitive for the block grant, 80% matching funds are expected.

Q: Are Davis Bacon wages required for grant money?

A: Davis Bacon wages are required for any portion of the project that is funded with Community Block Grant Funds.

Q: What fines do we get if we are out of compliance?

A: Input from Steve Tanner? Isn't this stated in the VCO?

Q: Why not increase new user rates to help with this expense?

A: New connection fees are reviewed on a regular basis, and have been increased a number of times over the last few years. Fees will be updated to make sure new development

pays its fair share and cover buy-in to the system as we make improvements.

Q: Will the system allow for development and reduce rates?

A: The proposed well and pipelines will be designed with some additional capacity so that new connections could be added to the system without additional cost to the District. New development will pay its own way. Additional users would help to reduce the cost per connection for the bond payment.

Q: Why can't we find out if we get the grant money before we spend the money?

A: Competition is fierce for grant money so passing the bond prior to applying for grants is necessary. Rural Development will not commit to loan (or grant) without the bond, and because the competition is so stiff for block grant, the bond must be passed prior to application to have any chance.

Q: What happens if the bond could not be paid?

A: When the District passes the Resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds, it makes the promises to do all it can to ensure the bonds are repaid. If the bond payments are not made, the District is in default on its payments

and will be sued by the bondholders to recover damages.

Water Supply Questions

Q: Why can't a well be drilled deeper in the existing area?

A: Based on existing Well Logs, there does not appear to be good quality water below the bottom of the existing well.

Q: Could the well be raised and sealed to prevent water for entering?

A: The existing well is very shallow and draws from a very gravelly aquifer which makes isolating it very difficult. The contamination can potentially enter the well from both the surface and through the gravel layer where the water supply is.

Q: Would we have to filter all the time?

A: The State of Idaho rules would require year round filtration of the GUIDI well water.

Q: Would putting a well in close proximity to the Pinehurst well cause impacts to that well during low water?

A: The Pinehurst well is located in a very productive aquifer. The location of the proposed well for Kingston will not impact the Pinehurst Water District well.

Water Quality Questions

Q: *Steve Tanner?* How many times has our water been contaminated? Can the standards be changed?

A: The Standards are set by the Federal and State Government. To change them existing Federal laws would need to be changed.

Q: Is the system monitored often? What is the cost to look at what is in the water before we vote?

A: *Steve Tanner, Can we explain better?* The system is monitored on a regular basis. Some of the data that has been collected leading to the determination that the well is influenced by groundwater will be presented at the public meeting on July 26th.

Q: What makes you think there is surface water in the well water?

A: Algae was detected in the well water during times of flooding, and algae only live in surface water.

Q: Can DEQ sample before the bond and prove that there are algae in the water?

A: *Steve Tanner, Can we explain better?* Some data that has been collected from the well will be brought to the public meeting on July 26th.

Q: Why does the Water District only test monthly for coliform?

A: This is what is required by the State. We do test at other times if we have reason to believe the water system might be contaminated.

Q: Have you tested for parasites?

A: The well has not been tested for parasites. Cryptosporidium and giardia are the principal parasites of concern. We have not tested for these because the tests are expensive (\$200 - \$300 per test), the results are not reliable, and it is difficult to determine when parasites might be in the water. The real concern is that pathogens get into the system when a test is not run, potentially sickening people in the District.

Q: Is the water approved by DEQ for the next 10-15 years?

A: Groundwater (from wells) does not have significant testing or treatment required at present. In addition, there are no known upcoming changes to the Groundwater Rule, so it is likely that a new system would be in compliance for a long time. Nonetheless, changes can occur at any time if health concerns become apparent.

Q: Why can we not individual filters at every house?

A: The District has a responsibility to its members to provide good quality water. If there were individual filters at each home, the District would be responsible for monitoring each individual system, which would be very expensive and time consuming. As a result, regulatory agencies do not allow this alternative.

Q: Why can't we just boil the water when there is something in it?

A: It is not always possible to predict when there may be poor quality water and it is difficult to notify everyone served by the system. Boil orders are not a reliable way to provide good quality water.

Meter Questions

Q: Why are we going to a metered system?

A: Meters are required by some funding agencies prior to project funding. Meters can also help to keep base water rates fair and low, especially for people on fixed incomes who use very little water and help reduce overall usage, keeping system costs lower. Meters also help to detect leaks and problem areas within the system.

Q: If we have meters will the basic rate be set at a reasonable amount?

A: The District Board will evaluate what amount of water would be included with the base rate once we know how many users we have when the metering system is brought on line.

General Questions

Q: What Security options are you looking at?

A: The new well and tank sites will be inside a fenced areas and will have intrusion alarms. The tank design will include locking hatches and ladder enclosures, which make it very difficult to access without a key.

Q: Why do we need 8 times the storage that we currently have?

A: The existing twin 15,000 gallon tanks provide very little storage currently, partly due to their elevation, and partly due to their small size. A larger tank has been needed for some time. Currently, during peak summer months, the well pumps are pumping near capacity all day and very little water is maintained in storage for emergencies. A 250,000 gallon tank would ease operation of the system, would provide much needed emergency storage, and would provide storage for fighting fires.

Q: Why is there not an alarm on the existing system?

A: The addition of an alarm to the existing system would include power lines, phone lines and an autodialer, for an estimated cost of \$10,000. The District made the decision to save the money for future projects rather than install the alarms on the existing system which will be replaced.

Q: If we all said no to the bond, will this move forward anyway?

A: The District Board has an agreement with DEQ to perform upgrades to the water supply for the District. If the bond does not pass at this time, the Board will have to decide whether to move forward with the project or will risk defaulting on their agreement and having the water system disapproved and potential litigation. There are also no grant funds available without passing the bond.

Q: Are the only things that you are planning to add in Pinehurst a well and a well house?

A: Yes, the well and wellhouse would be the only portions of the water system there. The new tank would be built within the Kingston Water District in the same location as the existing twin tanks.

Q: Why spend all the money to drill a well in Pinehurst, if we still have to treat the water?

A: The level of treatment required for the well water in Pinehurst is much less than that which would be required for the existing well. The Pinehurst water would require minimal treatment to make it less aggressive while the existing well water would require expensive filtration modules and more expensive general operation and maintenance.

Q: Is there a back up water supply or backup power planned as part of these projects?

A: The well site will include two wells for redundancy. Backup power is not planned at this time; however the larger tank will provide some emergency storage for the District in the case of a power outage.

Q: What types of flood plain issues are there for Pinehurst?

A: The proposed well site is not within the current floodplain. Any proposed floodplain

issues would be addressed during design, and are not likely to impact the proposed site.

Q: Would this project include adding Pinehurst?

A: This project does not include adding Pinehurst to the water system. The project would include a stub out for a potential future connection to Pinehurst, similar to the one we have with Cataldo now.

Q: Will the well just serve the Kingston Water District?

A: Yes, the well will be only for Kingston Water District customers.

Q: Why not an elevated tank instead of two long ones to help people on the mountain?

A: The proposed tank will be similar to the existing 75,000 gallon tank. It will not be low to the ground like twin tanks are now. This tank will not change existing pressures, though, since it is all the same elevation as the existing tanks.

Q: Will chlorine be added to the new well?

A: Chlorine will be added to well to prevent growth of bacteria in the distribution piping, but the amount of chlorine will be approximately one-fourth the chlorine used now to treat the existing well water.

Q: Could existing well be used for irrigation and other non-potable water?

A: The existing well water could be used for future irrigation, and it is recommended that the water right be maintained if possible. It should be noted that using the old well for irrigation piping would require an independent distribution system, which would be very expensive to build at this time.

Q: Would 14 new duplexes pay the same water rate as the current users?

A: Yes, any new connections will pay the same rate as existing homeowners.

Q: Why can't the Water District just dissolve?

A: Any water system of more than 25 people, or 15 connections is considered a public water system and falls under the guidelines of DEQ.

Kingston Water District

Water System Upgrades

VOL 1, NO 1

JULY 2007

FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

There is a public meeting planned on July 10th at 7 p.m. at the Pinehurst Elementary School to discuss the necessary improvements to the District's water system. This meeting will include a discussion of the scope of the project, financing alternatives and schedule. The following is a summary of the project.

WHY ARE THE UPGRADES NEEDED?

WATER SUPPLY NOT IN COMPLIANCE

We currently get our water from a well on the north side of the river. The well is near the river and not very deep, and has been classified as ground water under the influence (GWUDI) of surface water by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). This classification means that contaminants found in surface water may also be found in our drinking water, potentially causing health and safety risks to you, especially during times of flooding. In order to provide safe drinking water to you, it is required that we either filter the water from our existing supply, or find an alternate water source that meets the public drinking water requirements for the State of Idaho.

INADEQUATE WATER STORAGE AND PIPING

Our water system is served by three water tanks. The 75,000 gallon tank is in good condition and has many years of service life remaining. Unfortunately, the two 15,000 gallon horizontal tanks are World War II vintage and are in poor condition and cannot even be used during winter months due to freezing. Additionally, all three existing tanks combined do not provide adequate storage to meet the emergency demands of the system in the case of a power failure, and do not provide adequate storage during times of peak demands.



Besides inadequate storage, a number of old steel 4" and 6" water pipes in our system are at the end of their useful life and are leaking more and more. They are also too small to provide most of the District with adequate supply.

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

WATER SUPPLY SOLUTIONS:

We have evaluated a number of options, including providing the required treatment to bring the system into compliance, connecting to other area water systems, and drilling a new well.

After looking at cost, regulatory requirements and long term maintenance, the best and most cost-effective alternative is to construct a new groundwater well in Pinehurst, near 3rd and Oregon Streets. This option will allow us to provide a reliable water supply of known water quality, since it is near the Pinehurst Water District Well. This option also allows us to maintain control of our water supply and rates.

WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SOLUTIONS:

Replacing the two existing 15,000 gallon tanks with a new 250,000 gallon tank will improve the total storage volume for the District. A new tank will provide emergency storage for power outages and equalization storage to handle fluctuations in daily flows. This project will also include piping from the new well to the new tank.

WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

PROJECT COSTS

The proposed project is estimated to have a total cost of \$3.5 million. The expected impact to user rates is:

INCREASE IN MONTHLY COST WITH PROJECT:

With Grants: **\$55.14**

Without Grants: **\$82.59**

FINAL PROJECTED BASE WATER RATES WITH PROJECT:

With Grants: **\$90.14**

Without Grants: **\$117.59**

We know that this is a large increase. The District is aggressively pursuing funding options to maximize the use of grants to keep rates low and is looking at project phasing so that the rates can be adjusted over a period of years instead of all at one time. Like you, District Board members also pay these rates and understand the concerns people have, especially those on a fixed income. This project is the lowest cost option that addresses the major deficiencies we currently have. We also have seen how fast construction costs are rising so it will never be cheaper to complete these projects.

WHAT DOES PASSING THE BOND MEAN?

The measure proposes a \$3.5 million bond to authorize the District to pay for the facility upgrades, which will raise user rates from \$35 to an estimated \$90-\$118 per month.

Voter passage of the bond demonstrates community support for the project and strengthens the District's position when applying for state and federal money. Grants would reduce the amount of loan money necessary to fund the project, helping minimize increases in user rates. The District is currently exploring possible grant funding through the Idaho Department of Commerce Community

Development Block Grant Program, as well as USDA Rural Development, IDEQ and several other grant programs. Approval of the bond would also provide a safe, reliable water system that complies with regulatory requirements and meets the current and future needs of the community.

If the bond does not pass, the District could lose their IDEQ Approved System status and be forced to declare a moratorium on new connections. Property values typically drop, and it may become difficult to obtain home financing when a system is disapproved and no longer meets federal standards. Failure to pass the bond will also result in continued violations of the District's consent order, leaving the door open for fines, penalties from IDEQ, and a building moratorium.

Bond failure may also limit the District's grant funding opportunities and significantly delay construction. With increasing costs of concrete, steel and fuel, a postponed project could result in construction cost increases, and in turn, higher user rates.

SCHEDULE

A bond election will be held on August 7th, 2007 so the system rate payers can decide whether or not to approve moving forward to correct the deficiencies in the system. The passage of this bond is critical to improve our water supply and protect the health of our rate payers.

PUBLIC MEETING

We hope to have a good discussion at this meeting, and anticipate a large number of questions and a number of ideas shared on alternatives to the project.

Please join us for the meeting scheduled for:

**July 10th, 2007
Pinehurst Elementary School
7:00 pm.**

Representatives of the District, including the District's engineers, USDA Rural Development, IDEQ and Panhandle Area Council will be at the meeting. With the bond election nearing, we want you to be as informed as possible. A second Public Meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2007.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact: Jim Thomas, Chairman or Jon Groth, District Manager at 208-682-3892.

**Kingston Bond Meeting
July 10, 2007
Questions**

Bond and Funding Questions

- Q:** Can we do this in stages? Can we do this without any bonds and only grants?
- A:** The projects could be done in stages, with the well and pipeline first, followed by the tank. The entire project could not be funded by grants however. Most grants require a minimum amount of matching funds. Generally, funding agencies expect 50% - 80% matching funds. To be competitive for the block grant, 80% matching funds are expected.
- Q:** Are Davis Bacon wages required for grant money?
- A:** Davis Bacon wages are required for any portion of the project that is funded with Community Block Grant Funds.
- Q:** What fines do we get if we are out of compliance?
- A:** Input from Steve Tanner? Isn't this stated in the VCO? I will check this...
- Q:** Why not increase new user rates to help with this expense?
- A:** New connection fees are reviewed on a regular basis, and have been increased a number of times in the last year. Fees will be updated to make sure new development pays its fair share and cover buy-in to the system as we make improvements.
- Q:** Will the system allow for development and reduce rates?
- A:** The proposed well and pipelines will be designed with some additional capacity so that new connections could be added to the system without additional cost to the District. New development will pay its own way. Additional users would help to reduce the cost per connection for the bond payment.
- Q:** Why can't we find out if we get the grant money before we spend the money?
- A:** Competition is fierce for grant money so passing the bond prior to applying for grants is necessary. Rural Development will not commit to loan (or grant) without the bond, and because the competition is so stiff for block grant, the bond must be passed prior to application to have any chance.
- Q:** What happens if the bond could not be paid?
- A:** Input from John Tindall or Jeff Beeman???

Q: If bond passes does this prevent connection to CSCWD? Does the Water District have to stay a District until the bond is paid off?

A: Passing the bond does not preclude connection to CSCWD. However, based on the evaluations that have been completed, the overall cost to the District will be much less over a 20 year period to perform the upgrades to the Kingston system than the connection to CSCWD. It is my understanding that it is cost prohibitive to connect to CSCWD. I'd be careful on how you answer this, as both RD and IDC like regionalization in water and sewer systems. I've already had to explain several times to Dennis and Tony @ IDC the cost reason why Kingston isn't connecting to CSCWD. If it appears that regionalization can be accomplished at any point in time (now or 5 years from now), the IDC will most likely want improvements that make that connection rather than do their own. This means the grant funds would go to the County for the CSCWD to make the necessary improvements for the Kingston Water users to use the CSCWD system. Nancy, I was thinking about leaving this question off of the list all together. Any thoughts?

Water Supply Questions

Q: Why can't a well be drilled deeper in the existing area?

A: Based on existing Well Logs, there does not appear to be good quality water below the bottom of the existing well.

Q: Could the well be raised and sealed to prevent water for entering?

A: The existing well is very shallow and draws from a very gravelly aquifer which makes isolating it very difficult. The contamination can potentially enter the well from both the surface and through the gravel layer where the water supply is. Can a more scientific explanation that non-engineers can understand be used rather than a comparison to another project? Did I cover this ok?

Q: Would we have to filter all the time?

A: The State of Idaho rules would require year round filtration of the GUIDI well water.

Q: Would putting a well in close proximity to the Pinehurst well cause impacts to that well during low water?

A: The Pinehurst well is located in a very productive aquifer. The location of the proposed well for Kingston will not impact the Pinehurst Water District well.

Water Quality Questions

Q: Steve Tanner? How many times has our water been contaminated? Can the standards be changed?

A: The Standards are set by the Federal and State Government. To change them existing Federal laws would need to be changed.

Q: Is the system monitored often? What is the cost to look at what is in the water before we vote?

A: Steve Tanner, Can we explain better? The system is monitored on a regular basis. Some of the data that has been collected leading to the determination that the well is influenced by groundwater will be presented at the public meeting on July 26th.

Q: What makes you think there is surface water in the well water?

A: Algae was detected in the well water during times of flooding, and algae only live in surface water.

Q: Can DEQ sample before the bond and prove that there are algae in the water?

A: Steve Tanner, Can we explain better? Some data that has been collected from the well will be brought to the public meeting on July 26th.

Q: Why does the Water District only test monthly for coliform?

A: This is what is required by the State. We do test at other times if we have reason to believe the water system might be contaminated.

Q: Have you tested for parasites?

A: The well has not been tested for parasites. Cryptosporidium and giardia are the principal parasites of concern. We have not tested for these because the tests are expensive (\$200 - \$300 per test), the results are not reliable, and it is difficult to determine when parasites might be in the water. The real concern is that pathogens get into the system when a test is not run, potentially sickening people in the District.

Q: Is the water approved by DEQ for the next 10-15 years?

A: Groundwater (from wells) does not have significant testing or treatment required at present. In addition, there are no known upcoming changes to the Groundwater Rule, so it is likely that a new system would be in compliance for a long time. Nonetheless, changes can occur at any time if health concerns become apparent.

Q: Why can we not individual filters at every house?

A: The District has a responsibility to its members to provide good quality water. If there were individual filters at each home, the District would be responsible for monitoring each individual system, which would be very expensive and time consuming. As a result, regulatory agencies do not allow this alternative.

Q: Why can't we just boil the water when there is something in it?

A: It is not always possible to predict when there may be poor quality water and it is difficult to notify everyone served by the system. Boil orders are not a reliable way to provide good quality water.

Meter Questions

Q: Why are we going to a metered system?

A: Meters are required by some funding agencies prior to project funding. Meters can also help to keep base water rates fair and low, especially for people on fixed incomes who use very little water and help reduce overall usage, keeping system costs lower. Meters also help to detect leaks and problem areas within the system. Fairness factor? Water conservation? Helps detect future leaks/problems? Those that want to use it pay for it? OK?

Q: If we have meters will the basic rate be set at a reasonable amount?

A: The District Board will evaluate what amount of water would be included with the base rate once we know how many users we have when the metering system is brought on line. ?? I thought we knew how many users we have? I think Steve meant the number of users when they actually start metering... I am thinking of leaving this question out.

General Questions

Q: What Security options are you looking at?

A: The new well and tank sites will be inside a fenced areas and will have intrusion alarms. The tank design will include locking hatches and ladder enclosures, which make it very difficult to access without a key.

Q: Why do we need 8 times the storage that we currently have?

A: The existing twin 15,000 gallon tanks provide very little storage currently, partly due to their elevation, and partly due to their small size. A larger tank has been needed for some time. Currently, during peak summer months, the well pumps are pumping near capacity all day and very little water is maintained in storage for emergencies. A 250,000 gallon tank would ease operation of the system, would provide much needed emergency storage, and would provide storage for fighting fires. What is "usable storage"? Does this mean that the water is being drained from the tank at the same rate or faster than the usage? I changed this just to "storage". Part of the problem is that not all of the water can be used in the tanks because of the relative elevations of the two tanks.

Q: Why is there not an alarm on the existing system?

- A:** The addition of an alarm to the existing system would include power lines, phone lines and an autodialer, for an estimated cost of \$10,000. The District made the decision to save the money for future projects rather than install the alarms on the existing system which will be replaced.
- Q:** If we all said no to the bond, will this move forward anyways?
- A:** The District Board has an agreement with DEQ to perform upgrades to the water supply for the District. If the bond does not pass at this time, the Board will have to decide whether to move forward with the project or will risk defaulting on their agreement and having the water system disapproved and potential litigation. There are also no grant funds available without passing the bond.
- Q:** Are the only things that you are planning to add in Pinehurst a well and a well house?
- A:** Yes, the well and wellhouse would be the only portions of the water system there. The new tank would be built within the Kingston Water District in the same location as the existing twin tanks.
- Q:** Why spend all the money to drill a well in Pinehurst, if we still have to treat the water?
- A:** The level of treatment required for the well water in Pinehurst is much less than that which would be required for the existing well. The Pinehurst water would require minimal treatment to make it less aggressive while the existing well water would require expensive filtration modules and more expensive general operation and maintenance.
- Q:** Is there a back up water supply or backup power planned as part of these projects?
- A:** The well site will include two wells for redundancy. Backup power is not planned at this time; however the larger tank will provide some emergency storage for the District in the case of a power outage. Why no backup? A backup generator would add additional expense to the project. A second well will provide a redundant supply, and the additional storage will help to ease the operation of the system and provide emergency storage during a power outage.
- Q:** What types of flood plain issues are there for Pinehurst?
- A:** The proposed well site is not within the current floodplain. Any proposed floodplain issues would be addressed during design, and are not likely to impact the proposed site. If it's not in the floodplain, then why would there be "proposed floodplain issues"? The "proposed floodplain" issues came up at the last meeting. My understanding is that FEMA is discussing redrawing the maps

for that area (my understanding is that there is some concern about levee or dike failures), which may bring Kingston into the floodplain.

Q: Would this project include adding Pinehurst?

A: This project does not include adding Pinehurst to the water system. The project would include a stub out for a potential future connection to Pinehurst, similar to the one we have with Cataldo now.

Q: Will the well just serve the Kingston Water District?

A: Yes, the well will be only for Kingston Water District customers.

Q: Why not an elevated tank instead of two long ones to help people on the mountain?

A: The proposed tank will be similar to the existing 75,000 gallon tank. It will not be low to the ground like twin tanks are now. This tank will not change existing pressures, though, since it is all the same elevation as the existing tanks.

Q: Will chlorine be added to the new well?

A: Chlorine will be added to well to prevent growth of bacteria in the distribution piping, but the amount of chlorine will be approximately one-fourth the chlorine used now to treat the existing well water.

Q: Could existing well be used for irrigation and other non-potable water?

A: The existing well water could be used for future irrigation, and it is recommended that the water right be maintained if possible. It should be noted that using the old well for irrigation piping would require an independent distribution system, which would be very expensive to build at this time.

Q: Would 14 new duplexes pay the same water rate as the current users?

A: Yes, any new connections will pay the same rate as existing homeowners.

Kingston Water District

Upgrades in 2007 Bond Election

PUBLIC MEETING

July 26, 7 p.m., Pinehurst Elementary

VOL 2, NO 1

JULY 2007

FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

To provide additional information about the existing water system and planned improvements, an informational meeting is scheduled for **July 26, beginning at 7 p.m. at Pinehurst Elementary School (201 3rd St.)**. Project team members will be on hand to answer questions, discuss the project scope, financing alternatives and schedule.

WHY ARE THE UPGRADES NEEDED?

SYSTEM OUT OF COMPLIANCE

The Kingston well is located on the north bank of the Coeur d'Alene River. The well has been classified as ground water under the influence (GWUDI) of surface water by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).



This classification means that contaminants found in surface water could make their way into the drinking water supply, resulting in potential public health and safety risks.

To provide its customers with safe drinking water the District must significantly upgrade its filtration technology or find an alternate water source that meets the government public drinking water requirements.



INADEQUATE WATER STORAGE AND PIPING

The water system is served by one 75,000 gallon tank which is in good condition and has many years of service life remaining and two 15,000 gallon, World War II era tanks. The smaller tanks are in poor condition and cannot be used during winter months due to freezing.

Since the first of July, the District's water use has been around 300,000 gallons per day. The total volume of the three tanks does not provide adequate storage during peak demand times like this. The existing tanks also do not provide adequate storage to meet the system's emergency standard in the case of a power failure.

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

WATER SUPPLY SOLUTIONS:

We have evaluated a number of options, including providing the required treatment to bring the system into compliance, connecting to other area water systems, and drilling a new well.

After assessing cost, regulatory requirements and long term maintenance, the preferred and most cost-effective alternative is to construct a new groundwater well in Pinehurst, near 3rd and Oregon Streets. This option will allow the district to provide a reliable water supply of known water quality, since it is near the existing Pinehurst Water District well. This option keeps the District in control of the water supply and rates.

WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SOLUTIONS:

Replacing the two existing 15,000 gallon tanks with a new 250,000 gallon tank will improve the District's total storage volume. A new tank will provide emergency storage for power outages and equalization storage to handle fluctuations

in daily flows. This would also include piping from the new well to the new tank.

HOW WILL IMPROVEMENTS BE FUNDED?

To meet current IDEQ standards and pay for the project, the District will place a revenue bond before the public in an August 7, 2007 election. The measure proposes a \$3.5 million bond to authorize the District to pay for the upgrades.

SYSTEM UPDATES

Well & WellHouse	850,000
Transmission Mains	148,000
Tank Replacement	890,000
System Meters	<u>280,000</u>
Total Project Amount	\$3.5 Million

Voter passage of the bond demonstrates community support for the project and strengthens the District's position when applying for state and federal grant money. Grants would reduce the amount of loan money necessary to fund the project, helping minimize increases in user rates. The District is currently exploring possible grant funding through the Idaho Congressional Delegation, the Idaho Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program as well as USDA Rural Development, and IDEQ. The District is also looking at project phasing which allows rate adjustments to occur over a period of time rather than all at once.

Approval of the bond would also provide a safe, reliable water system that complies with regulatory requirements and meets the current and future needs of the community.

If the bond does not pass, the District could lose their IDEQ Approved System status and be forced to declare a moratorium on new connections. Property values typically drop when a system is disapproved and no longer meets federal standards. Failure to pass the bond will also result in continued violations of the District's consent order, leaving the door open for fines, penalties from IDEQ, and a building moratorium.

Bond failure may also limit the District's grant funding opportunities and significantly delay construction. With increasing costs of concrete, steel and fuel, a postponed project could result in construction cost increases, and in turn, higher user rates.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

Potential impact to user rates (current rates are \$35 per month):

INCREASE IN MONTHLY COST WITH PROJECT:

With Grants: \$55.14
Without Grants: \$82.59

FINAL PROJECTED BASE WATER RATES WITH PROJECT:

With Grants: \$90.14
Without Grants: \$117.59

The District realizes this is a significant increase. Like you, District Board members also pay these rates and understand the users' concerns, especially those on a fixed income. This project is the lowest cost option that addresses the system's major deficiencies.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact:
Jim Thomas, Chairman or Jon Groth, District Manager at 208-682-3892.

BOND ELECTION

AUGUST 7, 2007

**Kingston Water District Office
42784 Silver Valley Road
Kingston, Idaho**

8 AM to 8 PM

Notes from the Board:

The bond amount was set for the total project amount without any anticipation of grants due to the uncertainty of the income survey results at the time. We want the customers of the district to know that we are make every effort to obtain as many grants and to keep the cost of the project as low as possible. It is very likely that the actual debt incurred by the District for the project will be less than the proposed bond amount of \$3.5 million. This in turn will affect the projected rates. As board members, and operators, we are personally responsible to keep the system legal, safe and economical. We have high hopes and are working hard to keep the rates as low as possible.

Appendix C

Agencies Consulted—Mailing List

Last Name	First Name	Title	Company	Environmental Resource for Agency Contact	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Affected Environmental Section
			US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, COEUR D'ALENE REGULATORY OFFICE	WETLANDS, 404 PERMIT, FLOOD PLAINS	3815 SCHREIBER WAY	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83814-8363	208-765-7237	3.7, 3.8
AUDET	SUZANNE		US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	THREATENED, ENDANGERED SPECIES, OTHER WILDLIFE AND FLORA	11103 E MONTGOMERY DR	SPOKANE	WA	99206-4779	509-891-6839	3.11
TINDALL	JOHN	PE	IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	WATER QUALITY, AIR QUALITY	2110 IRONWOOD PARKWAY	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83814	208-666-4629	ALL
ROBICHAUD	ROBERT R	MANAGER, NPDES UNIT	EPA REGION 10	ANY PROJECT DISCHARGING TO WATERS OF THE STATE OR US	1200 6TH AVE OW-130	SEATTLE	WA	98101	206-553-1448	3.8, 3.9
VAN HOFF	SCOTT	NFIP COORDINATOR	IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT, MAPS, GENERAL PROGRAM ASSISTANCE	PO BOX 83720	BOISE	ID	83720-0098	208-287-4928	3.7
COEUR D ALENE REGIONAL FLOODPLAIN STAFF			IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES COEUR D ALENE NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE	FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT, MAPS, GENERAL PROGRAM ASSISTANCE	7600 MINERAL DRIVE STE 100	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83815	208-762-2800	3.7, 3.8, 3.9
NETTER	SONYA	REGIONAL NONGAME BIOLOGIST	IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME SE REGION	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES, NONGAME PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES	2750 KATHLEEN AVE	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83815	208-769-1414	3.11
GOULD	CELIA	DIRECTOR	IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	PRIME/IMPORTANT FARMLAND	PO BOX 790	BOISE	ID	83701	208-332-8500	3.13
LOCKHART	SANDI	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SPECIALIST	PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT	SOLID WASTE & AIR QUALITY	114 W RIVERSIDE AVE	KELLOGG	ID	83837-2351	208-783-0707	3.14
KIRK	DAVID		DEPARTMENT OF LANDS	LAND USE	3780 INDUSTRIAL AVE S	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83815	208-666-8626	3.6
LEGG	JEFF	FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR	SHOSHONE COUNTY	FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATION	700 BUNK ST STE 25	WALLACE	ID	83873	208-752-8891	3.6, 3.7
PORTER	DENNIS	PROGRAM MANAGER	IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	IF FUNDING IS BEING REQUESTED FOR AN ID CDBG	PO BOX 83720	BOISE	ID	83720	208-334-2470	3.4, 3.5
NEITZEL	SUZI	DEPUTY SHPO	IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & SENSITIVE AREAS	210 MAIN ST	BOISE	ID	83702	208-334-3847	3.10
MATHESON	QUANAH	THPO, CULTURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM	COEUR D ALENE TRIBE OF IDAHO	HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & SENSITIVE AREAS ACCORDING TO ATTACHED MAP	PO BOX 408	PLUMMER	ID	83851	208-686-0675	3.10