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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SALMON REGION
99 Highway 93 North
P.O. Box 1336
Salmon, Idaho 83467

May 16, 2006

Dirk Kempthorne/Governor
Steven M. Huffaker/Director

Mary Baldwin
Department of Water Resources
1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3380

Re: Water Right Applications – Trenkle, Sherwood, City of Clayton, Apgar

Dear Mary,

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff has reviewed the above referenced water right applications and offer the following comments:

Trenkle (72-16649) This application is for water use from either a Salmon River ditch (S33b) or the mainstem Salmon River. IDFG opposes any water withdrawal from the S33b ditch, owned by Mr. Howard Cutler and identified in the application. In August 2000 the IDFG Anadromous Screen Program provided Mr. Cutler financial compensation to close and abandon the S33b ditch and no longer use the diversion associated with it. The S33b ditch was closed because it unduly delayed entrained migrating salmonids. We would not oppose the proposal if the Trenkles wish to pump directly from the mainstem Salmon River. IDFG requests that if the application is approved, the Trenkles contact the Idaho Anadromous Fish Screen Program (756-6022) so that the pump can be properly screened to prevent entrainment of juvenile fish into the water system.

Sherwood (72-16602) Mr. Sherwood has passed away within the last two years; therefore IDWR should verify the application is still active.

City of Clayton (72-16697) IDFG does not oppose this application; however we would recommend that the well remain outside the floodplain of Kinnikinic Creek. The Department and other resource agencies plan to eventually reconnect this creek to the mainstem Salmon River to allow unobstructed fish movement. If the well is located in the reconnect route it could make the reconnect difficult to accomplish.

Apgar (72-16698) Our primary concern with the Apgar application is that it apparently originates from a spring source in the Lime Creek watershed. The Lime Creek area is very arid and water resources are supported almost exclusively by springs. In the arid intermountain west, riparian areas comprise less than 1% of the landscape, but they are the single most productive type of habitat, benefiting over 75% of Idaho's wild species, including birds, amphibians, bats, big game, and fish. The Apgar application will not likely negatively impact the water resources, however any future development in the watershed could have measurable negative

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consequences. If feasible, a well would be preferable to surface withdrawal although we are not requesting that this be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these applications and comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Lukens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "L".

James R. Lukens
Regional Supervisor

cc: Cindy Robertson
Lynn Stratton
Shelley Keen
Bob Foster