

Walker, Kay

From: Lester, Steve
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2003 1:34 PM
To: Walker, Kay
Subject: Info for 63-11816

Kay:

Attached are some thoughts for Centennial Park well. Let me know if this helps. I can send a hard copy initialed by me if you need it for the file.

Good luck.

Steve



Centennial Park
63-11816.doc

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kay Walker
FROM: Steve Lester
DATE: March 27, 2003
RE: Measurement Reporting for Permit 63-11816

The City well submitted measurement reports for Centennial Park for calendar years 2000 through 2002. Reporting before 2000 did not occur due in part to an oversight error on the department's part. This error involved some confusion that has accompanied annual reporting for the SE Boise GWMA. Measurement reports would be expected to be administered from the State Office Water Distribution Section. But the reports have been handled by Western Region as part of overall management of the area since about 1994 (drafting a management plan etc.).¹ The department error in this regard rests with the regional office and not with the state office.

Of course, the permit holder bears ultimate responsibility for measurement reporting. But in this case it seems best to overlook the lack of reporting before 2000. All other parties required to report in this GWMA benefited from annual reminders and other help from Western Region. Reports were often tardy, suggesting notices of violation were in order. Notices were not pursued because everyone involved already had enough to worry about. The point is that other parties did not totally comply with GWMA requirements but were not penalized. The City should likewise not be penalized for failure to report in the earlier years. The city has demonstrated good faith efforts to do the right thing, so we should move on.

The park well is only 75 feet deep and is located near the northwest edge of the management area near Boise Avenue. The GWMA boundary conforms to section lines as a convenience. Some knowledgeable people involved with the area question any significant communication between the shallow ground water near the park and the management area aquifer. This information should be considered in evaluating compliance with the conditions of approval.

The permit covers 5 acres of irrigation. I don't have a copy of the field exam that determined how many acres are irrigated. If it is about 5, one expects 22.5 afa could be diverted under the permit. The following table summarizes the amount of surface water

¹ Efforts are underway to provide measurement reports from prior years to the Water Distribution Section for inclusion into the measurement database. Determination of which department office should handle reporting functions for SE Boise GWMA is expected to be resolved soon.

recharged to the aquifer and the net amount diverted from the aquifer. The information is from the 2000-2002 measurement reports submitted by the City.

YEAR	RECHARGE (AF)	WELL PUMPED (AF)
2000	10.7	14.3
2001	12.4	27.1
2002	07.2	02.6
Total	30.3	44.0

The City had serious problems receiving surface water for the park during 2001 with ditch blockage on neighboring property as reported to this office. Additionally, the City was worried about its ability to fulfill its recharge obligation during that drought emergency year. I think the City obtained water from the water bank under 63-8006 (ground water source in the GWMA) to cover the deficit that year. Recharge issues need to include that factor.

The City did not report water measurements prior to 2000. The City diverted a little too much water in 2001. The City probably has not recharged enough water, or provided other mitigation, to cover the volume pumped from the well. Mitigating circumstances explain some of these problems. Those circumstances and the dubious connection of this well to the aquifer of the SE Boise GWMA should allow the license to be issued. Much can be lost but little gained by requiring the City to seek more expensive ways to fulfill the conditions of approval 100%.

The department often shows flexibility in its requirements. I hope that can be done for Centennial Park.