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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

November 12, 2004

State of Idaho
Department of Water Resources
Western Region
2735 Airport Way
Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

RE: Application for Transfer for Broken Arrow Farms Jim Blanksma (applicant)

Dear Mr. Nelson

In a letter dated November 12, 2004 regarding the Broken Arrow Farms Application for Transfer, you requested some additional information to help you address a portion of the components of Idaho Code § 42-222 that refer to:

1) injury to other water rights, 2) enlargement of the original water right sought to be transferred, 3) is in the local public interest, 4) is consistent with the conservation of water resources in Idaho, and 5) affect on the local agricultural base.

Specifically, you asked for some supporting data for the following issues.

Injury to Other Water Users

The closest well to the applicant's point of diversion(s) is more than ½ mile radius away and is owned by the neighboring dairy. The next closest well is a domestic well owned by a former dairyman and is approximately ¾ miles away. These large distances minimize the impacts of pumping from the applicant's well.

Additionally, no injury is anticipated to other water users because the annual diversion volume will actually decrease as a result of this transfer. Only the consumptive portion of the historical use can be transferred, leaving more water in the aquifer during the irrigation season than what historically was diverted.

Local Public Interest

The applicant has already made public testimony to the Elmore County Planning Commission regarding their plans for the dairy. During the public hearing, local residents had the opportunity to voice their concerns. The conditional use permit was issued in 1999. All conditions and zoning ordinances were acceptable to applicant.

The applicant has indicated that the preliminary plans of the dairy design and the Waste Management Plan have been submitted and approved by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has been involved with this project through the public hearing process.

Effect on Local Agricultural Base

The local residents in Elmore County are generally enthusiastic for the recent activity of dairies coming to the area. The construction of the dairy will use local contractors to the extent possible. Concrete will be of local origin. The operation of the dairy is anticipated to bring approximately 30 to 35 new jobs to the area. In addition, local farmers will be used to supply feed for the cows. This local demand for feed and silage will generate business for nearby farmers. Custom services for dairy operations will be utilized and with the coming of other dairies to the area, may offer new spin-off businesses. Elmore County will receive increased tax revenues and a spurred economy with the installation of the dairy.

The only possible negative impact could be the increased traffic along the local roads to the dairy, resulting from the dairy operation. However, the applicant indicated that the increased milk and dairy traffic would in part be offset by the reduced trucking he will have to do. The hay from the applicant's farm will be used at the dairy, thus eliminating the need to truck the hay out of the area. The dairy is located in a remote area and this traffic should not impact residents much.

I hope that this information is sufficient for your questions. If you have other questions, or need other details, please feel free to call me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steve R. Hannula". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Steven R. Hannula

cc: Jim Blanksma