



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOUTHERN REGION

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2004

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

August 4, 2004

USGS
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho 83702

Southwest Irrigation District
PO Box 668
Burley, ID 83316

Tugaw Ranch
% Joe Tugaw
3277 Woodridge Dr
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Russell Patterson
1800 Z St
Heyburn, ID 83336

Don McFarland
PO Box 268
Eden, ID 83325-0268

RE: Notice of Consideration to Restrict Annual Withdrawals within WD 45-O

Dear Wateruser or Interested Party:

The Department of Water Resources (Department) continues to monitor the water use within Water District 45-0 (Golden Valley) and currently maintains one water level recorder within the district. (Note that local Department staff serve as watermaster for Water District 45-O as elected by the waterusers) Please find attached hydrographs of wells within the area.

Review of water use data and local water level data finds that the water levels continue to decline within the district at the current rate of withdrawal from the aquifer.

Background

-The ground water rights within the district were decreed by the Amended decree of Baker et al vs. Ore Ida Foods et al dated October 1, 1971. This decree was modified in part by the judgment in Case No. 9818 dated June 25, 1980 whereby it describes how the average annual 5500 acre feet and credits for non-use of ground water is to be distributed among those entitled within the district. Both of these decrees recognize that the Department is authorized to limit or expand the amount of water that may be pumped from the aquifer without exceeding its average annual rate of recharge.

-The Department issued an order January 4, 1985, limiting or reducing the base average annual withdrawal from the aquifer to 4000 acre feet. The order was stayed February 15, 1985 contingent upon the success of the recharge project being implemented at that time.

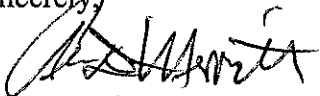
-Recent field review confirms much of the recharge monitoring equipment has been removed and it appears there no longer may be an active recharge program within the district or aquifer.

The Department is currently considering lifting the stay of the 1985 order which would re-impose the 4000 acre foot per annum restriction of annual pumping volume within the district to minimize further water level declines in the aquifer and attempt to bring average annual water use in balance with average annual recharge (natural or managed). It would be the intent of the Department to re-impose the order starting in the 2005 irrigation season.

Since there currently exists questions about the past and future managed recharge efforts within the district or aquifer, the Department requests information or data about the past recharge efforts and an update on the water user's plans for managed recharge in the future. The Department also seeks comment regarding imposition of further annual volume limitations. Please provide any information you may have or comments to this office by August 20, 2004.

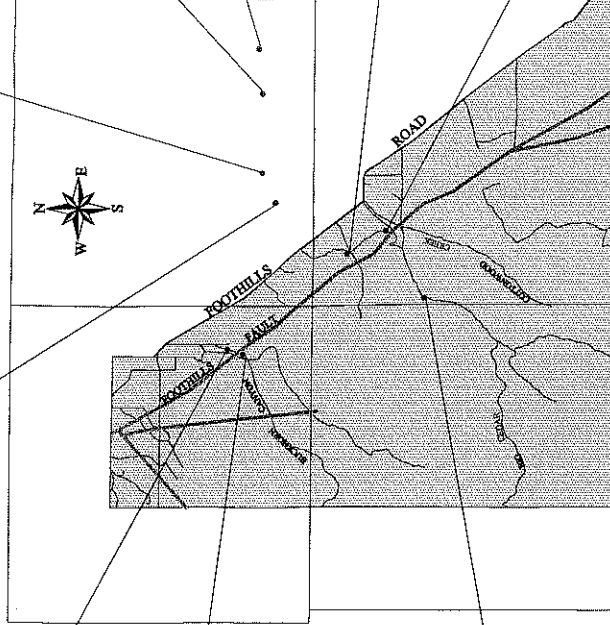
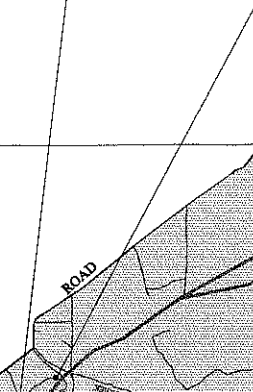
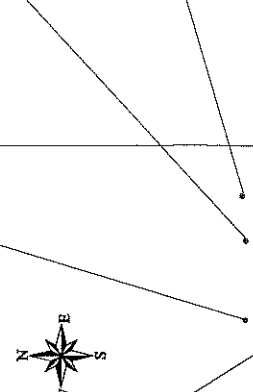
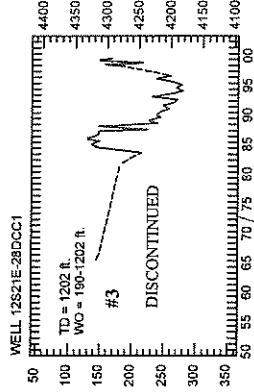
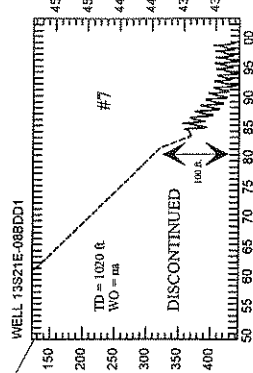
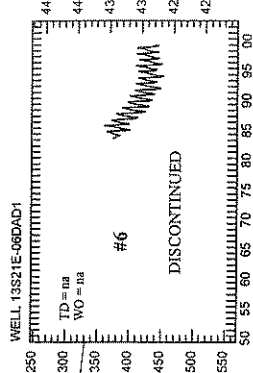
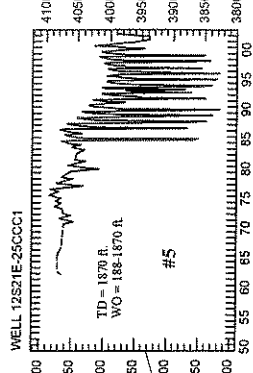
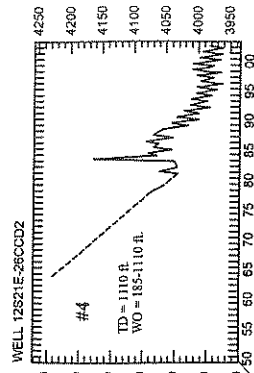
If you have questions please feel free to contact Jim Stanton at this office.

Sincerely,



Allen Merritt, PE
Southern Region Manager

CC: Glen Saxton, Tim Luke - IDWR State Office
Shane Bendixson - IDWR Ground Water Hydrology



GROUND WATER HYDROGRAPHS

COTTONWOOD CGWA

OAKLEY FAN AREA

LEGEND

- TD: TOTAL DEPTH OF WELL
- WO: WELL OPENINGS INTERVAL AT WHICH THE WELL IS PERFORATED OR OPEN TO THE AQUIFER
- LEFT SIDE: DEPTH TO WATER
- RIGHT SIDE: WATER ELEVATION
- BASE: YEAR
- ALL MEASUREMENTS IN FEET
- CURRENT TO SPRING 2003 UNLESS MARKED
- WELL LOCATION