

April 8, 2024

29711 Hwy. 51
Bruneau, ID 83604
208-845-2756

RECEIVED

APR 10 2024

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

Mr. Mathew Weaver, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Dear Director Weaver:

I congratulate you on your appointment to the Directorship of IDWR and your confirmation by the Senate.

I am concerned with the way James of the Eastern Region of the Idaho Department of Water Resources has handled the application for water right transfer #87409 filed by Chester Sellman and Catherine Sellman. The legal notice published in *The Owyhee Avalanche* requests the combining of acres part of which have surface water rights and the balance having ground water rights into one group and requesting permission to drill a new well in the cold water aquifer. I spoke with James by telephone about the new well, and he said there was no problem with the cold water aquifer in the Bruneau area. I told James that both aquifers in the area were in decline.

The cold water aquifer is recharged by artesian pressure from the warm water aquifer and by weather events and surface runoff into the aquifer from above. The warm water aquifer is recharged from the Owyhee Mountains to the south.

I had to personally protest the transfer because allowing the transfer to go forward is contrary to Idaho Department of Water Resources policy dealing with critical groundwater areas such as the one at Bruneau.

It makes me concerned about how IDWR will respond to the various water issues across the State of Idaho. Feel free to contact me at 208-845-2756.

For my credentials, contact the following:

Retired Director Gary Spackman
Retired Bureau Chief Tim Luke
Western Region Director Nick Miller
Mr. Lynn Tominaga

Sincerely yours,



Sidney Erwin

Cc: Nick Miller