

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transfer No. 89511

FROM: Bob Howe -Water Resource Agent, Sr.

DATE: February 19, 2025

RE: Evaluation of Transfer Application

Application 89511 proposes to add a new point of diversion (POD) to 5 municipal rights owned by the City of Payette. The proposed POD is a new well located within Section 34 of T09N, R05W NWNE, parcel P00000341010. The transfer rights have an existing POD within the same parcel as the proposed well.

The non-RAFN transfer rights provide municipal water for the City of Payette service area, with the city boundary outlining the place of use (POU).

Authority to File:

The transfer application was signed by David Tate, City of Payette Administrator. Correspondence received from the City of Payette included a letter signed by J. Daniel Lopez, Mayor of Payette, authorizing David Tate to represent the City of Payette in this capacity. Payette County tax parcel data lists the City of Payette as current owner of parcel P00000341010, the parcel appurtenant to the transfer POD. There are no concerns regarding the authority to file the transfer.

Water Right Validity:

The transfer water rights are presumed to be valid since beneficial use over the last five years was confirmed by department aerial imagery. Domestic structures, commercial structures, and irrigation are evident throughout the municipal service area (transfer POU).

Injury to Other Water Rights:

The applicant proposed the new 12" dia. well will have a total depth of 171 feet and be completed with one or more continuously wrapped Grade 304 stainless steel well screens.

Several water rights allocate groundwater for irrigation, stockwater, and domestic use from wells in the parcels adjacent to the proposed transfer POD. To allow the public to express any concerns regarding the reduction of the local groundwater available this application will be submitted for advertising.

Enlargement of Use:

If approved, this transfer would only add a point of diversion to the 5 non-RAFN transfer municipal rights. It does not increase the diversion rate or volume of those rights. The City of Payette stated in the information included with the application that the well will be fitted with a sounding tube, a device to monitor the water level in the well, and an ultrasonic flow meter on the discharge pipe to monitor the rate of discharge. Although the transfer rights are not the only municipal rights of record for the City of Payette, no enlargement of the 5 transfer rights is anticipated through adding an additional well to the existing system.

Local Public Interest:

The application proposes to continue the use of established water rights to provide municipal water for the City of Payette. The change proposed by the application should not change implementation of the water rights in such a way that is not in the local public interest.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:

The well level and discharge rate monitoring proposed at the new well should help to ensure impacts due to the new diversion can be identified. The 5 transfer municipal rights authorize beneficial use of water within acceptable standards for municipal use, and the application proposes beneficial use consistent with conservation of water resources in Idaho.

The application is consistent with criteria of I. C. § 42-222 and should be processed.

Discussion

The proposed transfer will add a new well POD to better service the growing municipal needs of the City of Payette. Approval of this transfer would result in the diversion system of existing rights being better able to deliver water within the service area POU.

If approved the following changes should be made to the conditions of transfer rights:

Add conditions 226, 046, and 01M per current guidance.

Update condition C18 to T19 .

Add standard transfer conditions T07 and T08.

Add text condition describing the POD being added through the transfer.

This application was advertised and no contradictory information to this review was cited nor were any protests filed. I recommend the application be approved as reflected by the draft approval.