

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2025

To: Transfer #87660, Eccles Window Rock Ranch, LLC file

From: Jim Bitzenburg (9/12/2024) & Corey Skinner (4/27/2025)

Re: Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information Submitted

Application for transfer proposes to change the place of use (POU) of, the points of diversion (POD) of, and add PODs to a portion of a ground water irrigation right and portions of three Big Wood River irrigation rights with a total transfer flow rate of 2.17 cfs. Currently, the rights irrigate land located approximately 0.5 to 0.9 miles west and 0.1 to 0.6 mile south of the intersection of State Highway 75 and Gannett Road in Bellevue. Post transfer, the 28.0 acre portion being transferred will irrigate land located approximately 1.5 to 1.7 miles north and 0.8 to 1.2 miles west of Bellevue. The PODs will change from one well and one Big Wood River diversion located within the current POU to four existing wells and two existing Big Wood River diversions located from 0.3 mile north to 2.5 miles north of the proposed POU.

The transfer proposes conversion of a supplemental ground water right to a primary ground water right, but will limit the transfer volume of the right to its historic beneficial use as described in IDWR Transfer Memo #24, Section 5d., Enlargement of Use, (4) and (5). To accomplish this, the applicant chose a five year period from 2013 through 2017 and used the average for that period. This reduced the transferring volume from 3.5 AF/acre to 2.3 AF/acre.

Consent agreements allowing water rights to be transferred off of and on to the properties were signed by all parties involved in the water right ownership changes leading up to this transfer and are included in the transfer documents.

This transfer is a companion to transfers 87653, 87657, 87658, and 87659, which propose moving rights and portions of rights from land south of Bellevue to land north of Bellevue and moving other rights from the land north of Bellevue back to the south.

The transfer is in Water District 37, so Watermaster comments were solicited and the Watermaster had no comments regarding the application. The transfer and companion transfers were advertised, and protests were filed. However, the protests have been resolved &/or withdrawn so final processing can continue.

- **Authority to File:**

The Department's database indicates that the transfer water rights are owned by the applicant, Eccles Window Rock Ranch, LLC. The application was signed by Mark Reinemann, who has been granted Limited Power of Attorney (POA) in water right matters by Eccles Window Rock Ranch, LLC. The document granting the POA was included in the transfer application.

- **Water Right Validity:**

The water rights were decreed in 2012, and recent, ample irrigation is evident at the current POU, so forfeiture is likely not an issue.

- **Injury to Other Water Rights:**

None anticipated or foreseen.

- **Enlargement of Use:**

None anticipated.

- **Local Public Interest:**

No issues anticipated.

- **Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:**
Proposed use is recognized as a beneficial use of water.
- **Effect on the Economy of the Local Area:**
None Anticipated
- **Effect of the Agricultural Base of the Area:**
None Anticipated

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-222 Idaho Code preventing processing of this application.