

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOUNTAIN HOME AIR
FORCE BASE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND WATER SUPPLY
BANK LEASE & RENTAL PACKAGE

1 WHEREAS, Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) is an active-duty United States of America
2 Air force base, located in Elmore County, Idaho; and

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4 WHEREAS, the municipal water supplies for MHAFB are sourced exclusively from ground water
5 pumped from the Mountain Home Plateau aquifer in Elmore county; and

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7 WHEREAS, groundwater supplies within Elmore County are limited and are presently inadequate
8 to meet the long-term needs of water users in the county, including Mountain Home Air Force Base
9 (Base); and

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11 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho recognizes the economic value of the Base to the local and
12 state economy and supports the United States military (Military) in achieving its national security
13 functions; therefore, the State of Idaho intends to coordinate with the Military to develop a long-term
14 sustainable water supply to support the Base and its mission; and

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16 WHEREAS, on May 14, 2021, the IWRB, the Governor of Idaho, and the United States Air Force
17 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which the parties would cooperate to
18 build a Water Transmission System and a water treatment plant for MHAFB; and

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20 WHEREAS, under the MOU the IWRB is to acquire, maintain, and manage all necessary water
21 rights for operation of the Water Transmission System on behalf of MHAFB; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board ("Board") is a constitutional agency of the State of
24 Idaho, organized, existing, and operating pursuant to Article XV, Section 7 of the Idaho Constitution and
25 Idaho Code § 42-1732 through § 42-1780. Among its powers and duties, the Board has authority to
26 purchase and hold water rights; construct and operate water projects; and acquire, purchase, lease, or
27 exchange land, rights, water rights or other property related to water projects; and

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29 WHEREAS, on July 25, 2014, the Board purchased senior Snake River water right nos. 02-
30 10300A, 25 02-10330B and 02-10472 ("Snake River Water Rights") for the purpose of obtaining a water
31 supply for the Base; and

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33 WHEREAS, the Board has filed a water supply bank lease and rental application to change the
34 Snake River Water Rights to suit the needs of the Base for municipal summertime use ("Water Supply
35 Bank Rental"); and

37 WHEREAS, per IDAPA 37.02.03 Section 30.06: *"The Board will review applications for purchase*
38 *or which propose the rental of water rights for a duration of more than five (5) years..."*; and
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40 WHEREAS, the Board and the Military have negotiated a mutually agreeable Mountain Home Air
41 Force Base Water Use Agreement that sets forth those terms and conditions for a 50-year term through
42 2075.
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44 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Water Resource Board hereby approves the
45 extension of the Water Supply Bank lease and rental approvals for water rights 2-10300A, 2-10300B, &
46 2-10506 through 2075; and
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48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its Executive Manager to execute any
49 additional Water Supply Bank applications or amendments for water rights 2-10300A, 2-10300B, & 2-
50 10506 pertaining to adjustments based on the water use data provided by the Air Force Base.

DATED this 17th day of January 2025.


JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary