
Elmore County Snake River application

From Dylan Lawrence <dylan@varinthomas.com>

Date Tue 1/14/2025 3:15 PM

To Clark, Cynthia Bridge <Cynthia.Clark@idwr.idaho.gov>; Parker, Cody <Cody.Parker@idwr.idaho.gov>;
Ferguson, Justin <Justin.Ferguson@idwr.idaho.gov>

 1 attachment (269 KB)

2025-01-14 DBL to IDWR.pdf;

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Cynthia, Cody, and Justin-

I hope you are all doing well and had good holidays. I've attached a short update letter to you here regarding Elmore County's application for a water permit from the Snake River. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Dylan

Dylan Lawrence

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January 14, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Cynthia Bridge Clark
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Cynthia.Clark@idwr.idaho.gov

Cody Parker
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Cody.Parker@idwr.idaho.gov

Justin Ferguson
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Justin.Ferguson@idwr.idaho.gov

Re: Elmore County Application for Permit 2-10535

Dear Cynthia, Cody, and Justin:

I believe you may have recently been contacted by representatives of the City of Mountain Home regarding Elmore County's above-referenced permit application. We recognize they have questions, and we want to assure you the County is actively working to answer them. I have attached here a letter we recently sent to the Mayor and Mountain Home City Councilmembers, so that you are aware of our ongoing communications.

Please let me know of any questions, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

VARIN THOMAS LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dylan Lawrence".

Dylan B. Lawrence

Enclosure



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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January 13, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Mayor Rich Sykes
City of Mountain Home
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City Council President
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Becky Garvey
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Re: December 7, 2024 Mountain Home City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Sykes and Members of the Mountain Home City Council:

Thank you for giving Keri Hill, Terry Scanlan, and me time to discuss Elmore County's Snake River water right application during your December 7 City Council meeting. Ensuring the region has adequate water supplies now and into the future is critically important to everyone. Residents, business owners, and taxpayers are looking to their elected officials to address this issue, which is why the Elmore County Commissioners would like to identify ways to work collaboratively with Mountain Home.

We hoped our conversation at the December 7, 2024 City Council meeting could be the first step in a long-term partnership around this issue. However, following the meeting, we recognize we need to provide you with more information and address some misconceptions around Elmore County's water resource development efforts generally, and the status of the County's Snake River application in particular, before you can determine how the City would like to move forward.

We hope we can start to do this by transparently sharing information with you. We have noted the various questions and misconceptions regarding water resource issues expressed by City representatives following the meeting, and we are working on written responses to ensure everyone

Mayor Sykes
Mountain Home City Council
January 13, 2025
Page 2

is provided with accurate information. Please understand, this could take some time, as the number and nature of the misconceptions expressed by City representatives were significant. We hope to have written responses provided to the City within the next 2-3 weeks. At this time, we would like to reserve time on a future City Council meeting agenda, so that we can answer any remaining questions.

While we genuinely hope we can find a way to work alongside Mountain Home on the Snake River application in front of IDWR, we will proceed without the City if that is your desire. In that case, the County will either seek to associate the municipal water use with subdivisions outside City limits, or drop the municipal component of the application entirely, proceeding on the irrigation and aquifer recharge components.

The Mountain Home Plateau is facing a critical groundwater deficit. Elmore County believes this is a significant threat to the prosperity of the region, including Mountain Home and the Air Force Base it supports. The County Commissioners believe we can accomplish more for citizens and business owners by working together rather than apart. We hope you will agree that water is truly too important of an issue to allow any past conflicts to get in the way of progress and cooperation.

Sincerely,

VARIN THOMAS LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dylan Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dylan B. Lawrence

cc: Tiffany Belt, City Clerk's Office (*via email to tbelt@mountain-home.us*)
Shelley Essl, Elmore County Clerk (*via email to sessl@elmorecounty.org*)
Keri Hill (*via email to keri.hill@panoramaenv.com*)
Terry Scanlan (*via email to Terry.Scanlan@hdrinc.com*)