



## State of Idaho

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Southern Region, 1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3380  
Phone: (208) 736-3033 • Fax: (208) 736-3037 • Web Site: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Interim Director

December 1, 2011

Michael Poulton  
P.O. Box 279  
Oakely, ID 83346

Dear Watermaster:

In accordance with §42-614, IDAHO CODE, the watermaster of each district is required to submit an annual report to the Department. Please be certain the entire report is complete.

There are also some recent changes in the statutes which relate to what is required to be filed with the Department.

In the past, the Department has required a proposed budget to be submitted to the Department, which was pursuant to §42-615, IDAHO CODE. This statute was amended during the 2011 Legislative Session, and **you are no longer required to submit the Proposed Budget to the Department.** This statute now reads as follows:

*Each watermaster shall, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual meeting of the water users of the water district, also prepare a proposed budget for the succeeding year, together with a distribution of the amount of the budget to the respective water users, using the actual deliveries for the past irrigation season or seasons, as the basis for distribution. The proposed budget and distribution shall be submitted to the water users for consideration and approval at the next annual water meeting.*

Historically, the Department has also required a written request by an authorized water user for the watermaster to begin his services to be submitted prior to their appointment (§42-608, IDAHO CODE). During the 2011 Legislative Session this statute was amended so that a written document does not need to be submitted to the Department calling on the watermaster's services. However, as per the amended §42-608, IDAHO CODE, a call for services is still required to begin work (unless the users have adopted a resolution that the watermaster serve year round):

*A watermaster shall not begin work for the distribution and control of water required under section 42-607, Idaho Code, until called upon by one (1) or more owners or managers of ditches or persons controlling ditches or other diversion facilities in the district stating that there is a necessity for the distribution and control of the waters of the district.*

We have enclosed sufficient forms for making out the Watermaster's Report and the Proposed Budget. If the water district or any of its officers have access to a computer, these forms are also available online at the Department's website. The Department can also e-mail these forms if we have a current address. If your water district can use these electronic forms, we would like to know. We have included a questionnaire and information sheet along with a stamped, addressed envelope to return with your responses. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Cooper  
Sr. Water Resource Agent

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CC: File