



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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July 1, 1999

Elise Teton
Ft. Hall Water Resources Commission
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
PO Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203

Dear Ms. Teton,

I enjoyed the opportunity meeting you and other commission members earlier this week at the Water District 27 meeting. Following the meeting, we discussed the department's Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) water measurement program. We also discussed briefly how the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the IDWR might work together toward identifying well locations and estimating water use for many of the ground water diversions that are within both the Fort Hall Reservation and the ESPA. I have met with and spoken to Lisa De Jongh several times over the past few years concerning this matter. I recently sent correspondence to Lisa that included background information and IDWR water measurement guidelines. My correspondence asked how we might proceed with sharing of certain data between IDWR and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, as well as the United States and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Similar correspondence had been sent to Allan Oliver at the BIA.

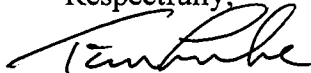
Enclosed with this letter are copies of recent correspondence that I have sent to Ms. De Jongh. This correspondence explains IDWR's interests, obligations and objectives for working with you regarding quantification of Tribal ground water diversions within the ESPA. Also attached is a copy of a department order dated October 24, 1996 creating water measurement districts in the ESPA. That order excludes the Tribes from water measurement districts but references the 1990 Fort Hall Water Rights Agreement with respect to monitoring of diversions and coordination with the state of Idaho.

Also enclosed, as per your request, is a copy of IDWR's Water Measurement and Reporting Guidelines, February 1999. Please note that these guidelines are in draft form. They are very similar to a set of interim draft guidelines that we developed in 1997 specifically for measuring and reporting of ground water diversions within the ESPA water measurement districts. The ESPA water measurement districts and ground water districts have been operating for the past 3 years under the 1997 guidelines. The 1999 guidelines are a revision of the 1997 version and were drafted to accompany statewide water management rules. The director of the department is still in the process of drafting water management rules. The 1999 guidelines include everything that was in the 1997 version. The 1999 version is a bit more comprehensive and detailed. One of the main

differences between the two is that the 1999 version provides some procedures for estimating ground water withdrawals using evapo-transpiration data and methodology.

I look forward to a review of the attached documents by you and the commission. I hope that you can provide some response to my letter of April 21, 1999. I also look forward to that response and any opportunity to work with you in the future. If you questions or need additional information regarding this or other related matters, please contact me directly at 208-327-7864, by e-mail at tluke@idwr.state.id.us, or by sending correspondence to the address listed above in this letter.

Respectfully,



Tim Luke
Water Distribution Section

Cc: Peter G. McCormick, NRCE, Inc.

Enclosure

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