



## State of Idaho

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200, Twin Falls, ID 83301-3380

Phone: (208) 736-3033 FAX: (208) 736-3037

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PHILIP E. BATT  
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER  
DIRECTOR

February 7, 1997

Chuck Payton  
Rt 1 Box 103  
Oakley, ID  
83346

Water District: 45-B, Birch Creek

Dear Mr. Payton;

We have received the 1996 watermaster's report/1997 adopted budget for your district, and the minutes of this year's water meeting. We also received your oath of office as treasurer of your district for this year.

The watermaster's report is not acceptable as filed, as it was not submitted on the form established for this purpose. Two copies of the report form are enclosed for Mr. Bell's use. While you can certainly use a computer program to do the number crunching, all the required data (such as debits and credits) needs to be included. Also, the Oakley Canal Co. agreed to pay \$440. in 1996, but no cost is shown for them on the data that was submitted.

Sec. 42-606 of the Idaho Code requires that stream or delivery measurements be submitted along with the watermaster's report, but no such records were received. And Sec. 42-612 requires that the watermaster submit a proposed budget prior to the annual water meeting, but this document was also not received. Proposed-budget forms were previously sent to Mr. Bell.

While all this paperwork may seem like a nuisance, it is REQUIRED BY LAW. As the IDWR person in charge of water districts for this region, it is my responsibility to see that these laws are complied with. And anyone who agrees to be a watermaster must submit the necessary paperwork as part of his duties. By doing so, the watermaster becomes accountable to his district for both his water deliveries and his charges. And watermaster records can be used to verify the continued use of water rights (or non-use as the case may be). And any district that does not feel the need for this organized system can request to be considered an inactive district;



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no annual reports are required from inactive districts. Anyone delivering water in an inactive district is not covered by the State's bond, however, but can be bonded through a bank or insurance company.

Since Mr. Bell has been elected as watermaster for 1997, enclosed is an oath of office. Upon receipt of the notarized form, a certificate of appointment will be issued.

Regards,

James E. Stanton  
Sr. Water Resource Agent