

Water District 36-A
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Hagerman, Idaho 83332

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February 4, 2002

Idaho Department of Water Resources
1301 North Orchard Street
Boise, Idaho 83706-2237

Re: Creation of Water District 36

The Advisory Board of Water District 36A would like to thank the Idaho Department of Water Resources for the opportunity to comment on the formation of Water District 36. Water District 36A is in favor of the creation of the Districts because it will give the Idaho Department of Water Resources the information necessary to manage the water resource of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer in the future.

Water District 36A has functioned since 1932 and has met the requirements of the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Water District 36A is concerned about the costs involved to tighten standards and administration as proposed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Not knowing what those cost and requirements will be at this time, Water District 36A would prefer to remain autonomous at this time retaining the option to join Water District 36 in the future. The objective here is to keep the operating budget as efficient as possible and to represent the water users of Water District 36A.

Also of concern to Water District 36A is representation within Water District 36. It is critical that the 1000 Springs Reach be recognized as a connected source in the administration of Water Districts 36 and 35. Water District 36A at this time is uncertain of the fee process and vote representation of the new district formations. In recognition of the connected sources of North Snake Ground Water District and Magic Valley Ground Water District to the Thousand Springs Reach, it is imperative that Water District 36A be involved in matters concerning Water District 36.

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If Water District 36A is not granted its autonomy, then the advisory board has chosen option 3B from the list of options allowed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources for the creation of water districts. The two districts in this option, with hydraulically connected sub-districts that share common and community interest, would seem to serve the best interest of both groundwater and surface water administration and management.