



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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October 16, 2002

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

Board of Directors
Southwest Irrigation District
PO Box 910
Burley, ID 83318

Dear Gentlemen,

On February 19, 2002, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) created the Thousand Springs Area Water District (Water District 130). The district was created for the purpose of administration of water rights to the use of ground water and springs discharging from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) in Administrative Basins 36 and 43.

IDWR intends to enlarge Water District 130 to include the ground water rights within Administrative Basins 37 and 45 of the ESPA. IDWR and the State of Idaho, acting through the Office of the Attorney General, has already petitioned the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) Court to enlarge Water District 130 by including ESPA ground water rights recommended in the SRBA Director's Report for Basin 37. IDWR plans to complete the SRBA Director's Report for Basin 45 later next year and will then petition the SRBA Court again to enlarge Water District 130 to include those ground water rights within the ESPA and Basin 45. This action will include many of the ground water rights and diversions within the Southwest Irrigation District (SWID).

At the inaugural Water District 130 meeting last spring the water users established a steering committee that is working on recommendations for governance of the district, including composition of the advisory committee. The advisory committee of Water District 130 will ultimately need to include representation from ground water users in Basin 45, including the Southwest Irrigation District.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Water District 130 Steering Committee will meet on October 29, 2002 in Jerome, Idaho. A meeting agenda is attached. The Department and Committee wish to invite one or more of the SWID Directors to the meeting on October 29th. If you have questions concerning this matter please contact Tim Luke at the location above or Cindy Yenter, Water District 130 watermaster, at our regional office in Twin Falls, 208-736-3033.

Sincerely,

Tim Luke
Water Distribution

Cc: Cindy Yenter, Watermaster, Water District 120
Garr Wayment, Randy Brown and Grant Wyatt, Board of Directors, Southwest ID