



State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700 • Web Site: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

 **COPY**

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Interim Director

June 8, 2010

William A Parsons  
Parsons, Smith & Stone  
PO Box 910  
Burley, ID 83318

Re: Data Required for Approved Mitigation Plan Submitted by Southwest and Goose Creek Irrigation Districts – Blue Lakes Delivery Call

Dear Mr. Parsons,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department or IDWR) is beginning preparation for collection and review of data that will be necessary to verify the mitigation activities that were approved by the Director's Final Order Approving Mitigation Plans – Blue Lakes Delivery Call, dated May 7, 2010. This will be the first year in which Southwest and Goose Creek Irrigation Districts (SWID/GCID) will report on mitigation activities in Water District 140.

This letter is intended to notify SWID/GCID of certain data that must be reported to both the Water District 140 watermaster and IDWR. Data are requested as follows.

**A. Preliminary data for soft conversion projects (J Canal and West Cassia Pipe (WCP)).**

IDWR requests that an electronic spreadsheet be forwarded to both the watermaster and Department on or before July 8, 2010 that includes the following information:

- WMIS POD Number for each well in the two conversion projects
- Owner Name
- Irrigation District where project or ground water rights are located (SWID or GCID)
- GPS site Tag ID Number
- POD Legal Description
- Conversion Project (Indicate J Canal or WCP)
- Date Project Placed Online
- Ground Water Right Numbers
- Indicate if ground water rights are supplemental (if yes, give name of canal company or irrigation district to which ground rights are supplemental)
- Method of Measurement for ground water well
- Canal or Pipe Lateral Identification (Name and/or number of lateral to which surface water is delivered. For WCP, this may be name or identification number of re-diversion or tap from main pipe)
- Head gate Identification (name and/or number of head gate on lateral to which surface water is delivered).
- Method of measurement for surface water delivery to field head gate or pipeline re-diversion. Specify types and sizes of measuring devices used and how flows are recorded or totaled.

The Department notes that some of the requested information above was reported in Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 of the SWID/GCID Blue Lakes Delivery Call Mitigation Plan, including WMIS POD number, owner name, site tag number and POD legal description. Appendices 1 and 3 were provided to the Department in both hard copy and PDF file format, but not electronically. An electronic file will be necessary so that IDWR can complete certain analysis both during and after each irrigation season.

The Department further notes that a map was also provided in Appendix 1 showing the owners and locations of J Canal soft conversion projects. This map includes additional project owners and locations for which data are not provided in Appendix 1. IDWR requests that the spreadsheet include all active conversions in 2010 for both the J Canal and the WCP.

IDWR also has not received any map showing the locations of lands, water rights or wells that will benefit from the WCP project. Submittal of a map by July 8, 2010 is not critical as long as the spreadsheet data items listed above are provided. However, it may be helpful for SWID/GCID to provide a map of the WCP lands to supplement its mitigation plans and records.

## **B. Monthly Surface Water Deliveries**

IDWR requests that SWID/GCID begin reporting surface water conversion project deliveries on a monthly basis. SWID/GCID shall be responsible for reporting deliveries to both the watermaster and IDWR. IDWR understands that SWID/GCID may need to rely on reporting from the Burley Irrigation District (BID) for the J Canal conversions. IDWR requests that deliveries for April, May and June be reported by month to the watermaster and IDWR on or before July 8, 2010. Cumulative volume deliveries (in acre-feet) may be reported for each conversion project site or head gate. SWID/GCID may then report monthly deliveries approximately every thirty to 40 days thereafter (i.e., report July deliveries on or before August 10, and so on.) Monthly deliveries should be reported in acre-feet. Deliveries may be reported using the electronic spreadsheet identified in Section A above, or in a separate electronic or hard copy format as long as there is some reference between the reported deliveries and the individual conversion projects.

## **C. Voluntary Curtailment Data & CREP Acres**

The GIS shape file data and related table already submitted with the SWID/GCID Blue Lakes Mitigation Plan for voluntary curtailment acres is adequate for on-going monitoring by the watermaster and IDWR. No additional data are needed at this time.

The Department has adequate records of all CREP enrolled acres in the irrigation districts and throughout Water District 140 as a result of IDWR's role in review of CREP applications and the CREP approval process with the Federal Government. No additional data are needed at this time or during the post-irrigation season.

**D. Recharge Data**

The Department has certain data for the SWID/GCID injection wells where most if not all recharge in 2010 and subsequent years is intended to be delivered. IDWR probably does not need any additional location data for the injection wells but will require SWID/GCID to provide measurement data for all injected water in order to provide any level of mitigation recharge credit. Additional information to be submitted with recharge measurement data include:

- Method of measurement at injection well or recharge site (describe type and size of device used, location of device)
- GPS Site Tag number if it exists
- Map or description of recharge conveyance (from water source point of diversion to final destination location of injection well or open pond or infiltration canal or channel. A map is required when using open canals or channels for recharge conveyance and seepage credit is expected).

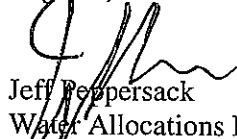
Recharge measurement data should be submitted to IDWR as soon as possible after recharge activities cease for the year or no later than December 15 assuming recharge does not extend into December of any year. Department staff may request inspection of recharge sites at some time before the end of the year. Please note that recharge credit will not be provided for wells located outside the ESPA common ground water boundary. Recharge resulting from diversion of water under the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) water rights pursuant to the agreement between SWID/GCID and the IWRB will not count towards mitigation credit.

**E. Power Consumption Records or other Measurement Records for Conversion Wells**

The Department requests that SWID/GCID provide records of all power consumption data or other water use measurement data from 2010 for each ground water well benefitting from the soft conversion projects and identified in the spreadsheet requested in Section A above. All such data shall be provided to IDWR by November 30, 2010. Power consumption data needs only be submitted for wells where the Power Consumption Coefficient (PCC) is being used as the method of measurement in 2010. SWID/GCID should submit flow meter data (cumulative monthly total) for conversion wells that may be measured with installed flow meters. Given that the Department has issued an Order that requires phased-in installation of measuring devices on ground water diversions in Water District 140, we anticipate that some number of conversions wells may not be able to rely on the PCC method after 2010.

Please contact either me or Tim Luke at 208-287-4800 if you have any questions concerning this request.

Regards,



Jeff Peppersack  
Water Allocations Bureau Chief

Cc: Gary Spackman, Interim Director, IDWR  
Brian Higgs, Water District 140 Watermaster  
Tim Luke, IDWR Water Distribution Section  
Cindy Yenter and Allen Merrit, IDWR Southern Region  
Allan Wylie, IDWR Hydrology Section  
Bill Quinn, IDWR Recharge Coordinator