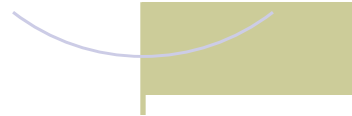




Legislative Reports 2009



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January 19, 2009

Special points of interest:

*read Governor's State of Idaho" speech in its entirety at www.state.id.us

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Calendar | 2 |
| Senate Water | 2 |
| | 2 |

Budget Cuts & Transportation Expected to Dominate 09 Session

Citing a global economic downturn, Idaho's stalled economy and declining tax revenues, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter called for more than a 7% reduction in state spending in Fiscal Year 2010 during his State of the State address last week. No state agency is exempt with proposed reductions of roughly 5% for K-12 education, 12% for Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), 31% for Agriculture, 51% for Commerce, and 56% for Parks and Recreation. Being fiscally conservative now, continuing the Zero-base budget process, and implementing his proposed Project 60 will hopefully position Idaho for quicker economic recovery and future prosperity.

The 7% budget cuts for 2010 come on the heels of a 4% holdback of general fund appropriations ordered in 2008 for all state agencies, except education, that were then followed by an additional 2% holdback intended as a hedge against further revenue declines.

Addressing what he termed the "enormous and growing backlog of maintenance and construction needs" for highways and bridges is crucial to future economic development. To that end Otter proposed increased accountability, efficiency, and generating additional tax revenues.

Noticeably absent in the Governor's proposed budget is the \$3 million that represents the state's commitment to fund and implement the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Program (CAMP) on the Eastern Snake Plain. Before committing those monies, the Governor reportedly wants to see a delineation of exactly how they would be applied. Water users are concerned that, without a firm commitment from the state, other parties may pull away from the process, opening the door for further litigation and administrative actions.

As the budget process gets underway, the legislature turns its attention to the rule review. Water users may be interested in rules from Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensing relating to the qualifications for Drinking and Wastewater Professional licensing, IDWR rules relating to adjudication and well construction standards, and IDEQ rules addressing ground water quality, air pollution, sewage systems, drinking water systems, water pollution control loans and wastewater. *More information regarding these and other rules may be viewed at <http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/bulletin>.*

CALENDAR

**January 19-January 23,
2009**

Monday: January 19

Tuesday, January 20

Ag Lobbyists
Yen Ching Noon

Wednesday: January 21
Food Producers
Idaho Grain Center
8:30 a.m.

**Food Producers Legislative
Luncheon**
Yen Ching Noon

Thursday: January 22

Friday: January 23

*Follow the
Idaho Legislature
on the internet
at
www.legislature.idaho.gov*

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rules may be viewed at
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WATER—SENATE

S1002 Amends existing law relating to appropriation of water to revise the definition of “service area” for a municipality and to revise the criteria for domestic water systems.

Sponsor: Schroeder **Fiscal Note:** No impact to general fund; possible revenue increase to local governments providing services

Senate: 1/16 Introduce

RULES