

IDWR Appoints Administrative Hearing Officer & Schedules Hearings

Idaho Department of Water Resource's Director Dave Tuthill recently appointed The Honorable Gerald F. Schroeder, retiring chief justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, to act as the administrative hearing officer for both the Blue Lake's Delivery Call (WD 130) and the Surface Water Coalition/A&B Irrigation Districts water calls (WD 34, 110, and 120).

The WD 130 administrative hearing is scheduled for November 28 through December 18, 2007. The administrative hearing for WD 34, 110 and 120 will begin on January 16, 2008 and extend through February 6th.

Ground water users narrowly averted curtailment proceedings earlier this summer when the IDWR Director issued an eleventh hour "reprieve", agreeing to accept mitigation plans submitted by Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. and the Idaho Dairymen's Association. Combined the two mitigation plans provide 29,500 acre-feet for senior surface water users and recharge. Had the mitigation plans been rejected, an estimated 591 junior water right holders irrigating approximately 16,638 acres would have been curtailed in 2007.

IGWA's legal counsel and technical consultants are preparing for both hearings.