



Pioneer Irrigation District

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July 11, 2008

Mr. Norm Semanko, Executive Director
Idaho Water Users Association
1010 W. Jefferson, Suite 101
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Norm:

As you are aware, Pioneer Irrigation District has, for more than a year, been forced to deal with a serious on going problem of urban waste water runoff and municipal encroachment involving the City of Caldwell.

We know from your seminar sessions in Sun Valley that the problems faced by Pioneer are very similar to those being faced by other water delivery entities around the State, particularly here in southwestern Idaho and also in southern and eastern Idaho. The legal costs, coupled with the potential liability issues, are hitting all of us.

While we continue to mount a vigorous defense against the City of Caldwell, we also now believe these problems need to be dealt with on a wider scale. Accordingly, Pioneer believes it is appropriate for irrigation entities to join forces to establish broad strategies and solutions that can address the basic causes and conditions at the root of the issue.

We request that the Association hold a Rural-Urban Encroachment Issues Summit within the next few months here in the Treasure Valley. All irrigation entities, whether or not they are presently faced with these municipal encroachment and urban storm water runoff problems, should be invited. We believe it would also be appropriate for members of the Idaho Legislature and the Idaho Congressional delegation, municipal officials such as Mayors and City Council members, State and Federal policy makers and other appropriate officials be invited to attend. It may also be appropriate to involve municipal associations, such as the Idaho Association of Cities, because they represent many of the municipalities with which the problems originate.

The object of the Summit would be to establish the scope, degree and extent of urban encroachment and storm water runoff problems; to establish a framework in which negotiations and dialogue between irrigation entities and municipalities could take place; and to identify specific solutions such as legislative action, etc.

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Urban encroachment, coupled with the illegal dumping of storm water runoff into canals and ditches, is a problem that will not go away. We must address the issue on a state-wide scale and find solutions that collectively benefit all Idaho irrigation entities. We sincerely hope you agree.

Sincerely,

Pioneer Irrigation District
Board of Directors