

News Release

Pioneer Irrigation District

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IDAHO LEGISLATORS TO HEAR FROM PIONEER REGARDING RURAL-URBAN ENCROACHMENT ISSUES

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Legislators from the Idaho House of Representatives will meet with Pioneer Irrigation District officials tomorrow afternoon to hear about the problems of urban encroachment and urban storm water runoff confronting it and other irrigation entities across the state, Pioneer Irrigation District announced today.

The special meeting will be with legislators from the House Resources and Conservation Committee. Alan Newbill, president of the Pioneer Board of Directors, asked the Idaho Water Users Association last December to arrange the meeting so Pioneer officials could create an opportunity to provide key legislators with an understanding of the issues involved and their potential risks to the irrigation community. He will represent the District in tomorrow's meeting.

Representatives from other Treasure Valley and southern Idaho irrigation entities, all dealing with the same problems, are also slated to be at the 1:30 p.m. meeting in the Capital Annex.

The briefing is an outgrowth of a statewide summit on Water Delivery Challenges that IWUA held last fall at Pioneer's request. The summit proved to be an enormously successful and critical first step in addressing a growing state-wide problem, according to those who attended. The summit clearly revealed that the problems associated with rural-urban interface now exist statewide and continue to grow in number and complexity.

Pioneer will not ask for new legislation, according to Newbill. "We believe a legislative briefing is crucial to provide Idaho legislators a clearer, focused legislative awareness and understanding of the complex issues identified during the Summit, which may lead to finding and implementing long term solutions," he said.

Pioneer Irrigation District has provided irrigation and agricultural drainage services to Ada and Canyon County land owners for more than a century. The District currently maintains about 7,000 accounts providing irrigation water to approximately 34,000 acres of residential and farmland in Canyon and Ada Counties

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