



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hailey Plans for Water Curtailment

Mayor schedules public discussion for April 15, 2013

(Hailey, Idaho) – Mayor Fritz Haemmerle has set an April 15 City Council meeting to address water and wastewater issues. Water service delivery and provision of a safe and sanitary sewer system are fundamental functions of city government. Decisions need to be made which may impact rates for both water and sewer services.

Cities in Idaho will face challenges to keep their parks, playing fields, yards and trees green.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources is moving forward with its plan to conjunctively administer surface and groundwater uses. In the past, if surface water rights were curtailed in any given year, the groundwater rights would remain “on.” Hailey has relied on its groundwater wells primarily for irrigation and fully during late-summer surface water calls. These days will come to an end after IDWR’s groundwater modeling plan is completed.

The IDWR groundwater modeling plan is the final phase of a multi-year study necessary to implement conjunctive surface and groundwater management. Hailey will need to fund technical advice to the groundwater modeling study effort in order to protect its interests.

Hailey’s water sources for irrigation include a spring source water right out of Indian Creek and Hiawatha Canal water rights. Homeowners’ use of water has been primarily from city wells. Hailey will need to retain technical and legal experts to plan methods by which we can use our surface water rights more broadly. Some of the planned solutions may be costly.

Mayor Haemmerle is taking a proactive approach to keeping Hailey’s parks, lawns and trees green. Details regarding new rates to begin funding the costs for technical experts and remedies will be discussed with the public during the April 15, 2013 City Council meeting.

For more information contact Tom Hellen, Public Works Director at (208) 788-9815 x14 or Heather Dawson, City Administrator at (208)788-4221 x18

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