



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Elmore-Ada Water Project Completes Feasibility Study**

**BOISE, Idaho** – Three sites along the Snake River and associated pipeline alignments have been identified as alternatives in the newly completed study to determine the feasibility of bringing a sustainable water supply to specific undeveloped areas of Elmore and Ada counties. The results of the study show that the Elmore-Ada Water Project is feasible in terms of water rights, technical and financial factors and the concept has broad support among stakeholders.

The purpose of the year-long feasibility study was to evaluate the numerous factors involved with identifying a potential water supply and delivery options and consider scenarios that will identify potential solutions for providing a sustainable water source to the area between Boise and Mountain Home.

The area evaluated in the feasibility study, between Boise and Mountain Home along the I-84 corridor, has historically been limited in terms of land use opportunities and economic development due to minimal groundwater availability. The goal of the Elmore-Ada Water Project is to identify water resources before growth is initiated and to provide a consistent water source to this area that can support existing landowners and enable the potential for economic growth. Just under \$1.2 million for the feasibility study was provided from a public/private coalition of municipal providers and landowners.

“Narrowing the site of development down to these three alternatives is a major step toward the goal of providing a long-term sustainable water supply to this area,” said Bob Taunton, Project Manager of the Elmore-Ada Water Project, “We look forward to involving the public and gathering the best available information so that decision makers can be fully informed about the project.”

The next step of the project will be to conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS) to select a preferred alternative. Three alignments have been selected as possible alternatives for acquiring

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water supply and distribution systems on desert land south and east of Boise.

The three alternatives all involve withdrawal of unappropriated Snake River water in non-irrigation periods, water treatment, and underground storage, known as aquifer storage and recovery, for peak demand periods in summer. Water intake and pipelines could be developed north of the Snake River near Swan Falls, C.J. Strike Reservoir or south of Mountain Home.

Earlier this summer URS Corporation worked with the Elmore-Ada Water Project on behalf of land owners and other participants, including the city of Mountain Home, to investigate all potential environmental issues surrounding the Elmore-Ada Water Project.

### **About Elmore-Ada Regional Water Supply Project:**

The Elmore-Ada Water Project was formed in August of 2007 with the long-term goal of bringing a sustainable water supply to certain areas of Elmore and Ada counties and enabling the state of Idaho to keep its water resources in the state for the benefit of Idaho residents. The primary short-term purpose of the company is to perform a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate the opportunity to provide a water supply to this area. Elmore-Ada Water Project, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SPF Water Engineering, a Boise-based engineering company specializing in water supply, water rights, and water facility design, construction and operations.