

# In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

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IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
GENERAL ADJUDICATION )  
OF RIGHTS TO USE OF )  
WATER FROM THE WATER )  
SYSTEM OF THE KOOTENAI )  
RIVER BASIN )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER RE: APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT  
JUDGE, CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL  
JURISDICTION AND DETERMINATION  
OF VENUE FOR THE GENERAL  
ADJUDICATION OF THE KOOTENAI  
RIVER BASIN**

WHEREAS pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1406D, upon the filing of a petition by the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the district court is authorized to commence the general adjudication of the water rights from surface water and ground water sources in the Kootenai River Basin, and

WHEREAS pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1406D, unless otherwise ordered by this Court, special jurisdiction for this general adjudication resides in the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court of the Fifth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, in and for the County of Twin Falls, and

WHEREAS this Court is authorized and directed by Idaho Code § 42-1406D to assign by order a district judge to preside over the general adjudication and to determine venue of such general adjudication, and

WHEREAS prior to the filing of a petition, in conjunction with the planning stages for the general adjudication, the district court anticipated to be assigned to preside over the adjudication in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, will be required to begin various logistical administrative matters including the incurring of related expenditures, and which in order to proceed with accordingly, require from this Court an order confirming special jurisdiction, determining venue and assigning a district judge.

NOW THEREFORE, UNTIL FURTHER ORDERED OF THIS COURT, THE FOLLOWING ARE HEREBY ORDERED:

IT IS ORDERED, that the presiding judge of the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court, an office held at present by District Judge Eric J. Wildman, be and is hereby assigned as the presiding judge over the action for the general adjudication of the water rights from surface water and ground water sources in the Kootenai River Basin.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1406D special jurisdiction for the general adjudication is confirmed and shall reside in the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court of the Fifth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, in and for the County of Twin Falls.

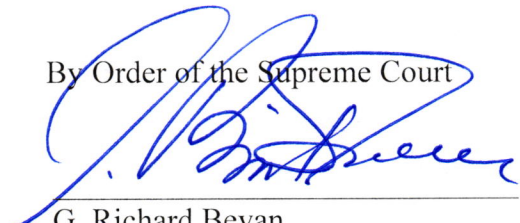
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1406D and Idaho Code § 42-1407 the Court does hereby designate the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court of the Fifth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, in and for the county of Twin Falls, as the county and court of venue for the general adjudication proceeding and that all pleadings and documents with regard to the general adjudication shall be filed with the clerk of that court.

Notwithstanding this designation of venue, hearings may be held by masters and the presiding district judge at such places within the State of Idaho as are designated by the masters or presiding judge for the convenience of the parties and witness.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this *Order* shall remain in full force and effect until further ordered of this Court.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024.

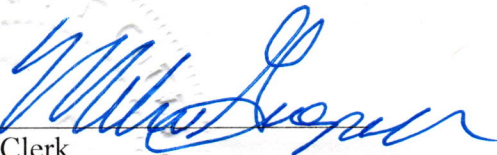
By Order of the Supreme Court



G. Richard Bevan  
Chief Justice, Idaho Supreme Court

Attest:

Clerk



cc: Hon. Eric Wildman  
Raul A. Labrador, Attorney General  
Mathew Weaver, Director, IDWR