

Flathead Reservation Water Management Board

PO Box 37, Ronan, MT 59864 | contact@frwmb.gov | (406) 201-2532 | www.frwmb.gov

Date: October 7th, 2024

Subject: Public Comment Summary of Posted Sections of WP&P to Date

Prepared by: Office of the Engineer, Sidney Palmer

Summary of Notice

On September 12th, 2024, The Flathead Reservation Water Management Board (Board) approved sections of the WP&P for a 15-day public comment period. On September 16th, 2024, a draft of the WP&P was published for a 15-day Notice and Comment Period to FRWMB.GOV. The sections posted included:

- CHAPTER II – WATER USE
 - PART 2 – PERMIT AND CHANGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The public comment period ended October 1st, 2024, and a ten-day grace period for postmarked mail ends on October 11th, 2024.

On September 6th, 2024 one comment was received from CITT Representative, Maya Rao. The comment has been attached in its entirety.

Flathead Reservation
Water Management Board



From: Rao, Maya <Maya.Rao@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Contact@FRWMB <contact@frwmb.gov>
Subject: CITT Public Comment on WP&P Section 22-116

Hello,

Thank you for allowing me to present about CITT's upcoming Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant at the FRWMB meeting on September 4. As I mentioned, CITT is developing a grant program for stock producers who will no longer be receiving stock water outside of the irrigation season (April 15-September 15) from FIIP. We anticipate that potential grantees will propose projects that include (but are not limited to) drilling a new well, adding new stock water pits or tanks, adding a stock use to existing developments, and adding water conveyance structures. It is in the context of this program, and per the request of Chairman Matt, that I provide the following written comments, on behalf of CITT, on Section 22-116 of the Draft FRWMB Water Policies and Procedures.

- CITT understands that the Board-approved Stock Water Allowance (60SF) and Individual/Shared Domestic Allowance (60DF) forms will be most applicable to potential grantees.
 - Currently, there is no clear mechanism to add stock use to an existing development, and 2-2-116 of the Ordinance (which applies to stock water allowances) explicitly prohibits a stock water well from being connected to a home or business.

Could it be clarified in Section 22-116 of the WP&P whether water rights holders with an existing development that is connected to a home or business should submit form 60SF or 60DF to add a stock use?

The intent of these comments is not to make specific policy recommendations to the Board, but rather to clarify water rights options for potential grantees, so that projects can be evaluated for feasibility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maya



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