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-Exhibit A-1-

JAN 16 2013

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Kevin Waller

From: Ravalli County Planning Dept
Groen, Amy [AGroen@mt.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:20 PM
To: Kevin Waller
Subject: Legacy Ranch Subdivision

To Whom It May Concern:

DNRC Water Resources Division, Missoula Regional Office received a memo soliciting comments concerning a proposed 509 lot/unit subdivision to be completed on 368.5 acres southeast of the community of Florence, Ravalli County. The following issues are ones the Department considers important for consideration in regards to the proposed project.

Currently, the Bitterroot is under a Legislative Closure (MCA §85-2-344) and no new provisional permits for groundwater can be granted unless it is accompanied by an aquifer recharge or mitigation plan (MCA §85-2-362); obtaining a water right for a public water supply system will require an application consisting of "a hydrogeologic assessment with an analysis of net depletion, a mitigation plan or aquifer recharge plan if required, an application for a beneficial water use permit or permits, and an application for a change in appropriation right or rights if necessary". Due to the large number of housing units being proposed, difficulty of obtaining a water right or rights to be changed to mitigation, and absence of a plan to show that water will be physically and legally available to support the development, the Department would like to request that the Ravalli County Planning Department consider water availability when evaluating the feasibility of the requested subdivision.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact me at 406-542-5888 if you have any questions regarding the content of this letter.

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Amy Groen
Hydrologist / Specialist
Missoula Regional Office
406-542-5888
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