

Ken Ack sent 4/22/05 To A.V. To Comms } H.



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April 21, 2005

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MAYOR
Tammy de Weerd

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
Keith Bird
Christine Donnell
Charles M. Rountree
Shaun Wardle

CITY DEPARTMENTS
Fire
540 E. Franklin Road
888-1234 / fax 895-0390

Parks & Recreation
11 W. Bower Street
888-3579 / fax 898-5501

Planning
660 E. Watertower Lane
Suite 202
884-5533 / fax 888-6844

Police
1401 E. Watertower Lane
888-6678 / 846-7366

Public Works
660 E. Watertower Lane
Suite 200
898-5500 / fax 898-9551

- Building
660 E. Watertower Lane
Suite 150
887-2211 / fax 887-1297

- Wastewater
3401 N. Ten Mile Road
888-2191 / fax 884-0744

- Water
2235 N.W. 8th Street
888-5242 / fax 884-1159

RE: Case No. UWI-W-05-1; United Water's Application to Amend Certificate (Black Rock, LLC)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the above-referenced application. I discussed this issue with City Council at their meeting last night. As a result of that discussion, the City of Meridian requests that the Idaho Public Utilities Commission deny this application.

In response to development pressures in and around Meridian, the City Council is taking steps to manage growth and planning efforts.

1. Area Within Existing Area of Impact. The area within Meridian's Area of Impact (AOI) should be deleted from UWI's request. This area has, since the 1997 AOI agreement between the City and Ada County, been included in all City of Meridian planning efforts including utilities and land use.
2. Area Within Referral Area. The remainder of the proposed service area west of the line ¼-mile west of Cloverdale Road has been included in Meridian's sewer master planning area since 1993 (excerpt of 2003 plan update enclosed). In 1997, the City of Meridian requested that Ada County place this area within the Area of Impact. Ada County denied Meridian's request because they believed that the City would not be able to provide services to the area within twenty or more years. The rate of growth in southern Meridian has proven this belief to be incorrect. While the City of Meridian cannot at this point in time provide sewer service to the proposed Black Rock Development, sewer extensions are proceeding toward this area in a step-wise manner. A map depicting Meridian's AOI and referral area is enclosed.
3. Pending Planning Efforts. The City of Meridian intends to proceed this year with additional sewer and water master planning of the area south of the existing Area of Impact to Columbia Road, from McDermott Road on the west to ¼-mile west of Cloverdale Road.

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CH2M Hill is under contract to complete a water system master plan for the entire Meridian AOI plus approximately 18 square miles outside the southern boundary of the existing AOI. We also expect to execute an agreement with JUB Engineers in the next several weeks to complete sewer master planning and existing sewer model calibration/coordination in this same area.

The City of Meridian, through its Planning & Zoning Department, has requested funds to undertake land use planning later this year in this same area. The City of Meridian fully intends to pursue inclusion of the subject area in its Area of Impact in the near future.

4. Regional Planning Coordination. City of Meridian public works staff has met with both Boise City and City of Nampa public works staff to discuss which municipality will most logically serve the unincorporated area south of Meridian. We have also met with the City of Kuna's engineering consultant who is preparing their sewer master plan. No municipality, other than Meridian, has expressed a desire to provide municipal services to the subject area.
5. Future Restrictions to Services Extension. The presence of United Water in the subject area may restrict the City of Meridian from extending water and sewer service to its ultimate planning area by blocking the natural and logical extension of its lines.
6. No Objection to Area Outside AOI and Referral Area. The City of Meridian does not object to UWI's request to serve the area east of the line ¼-mile west of Cloverdale Road.

We appreciate your consideration of the City of Meridian's concerns regarding this issue. We believe that the cities, counties and related service providers are at a major crossroads in terms of water, sewer and land use planning in this region. The City urges you to carefully evaluate this current development and future proposals within the City's current and future planning areas.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Brad Watson, P.E.
Public Works Director

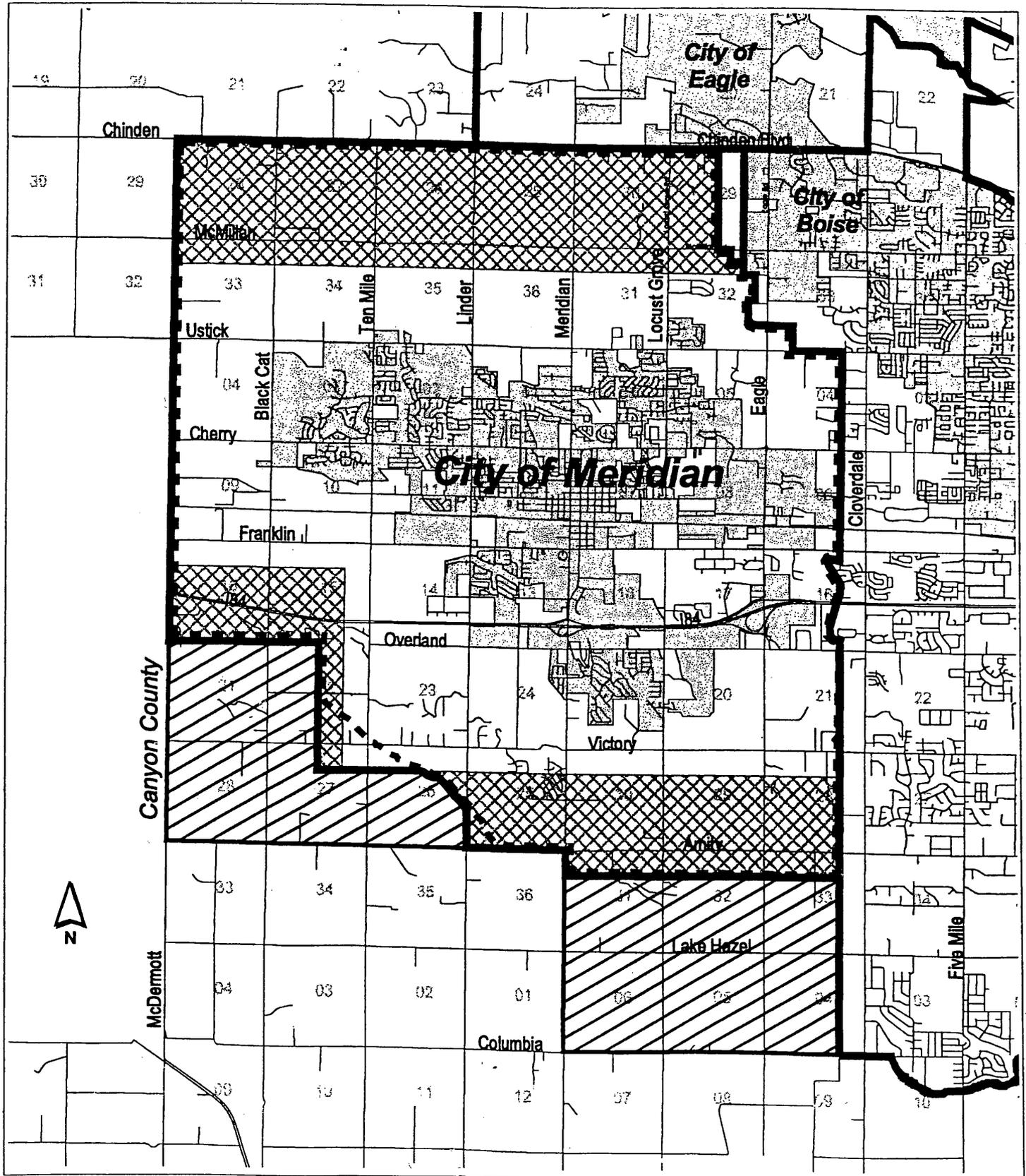
Enclosures: Meridian Area of City Impact
2003 Sewer Master Plan Excerpt (Adopted 1/25/05)

cc: Mayor De Weerd
Bill Nary, City Attorney
Dean J. Miller, Esq., McDevitt & Miller LLP
Greg Wyatt, United Water of Idaho
File

Meridian Area of City Impact

Ada County Ordinance No. 345.

-  Meridian Urban Service Planning Area
-  Areas of City Impact
-  Additions to Meridian Area of City Impact & Rezone of RR Parcels to RT
-  Meridian Area of City Impact Referral Area
-  Incorporated Areas



For information Contact: Ada County Development Services
 650 Main Street / Boise, Idaho
 (208) 364-2277

9/25/97 (mm)

CITY OF MERIDIAN
2003 SEWER MASTER PLAN UPDATE
 COLLECTION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN
 W/TRUNK SERVICE AREAS

REVISIONS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE

FINAL
 ADOPTED ON
JANUARY 25,
2005 by
RESOLUTION
No. 05-458

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 Boise, Idaho 83709-0944
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NOTE: THIS DRAWING HAS BEEN MODIFIED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN 08/23/04

