

## Types of Water Utilities and who regulates them

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is given the power and jurisdiction by the Idaho Legislature to supervise and regulate every water company that is a public utility in the State of Idaho. This authority is broad enough to include the power to do all things necessary to carry out the spirit and intent of the provisions of the public utilities' laws. A water company is a public utility if it is a private entity, either corporation or person, that owns, controls, operates or manages any water system for compensation within the state. Both for-profit and non-profit companies may be regulated

**IPUC Regulated Water Company** - Any small water system serving more than one customer is subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission as provided by Idaho Code, Title 61 unless they are organized as a homeowners association, formal water district, municipality or other mutual non-profit organization represented by board members. The Commission's jurisdiction and authority is very broad and include approval of authorized service area, rates and charges, accounting and reporting requirements, service quality, customer relation's rules and customer information rules.

**Home Owners Association (HOA)** is a legal entity that governs a subdivision, condominium or town home development or planned community. HOA is mandatory for property owners with the development. The HOA is run by a board, which is bound by the HOA bylaws and board positions are filled by election or appointment. The HOA collects a fee assessment from all owners to maintain common areas, address legal and safety issues, and enforce restrictions that are applicable to that particular residential area. The HOA also provides residents with a platform to address common concerns of the community.

**Water Association** is a not for-profit organization that provides oversight for a water system. Often set up similar to a HOA, with members represented by homeowners and jurisdiction is limited to water issues in a defined area.

**Water District** - Created by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), through division of the state's public streams or water supplies into water districts for which the courts have adjudicated priorities of appropriations. The director also has authority to revise the boundaries of existing districts, combine two or more districts and /or abolish districts if such action is necessary to properly administer water uses. Each active water district in Idaho has a water master who oversees water distribution within the district. Title 42 Irrigation and Drainage – Water Rights and Reclamation, Chapter 6 Distribution of Water Among Appropriators, [Section 42-604](#).