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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Goshen Irrigation District Tunnel Repair Update, November 21, 2019**

*November 21st, 2019*

**TORRINGTON, WY**—The Goshen Irrigation District “GID” along with the Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District, “GFLID” jointly announce the districts have come to a decision regarding the permanent plan for Tunnel #2, the irrigation tunnel that collapsed in July 2019. GID Manager Rob Posten explains, “Both boards went beyond their duties to study, analyze and decide on a sound and solid decision.”

### **Tunnel #2 Permanent Fix Selected**

After many meetings and in-depth research by both boards, a joint decision was finalized Thursday on the path moving ahead for a permanent fix to Tunnel #2. The plan includes interim repair work to stabilize the tunnel with additional ribbing supports and void grouting for the 2020 water season as well as initiating a chemical grouting process to the tunnel that will stabilize and harden the outside of the tunnel permanently. The boards considered over 10 options after consulting with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, USBR, through a detailed analysis of the many options for permanent repairs. Both districts continued to gather additional cost estimates, further research the grouting technology, and consider the prior work completed during the temporary fix to the tunnel. The permanent grouting option builds upon the temporary repair efforts done in 2019 and is expected to stabilize and secure the tunnel structure

in the long term. The same grouting process will also be used to stabilize, repair and secure Tunnel #1, which after the collapse, was identified for additional repairs and long-term stabilization for the tunnel's structural integrity.

Posten adds, "I commend both district boards for the leadership they demonstrated to make a tough decision that ultimately affects this entire valley and its agricultural economy."

Interim tunnel work has commenced and will continue in the upcoming weeks. The initiation of the planning, engineering and environmental permitting for the permanent fix will begin shortly after the decision.

### **GID/GFLID Canal Tours and Inspection**

GID and GFLID officials and commissioners toured the Fort Laramie Canal system during the past week along with USBR officials for their joint annual inspection of its irrigation system. After the inspection, the USBR identifies and compiles a report identifying critical areas of repairs and maintenance to be completed by the districts before the 2020 irrigation season in addition to its tunnel repair efforts. GID and GFLID are charged with the operation, care, repair and maintenance of the Fort Laramie canal which serves nearly 110,000 acres of irrigated lands in Goshen County, Wyoming and Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.

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