

NEWS RELEASE

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

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LAND BOARD:

LOCALS MUST DECIDE GREENBELT DISPUTE

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, president of the State Board of Land Commissioners, said today that an examination by the state Attorney General’s office determined that the Land Board has no legal basis for requiring Garden City to permit bicycle access on a portion of the Boise River Greenbelt located in Riverside Village.

The deed issued to Garden City only requires using the public pathway for greenbelt and public purposes, for the benefit of the public. The state found that Garden City has not violated the deed by restricting bicycles. In fact, as the property’s titleholder, it is the city’s responsibility to decide how to regulate activities in this area.

“Local authorities generally are in the best position to determine public use and safety concerns. Therefore, it is the Land Board’s policy to encourage local regulation wherever that is feasible and prudent,” the Land Board said in a prepared statement.

“Garden City is entrusted with managing this important resource for the public. Within that responsibility, the city must have the freedom and authority to decide what public uses they can accommodate, monitor and enforce.

“The State Board of Land Commissioners recognizes it is not always possible to reconcile conflicting public uses and interests. It expects Garden City officials to continue operating under the requirements of the deed, and to make the best decisions possible, for the benefit of the public.”

As part of its review, the Land Board learned that there are some title problems with the conveyance of the greenbelt parcels to Garden City and has asked the City to remedy these problems to ensure continuous public access to this segment of the greenbelt.

“While the Board recognizes that this decision does not address the conflict between the City and the bicycle community, this concern must be resolved at the local level,” the Land Board concluded.

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