March 4, 2022

Office of the Attorney General
State of Idaho
700 W. Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Re: Notice of Data Breach

Dear Attorney General Wasden:

This notice is provided on behalf of my client, Teton County, Idaho (the “County”) following an issue impacting the public records request search functions on the County website, where searches for otherwise public records could have returned unintended information. The County notified the Idaho Chief Information Security Officer (“CISO”) of the incident on January 5, 2022, and has been providing weekly updates.

On March 3, 2022, the investigation revealed that the incident may have involved unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, Idaho residents’ Social Security numbers and driver’s license numbers. For this reason, consistent with its compliance obligations and responsibilities, the County is now notifying the Idaho Office of Risk Management, ITS Chief Information Officer, ITS CISO, and Attorney General of a data breach under Idaho law.

By way of background, the County learned of a potential configuration issue relating to an online portal used for public record searches on its website. The portal utilized a software licensed from a third-party vendor to house documents online, allowing County residents to search for copies of their recorded documents, such as deeds, notice of liens, and other court records. The County discovered that some of these documents were not properly redacted by the software and that personal information in these documents could have potentially been accessible to the public through the public record search portal between May 7, 2017 through January 11, 2022. The County immediately launched an investigation and engaged legal counsel with an expertise in cybersecurity. Legal counsel also hired a nationally-recognized cyber security and digital forensics firm to assist with the investigation so that the County could better understand what happened, and, more importantly, prevent something like this from happening again.

The County has been working very closely with its cyber teams to investigate the scope of the incident, and mitigate any resulting harm. The investigation confirmed that a limited amount of the information that was searched and accessible within the online portal included Idaho residents’ personal information. Legal counsel is reviewing this data, with assistance from the forensic investigator, in order to determine what information was involved, who may have been affected and where those people reside so that the County can provide any necessary notices to affected individuals and regulators. Legal counsel expects to complete its review of potentially affected data in the coming weeks and to provide notice to affected individuals shortly thereafter. The County will update this Office accordingly before providing notice to affected Idaho residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Meade, Esq.

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