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Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

December 22, 2017

Board of Directors
Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5
125 S. Main St.
Stafford, KS 67578

Dear Board of Directors,

We are pleased to have received your December 19 draft LEMA request. It is evident that the board and staff have invested considerable and thoughtful work into the plan and we applaud your efforts. The draft plan is well laid out and appears to contain the elements that need to be considered to address the impairment of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Our team has had limited time in the last 48 hours to review the details of your draft plan, but we are encouraged by the direction you are taking.

We would like for communications between KDA and GMD5 regarding the draft LEMA to be open, constructive, and timely. As the KDA team continues with our review, we ask that GMD5 provide clarification on some parts of your draft plan, and that you consider the comments and questions that we've generated thus far.

We have attached a line-numbered copy of your draft plan with our initial comments and questions appended to the end of it. We have also, through your attorney, requested certain information critical to our evaluation of the draft plan.

If you have questions and/or comments for us, please pass those on as soon as you can so we can maintain this positive momentum towards a final plan and resolution.

Sincerely,

David W. Barfield, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Division of Water Resources
Kansas Department of Agriculture