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Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

October 17, 2022

Re: Four County LEMA Initial Hearing

I am the Water Commissioner in the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources' Garden City Field Office. As the agency that administers the Kansas Water Appropriation Act and other laws applicable to water management in Kansas, DWR wants to provide testimony in support of the request by Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD1) to initiate the proposed Four County Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA).

Either myself or my staff have attended most of GMD 1's monthly board meetings during the timeframe of this LEMA's development and have particularly been involved in the GMD 1 Board's discussions regarding the proposed LEMA. When asked, we have assisted GMD staff with developing the proposed LEMA plan. I believe that plan and the conditions within the boundaries of the proposed LEMA meet the criteria established in K.S.A. 82a-1041(b): groundwater levels within the proposed boundary are declining and have declined excessively and I believe the corrective controls proposed in the LEMA plan will serve the public interest by slowing those declines. Additionally, the geographic boundaries of the proposed LEMA are reasonable because groundwater levels throughout the proposed area will benefit from the proposed corrective controls and the proposed LEMA is entirely within GMD1.

My staff is equipped to continue to assist GMD 1 with administration of this LEMA as needed if it is ultimately designated, and I believe this LEMA can successfully meet its stated goals. There has also been strong public attendance at the monthly and annual groundwater management district board meetings where this LEMA was discussed. Overall, I believe this LEMA should be designated, as it advances water conservation in this area and will therefore serve the interest of all citizens within the proposed LEMA.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael A. Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael A. Meyer, Water Commissioner  
Kansas Department of Agriculture,  
Division of Water Resources