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Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor


January 24, 2023

Re: Four County LEMA Initial Hearing

I am the Water Commissioner of 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) of the proposed Four County Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) plan, including the corrective controls.

Our office assisted GMD1 staff in analyzing data that was used in the development of this LEMA plan, specifically the historical water use data that will be used to establish allocations under the plan. With continued groundwater level declines and limited aquifer storage available, such reductions are appropriate to achieve the plan's goal of limiting irrigation withdrawals during the LEMA period

My staff is equipped to continue to assist GMD 1 with administration of this LEMA as needed if it is ultimately designated. I believe this LEMA can successfully meet its stated goals, advance water conservation, in the area, and will therefore serve the interest of all citizens within the proposed LEMA.

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