



June 24, 2022

**Subject: Support for the Proposed GMD 1 Four County LEMA**

Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) is a regional partnership of federal and state wildlife agencies, conservation groups, and private industry dedicated to conserving bird habitat in the western Great Plains. We work with our partners to find and implement conservation solutions that benefit both people and wildlife.

A focus on water is important to our Joint Venture; in fact, we are finding this avenue to be very fruitful in both the novel partnerships it attracts but also the new funding sources. This work has led us to a partnership in Greeley and Wichita counties, where resources provided by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program are addressing water conservation through irrigation water management, well retirements and restoration of playa wetlands.

Our partnership recognizes there is no one answer to our water challenges in western Kansas, LEMA's are a common sense, locally led method to help address those challenges.

The Playa Lakes Joint Venture supports the Ground Water District #1's proposal for the Four County LEMA. We look forward to working with GMD's, communities and individuals in finding solutions for a sustainable water future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Smith", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Matt Smith**  
Conservation Delivery Manager  
Playa Lakes Joint Venture