

November 20, 2020

Testimony of Mike Meyer

Re: Wichita County LEMA Second Hearing

My name is Mike Meyer, and I am the Water Commissioner at DWR's Garden City Field Office. As Garden City field office staff has worked most closely with Western Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 1 in developing this proposed Local Enhanced Management Area plan, I want to provide testimony in support of the plan, including the corrective controls contained therein.

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. Historic use was calculated using average pumping over a seven-year period that included both wet and dry years, which is appropriate given that groundwater use is heavily dependent on precipitation. Additionally, the LEMA plan's use of a 25% reduction from historic use when setting allocations is reasonable. With continued groundwater level declines and limited aquifer storage available, such a reduction is appropriate to achieve the plan's goal of limiting irrigation withdrawals to 246,882.786 acre feet during the LEMA period. The water savings produced if this goal is met will meaningfully extend the aquifer's supply.

My staff is also equipped to assist GMD1 with the administration of this LEMA as needed if it is ultimately designated, and the plan explicitly provides for this assistance in several places. My office supports the designation of this LEMA and feels confident that continued collaboration between DWR and GMD1 will enable this LEMA to achieve its goals, resulting in the advancement of water conservation for the long-term benefit of this entire area.

/s/Mike Meyer

Mike Meyer  
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