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Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Hutton, Ronda [KDA] <Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov>
Subject: ASR Program

Ronda Hutton
Attn: Wichita ASR Project Testimony
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

Rhonda:

We are against Wichita's proposal to modify the Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) program. The proposal leaves a good deal of the process undefined and it is a known fact that the original plan to pump water into the Equus Bed aquifer (EBA) from the Little Arkansas River and storage basins has not been effective/successful. If the City of Wichita has failed to keep up this process in the past and have not really defined how they will keep things up in the future, how can we trust their new proposal, which isn't given in detail? Wichita is a big city and it's government has a lot of power to push things, but we need statesmen in this case, people who care about the "whole," and not politicians that "push" because they have the power to push.

We just keep lowering the EBA levels and that puts us in a dire straight if a massive drought should occur. There is also a concern that if we lower the levels too much, the salt dome or plume may leak into the EBA and that will cause all kinds of future concerns about drinking water and water to irrigate. We aren't at a level that Israel is where they have developed plants that can survive and thrive on a low salt water levels.

We have lived in Kansas twice, for a total of 28 years and normally lived in the rural areas around Wichita. We have known and gone to churches with a lot of farmers and we have heard the stories of the dust bowl days. Actually, we have had relatives in Oklahoma that experienced those days, too. From those days, we were supposed to have learned to preserve those aquifers and not go below certain levels until the aquifers built back up. However, greed for larger crops and the ever increasing population of the Wichita area has put a strain on those amounts. Thus, we need to face some facts and be honest about where we are and what alternatives might be considered. Wichita could purchase water from Lake Afton until the aquifers could be restored to better levels under the original plan or to get a better process for restoring the aquifer from the Little Arkansas.

Many of the farmers we know have talked about recent crops not being as high a quality as in the past, or less in amount, and they have made it clear that we don't need something like the salt water plume getting into the underground water sources. Frankly, we served on the Bentley City Council for a term and after I saw the first report on the quality of the water in Bentley, we went to distilled bottled water in a machine. I know the water in Bentley is relatively safe to consume and we do use it for washing and such, but I don't want to see it to go further downhill.

We talk a lot about conservation and ecology, but if this proceeds, it could make things worse. A lot of what was done in the "dirty 30s" is being erased in Kansas so "more" can be grown. The hedge rows are being taken out, the underground water resources depleted, and more crops rotated in. We could end up in a repeat of the 30s if we aren't wise and careful. Anyone who feels history can't be repeated simply hasn't read history.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Gary & Vicki Fair

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." (Psalm 122:6) "For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye (Israel) shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (Baruch ha ba B'Shem Adonai)." (Matthew 23:39)