

Jack Queen 3230 N Flat Creek St. Wichita

Good morning, my name is Jack Queen and I am the President / GM of Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company here in Halstead. We have also locations in Bentley, Mt Hope, and Patterson. What has been discussed this week is very important to this cooperative and its 800 plus members. Not only is water in GMD2 a vital part for many in their farming operations it is also used in many of their homes and livestock operations. Before GMD2 was developed for irrigation purposes many of these farmers were growing 30-40 bushel wheat, today they are growing 190-210 bushel corn and 60-80 bushel soy beans. That 40 bushel wheat crop is worth about \$167.20, a 210 bushel corn crop is about \$766.50 and an 80 bushel soybean crop is worth about \$661.60. FCE receives about 4,000,000 bushels of corn and 1,700,000 bushels of soybeans annually of that roughly 60% of the corn is irrigated and 50% of the soybeans are irrigated. So, a little math tells us that roughly 11,500 acres of corn and 10,600 acres of soybeans are irrigated and delivered to FCE locations annually. This roughly equates to 8.8 million dollars of irrigated corn and 7 million dollars of irrigated soybeans totaling 15.8 million dollars in our surrounding communities from irrigation activities. If the city of Wichita is allowed to pump water credits they actually don't pump back into the ground and the water is unable to be pumped onto the land we will go back to dry land wheat. Those 22,100 acres will provide

roughly 3.7 million dollars into our communities. This is 23% of the revenue generated from irrigation activities. Now let's talk about quality. This project was started in part to keep the Burrton saltwater plume from migrating into this highly productive agricultural area as well as helping to keep the chloride from the Arkansas river in the Arkansas river. Both of these issues would make the water unsuitable for domestic, livestock and agricultural uses. It appears that the city of Wichita wants to take a wait and see approach to address this impairment after it happens. Once it happens it is too late, and these wells will likely have to be abandoned. All of the folks who have made their homes in rural Harvey and Sedgwick Counties will be without water for their homes and livestock and be forced to leave or face the high cost of getting rural water piped to their homes. This appears to me to be a reckless attempt to grab a resource that they will then sell to the highest bidder while all of those who live in the hoods depend on the water in GMD2. It is my understanding that the 800 plus members of Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company that this proposition be denied and the city of Wichita look elsewhere for future water needs. It is my understanding that El Dorado Lake has plenty of water that could be purchased and piped to Wichita. Thank you for your time.