

**Written Testimony  
of the Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture (“DWR”),  
to Hearing Officer David Barfield, Chief Engineer, DWR**

Date: November 13, 2017

RE: Second Public Hearing for District-Wide Local Enhanced Management Area (“LEMA”)  
Proposed by the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 (“GMD4”)

DWR fully supports the district-wide LEMA proposed by GMD4. Although the proceedings for this proposed LEMA originated solely with the GMD4 board and at no request or directive from DWR, DWR applauds the initiative taken by GMD4 to conserve water and extend the life of the Ogallala aquifer in Northwest Kansas.

Either Kelly Stewart, Water Commissioner for the DWR Stockton Field Office, or his staff have attended every GMD4 board meeting since the board began to consider this proposed LEMA, so that DWR would be kept abreast of the issues and could provide answers and support regarding questions and issues that might arise.

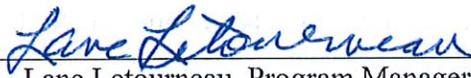
During GMD4’s consideration and development of this proposed LEMA, DWR provided technical support on various elements of the proposed LEMA’s management plan. For example:

- DWR staff analyzed the effectiveness of the proposed LEMA’s corrective controls to meet the stated goal of limiting irrigation water use to 1.7 million acre feet during the 5-year period in townships with restrictions. DWR staff found that, under a certain set of basic valid assumptions (i.e., that those who have been pumping less than their proposed assigned LEMA allocations will continue to pump less, and that those with restrictions under the proposed LEMA will stay within those restrictions), that goal is attainable through the proposed LEMA’s corrective controls.
- DWR staff, in conjunction with GMD4 staff, developed an online application that allows GMD4 water users to preview allocation amounts for individual or groups of water rights, so that GMD4 water users can see whether and to what extent a water right will be subject to an allocation under the proposed LEMA.

If this proposed LEMA is designated, then DWR, and specifically its Stockton Field Office, will provide support for the implementation, management, and success of this proposed LEMA. Such support will include communicating and coordinating with GMD4 in monitoring LEMA allocations, ensuring compliance and enforcement, and providing public assistance. To this end, a dedicated staff position has been added to the Stockton Field Office, which position has the primary responsibility of assisting all water users within that field office area, including GMD4 stakeholders, in developing and administering LEMAs and water conservation areas.

DWR has closely communicated and collaborated with GMD4 regarding implementing the designated Sheridan 6 LEMA, which is also within GMD4. DWR will follow this model of collaborative effort to ensure the success of this proposed district-wide LEMA, if and when it is designated. DWR is committed to assisting GMD4 water users in achieving responsible and effective water management. And DWR believes that this proposed LEMA will be successful and will meet its goals if it is designated by the Chief Engineer.

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES**

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