

STATE OF KANSAS



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GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.
JACKIE McCLASKEY, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

August 3, 2018

BIG BEND GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO 5
ATTN ORRIN FERIL
125 S MAIN ST
STAFFORD KS 67578-0007

Re: GMD5 recommendation
concerning Hays/Russell
R9 Ranch change applications

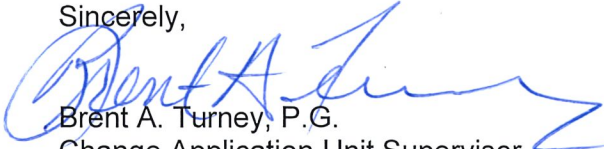
Dear Mr. Feril:

This letter follows letters from the Chief Engineer dated May 4 and 15, 2018 (enclosed). As you know, DWR has received a series of change applications from the Cities of Hays and Russell proposing to convert the water rights on the R9 Ranch from irrigation to municipal use, along with other proposed changes consistent with the Cities' desire to implement the R9 Ranch Project and transfer municipal water to the Cities. The change applications and related documents, including a draft proposed master order and draft proposed individual approvals, were made available to you and the public as explained in the aforementioned letter of May 4. Public comments that DWR has received thus far regarding these proposed changes were e-mailed to you on August 1. The supporting modeling report and modeling files were provided on February 19, 2018.

As previously indicated, we are delaying any further action regarding the change applications and the draft proposed master order until August 31, 2018, to allow GMD5 time to submit, pursuant to K.A.R. 5-25-20, its findings and recommendations concerning this matter. As you know, this matter is unique in that DWR has worked with the Cities to be more efficient in the long-run and come up with a potential final product, i.e., the draft proposed master order. Accordingly, the Chief Engineer wishes to know GMD5's findings and recommendations regarding that proposed document. GMD5 may assume that before any such order is issued by the Chief Engineer, the Cities will be required to amend their change applications to fully conform to such order.

Please submit GMD5's findings and recommendations within the allotted time. We will promptly forward to you any additional public comments that we may receive in the interim. If you have any questions, please contact me at (785) 564-6645.

Sincerely,


Brent A. Turney, P.G.
Change Application Unit Supervisor
Water Appropriation Program

BAT
Enclosures

pc: David Barfield, P.E., Chief Engineer
Jeff Lanterman, Water Commissioner, Stafford Field Office