

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO HEARING OFFICER, EARL LEWIS, CHIEF ENGINEER, DWR

Date: July 22, 2022

RE: Public Hearings for the renewal of the Groundwater Management District #4 (GMD4) Sheridan 6 and District Wide Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMA)

My name is Kelly C. Stewart and I am employed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division Water Resources (DWR), Stockton Field Office. I have been employed by DWR since December of 1990 and have served in the capacity of Water Commissioner since September of 2013. GMD 4 and the current LEMA's are both located wholly within the boundaries of my field office. I am providing this testimony in support of both LEMA's and their renewal.

Since the inception of both LEMA's, I or one of my staff have attended almost every GMD 4 board meeting as representatives of DWR. Through this process, DWR has kept abreast of all LEMA issues and we have provided answers and support to the board and staff. We have been involved with the initiation of the first SD 6 LEMA and its first renewal. We have also been involved with the initiation of the District wide LEMA and now its renewal.

Staff from the Stockton Field Office have provided support for the implementation, management, and success of these two LEMA's. Our support includes communicating and coordinating with GMD 4 in monitoring LEMA allocations, ensuring compliance with and enforcement of the LEMA's, and providing public assistance. The Stockton Field Office also has one dedicated staff member whose primary responsibilities include providing assistance to all GMD 4 stakeholders within the LEMA including water users and GMD 4 staff.

DWR and the Stockton field office have closely communicated and collaborated with GMD 4 regarding the implementation and renewal of these two LEMA's. We will continue to follow this model of collaborative effort to ensure the success of these LEMA's if renewed. DWR and the Stockton Field Office are committed to assisting GMD 4 water users in achieving responsible and effective water management.

I believe both the SD 6 and District Wide LEMA's are a success and have been instrumental in educating water users on water conservation and prolonging the life of the High Plains aquifer. It is my recommendation that both LEMA's be renewed.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

By: _____



Kelly C. Stewart, Water Commissioner