



Connie Owen, Chair

Laura Kelly, Governor

August 27, 2020

Submitted **VIA EMAIL** to: ronda.hutton@ks.gov

Re: Kansas Water Authority Comment regarding Wichita County/GMD1 Proposed LEMA

On March 26, 2020, Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 submitted a proposal to the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources to establish a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1041 in Wichita County, Kansas. In accordance with the statutory 2-stage public hearing and comment procedure, the initial public hearing was held by the Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture, on August 14, 2020, with all comments pertinent to that stage due by August 28, 2020.

At its regular public meeting held via conference call on August 24, 2020, the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) voted unanimously to submit, on or before August 28, 2020, the following official comment from the KWA to the hearing officer presiding over the initial hearing of the proposed Wichita County/GMD#1 Local Enhanced Management Area:

The Kansas Water Authority recognizes that the Wichita County LEMA proceedings are in the initial stage, where the only matters for decision are the preliminary findings of fact laid out in K.S.A. 82a-1041(b). The KWA recognizes that it is premature for any entity to comment on whether the specific proposed LEMA should ultimately be approved by the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture. Therefore, mindful of these limitations, the Kansas Water Authority is generally supportive of Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 showing initiative and taking steps to implement groundwater conservation mechanisms available under law.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Connie Owen
Chair