

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
785-564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-3556

Secretary Jackie McClaskey

Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

February 19, 2018

Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5
125 S. Main
Stafford, KS 67578

WaterPack
306-A N. Main St.
St. John, KS 67576

RE: Notice of Posting Modeling Report and Modeling Files
Concerning Proposed Hays/Russell R9 Ranch Project

Mr. Feril and Mr. Wenstrom,

As you are aware, we have been in discussions with the Cities of Hays and Russell regarding their proposed change applications submitted in anticipation of their desired water transfer from the R9 Ranch for municipal use in their region. Our discussions will culminate in DWR completing a draft master order and draft individual approvals for the proposed changes, which final drafts will be provided to GMD 5 for review and input and posted on our web site for the general public. As I have indicated in the past, approximately 30 days after we provide the complete package I will hold a public meeting to explain the draft proposed orders and to take input on the draft documents as part of the review process.

As part of our evaluation of the Cities' change applications, I have required the Cities to complete a modeling analysis to support their change applications by demonstrating that the proposed quantities for municipal use are reasonable over the long-term. I have also required the Cities to complete a modeling assessment of the impacts of the proposed changes on the area.

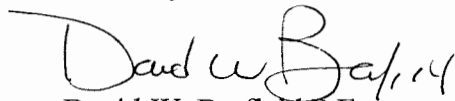
In view of past requests for additional time to review the technical work supporting the change applications, I am taking the opportunity now to provide to you and post on our web site the enclosed final modeling report done by the Cities' consultant, which report was finalized last week. The supporting model files will also be made available as soon as we reasonably can (we are working with the Cities' consultant to determine the best way to make these files available as they total over 30 Gb in size).

While the draft master order and the draft individual approvals will have many other terms and conditions, for purposes of the modeling analysis, the principal considerations are the annual authorization and the long-term limitations. Based on the Cities' work, the draft documents would allow the Cities to divert, in any year, up to 6,756.8 acre-feet (AF) of water from all of the R9 Water Rights combined (the result from our consumptive use analysis), and in any 10-year period, up to 48,000 AF of water (an average of 4800 AF/year). The modeling analysis focuses on providing support for the 4,800 AF/year as a reasonable long-term yield and showing its effects.

No decision about the Cities' proposed change applications has been made and we will continue conferring with the Cities to narrow the issues for eventual public review. We wanted to give you ample time, however, to review the modeling that the Cities have provided in justification for their requested changes.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David W. Barfield". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David W. Barfield P.E.

Chief Engineer

Cc:

Toby Dougherty, City Manager, City of Hays

Jon Quinday, City Manager, City of Russell

Jeff Lanterman, Water Commissioner, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Stafford Field Office