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St. John, Kansas 67576

March 15, 2018

GMD #5  
125 South Main  
Stafford, Kansas 67578

**Subject: Comments on LEMA Proposal**

As many others in GMD#5 have expressed, I appreciate the efforts of GMD#5 as it works on solutions to the Quivira NWR impairment which aim to mitigate impacts to the property right of each water right holder in the GMD#5 area. I also appreciate GMD#5 standing firm and questioning each step and each map the DWR has put in front of them. For many years I have thought we would be minimally affected by the outcome since most points of diversion were a couple miles or more from the Rattlesnake Creek bed. It is astounding that our static water table is nearly the same as when the first wells were developed. Our irrigation systems have improved in efficiencies through the years by conversion of flood irrigation and hand move to center pivot systems. In the ten years time frame the recent modeling used, our net irrigation is sixty-four percent of our allotted use. In most cases Irrigated Acres are fewer now than what was developed and what is authorized. Furthermore the center pivot sprinkler packages have evolved to greater efficiencies.

Augmentation should be a large part of solving the intermittent stream issues that Quivira faces and maybe the use of some type of solar pump would work.

The removal of end guns is good if it will help solve the problem. It readily shows the public we are working on a solution to improve efficiency, as well as reduce irrigation usage.

The additional reduction of 4000 acre ft in the high impact area is still a hard pill to swallow. Stafford County and especially the producers within the High Impact Zone are going to feel great economic pains if buyout or moving of wells is not carefully thought out and implemented. Many want to just let those in this Impact Zone take the hit. But I'm grateful for those who believe and know this is an issue that affects the entire Zone that the DWR has outlined and am willing to share responsibility to minimize the economic effects to Stafford County and each affected individual.

I affirm the concept of compensation to those water right holders who will agree to reduce water use in the High Impact Zone—these persons would be giving up significant income potential to help resolve the impairment issue. There is also potential to purchase some of the water rights from individuals that have a willingness to sell. These water rights may be used in solving the impairment. Further, if allowances are made for moving some existing water rights

away from the High Impact Zone the economic effects may be marginally minimized. Clearly there are no easy answers, but if we can work together and share out the burden we can achieve our goal with minimal negative economic affects to all.

The LEMA mentions some potential penalties that could occur if the effects of the whole LEMA program are not working in 5 to 6 years from now. I believe this problem has taken several decades to develop, and that a period of 5 to 6 years may not be adequate to realize the desired outcome. It might possibly take several decades to get to a favorable solution.

Making and taking small steps to minimize economics affects is paramount because many have invested much to build their irrigation systems. By taking the steps mentioned above, and documenting such steps as they happen, it should be abundantly clear to the aggrieved parties that good-faith efforts are being made to resolve the Quivira NWR impairment issue.

Sincerely yours,

Marlyn Spare

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