

Darrell Wood - Edwards (Pres.)
Fred Grunder - Pratt (V Pres.)
John Janssen - Kiowa (Treas.)
Jerry Cullop - Rice (Sec.)
Justin Gatz - Reno
Kent Lamb - Stafford
Phil Martin - Barton
Kerry Froetschner - Pawnee
Tom Taylor - At-Large



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MAR 06 2018

Big Bend GMD #5

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In accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1041, Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 ("District") is pursuing a Local Enhanced Management Area ("LEMA"). On February 15, 2018, the District board presented the key components of the draft LEMA plan at the annual meeting. These components are: 1) end gun removal within entire LEMA area, 2) implement streamflow augmentation at a rate of 15 cubic feet per second ("cfs"); and 3) promote movement or retirement of water rights out of sensitive areas of the LEMA. The draft LEMA document is available for public review and comment. Please use this form to submit comments and concerns to the District by **March 1, 2018**.

Name (optional): Mike Breitenbach

Contact Info (optional): Mikeb@ofmtorch.com

GMD5 Board,

Any farmer or landowner with irrigated land is going to take groundwater sustainability seriously. Water rights more than triple their land values and the agricultural product they produce. We will do what is appropriately effective to maintain this resource that farmers and wildlife all across the basin depend on.

Shutting down the MDS wells that represent only 8% of the total wells in the area has been suggested by some. I imagine these would be people without MDS wells. Not many would willingly devalue their farm potentially by millions to see, that just maybe, the stream flow will be affected. Shutting down all the MDS wells won't come close to reaching the acre feet required.

Many of these wells like the ones of our family in Belpre are on the edge of areas marked "Priority level 5" showing a "Stream Response" percent of 5% which is of the lowest listed on the map. Going after these farming families, so far from the affected area is a reactionary measure that is shown within the Quivera LEMA documents to be the least effective area for results. The complete disruption of farming families shouldn't be so easily and quickly suggested when there are incentive based solutions that farms in a wider area could share. Shutting any wells down will decrease the tax base and take revenue out of the area.

Regards,

Mike Breitenbach
Breitenbach Family Farms LLC