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Justin Gatz - Reno  
Kent Lamb - Stafford  
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Tom Taylor - At-Large



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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. Feel free to attach pages as needed.

Name (optional): Gary Hornbaker

Contact Info (optional): 620-546-3568

I believe the Big Bend District, Water Pack and the DWR should be commended for all the work and effort put in, trying to solve the complex problem which has occurred due to the NWRS filing an impairment due to low stream flow. I have lived virtually all my life 1 mi south of the refuge and have observed many occasions where the refuge has not been able to handle the water that came to it. It is my hope that they would come up with a plan which would allow them to store and conserve water in a more efficient way. This is made more important by the poor quality of the water which leaves the refuge.

I think the proposed LEMA can help the situation of low stream flow and that augmentation can be used when the stream flow is not sufficient.

It seems to me that the proposed location of augmentation wells is wrong. This is in an area not covered by the LEMA and uses fresh water which naturally bypasses the refuge. I think the wells should be located on the refuge as it is the most effective area to have a well field.

Being a land owner in the proposed location and having my domestic well directly north of it makes me very concerned about saltwater intrusion. For the last 16 years water from the well at the cemetery 1/2 mile north of my house has been too salty to drink. My fear is that opening up a well field of 4000A/ft. just south of Peace Creek will draw the salt water in that direction.

Thank You for your consideration.

Gary Hornbaker