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September 11, 2018

Dear Board Members of GW5,

I am writing this letter to express my thoughts and concerns about LEPA proposed by the board.

First, for any LEPA to succeed, two objectives have to be achieved. One is to meet the water right requirement by Quivera. The second objective is to stop the decline of the streamflow of the Rattlesnake as designated by the Chief Engineer. To achieve this goal, two programs must be implemented as you propose. One is the **removal** of end guns and second is the **augmentation** at the Quivera site.

However, I believe there is a **better solution** than has been proposed by you for the reduction of irrigation use.

As indicated on the colored LEPA map, there are basically five different areas. I will label them one through five. Area One is the area that has 10% effect on the Rattlesnake. Area 2 would be the same with a 20% effect. Area 3 would be 30% effect and Area 4 would be 40% effect. Area 5 would be 50% effect.

I believe that in each area, there should be Categories: an A category, a B category, a C category and a D category. Category A would be water right numbers from the year 1957 to 1976. The B Category would be from year 1976 to 1980 and C Category from 1980 to 1984. Category D is any well after 1984 which is considered a Minimum Stream Flow well. This would address the low water right numbers and they would have less water reduction. This would be similar for all areas 1 to 5.

Each of the five areas would look at their percentage of how they affect the Rattlesnake and follow the same program.

For example, Area 3 (30% effects) may have 320 irrigation wells with a total appropriation of 60,000 acre feet. If GMW5 sets the goal at 30% reduction of appropriated water for Group 3 for five years, then irrigators must use conservation methods to meet the goals. Each category should have it's own reduction goal. Category A should have the lowest goal because of the lowest water right number than Categories B, C, and D.

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For example, Category A-28% reduction goal, Category B-29% reduction goal, Category C-30% reduction goal and Category D-35% reduction goal.

**My understanding of the appropriation water rights, the water usage is 83% in a five year period.** That would indicate a 17% reduction in appropriation in the five year average. If the end guns are removed, that would be an additional 8-10% reduction of the appropriated use making a total reduction of approximately 27%.

I believe with crop rotation and conservation, that the producers can easily achieve a 30% reduction over five years in Area 3.

**The areas with the highest effect on the Rattlesnake would have the highest cut.** While this may seem unfair to some, I believe it is fair to the persons involved in the LEPA. For example, if you're only 10% of the problem, you should be 10% of the solution. And, if you're 40% of the problem, you should be 40% of the solution. If you are 50% of the problem, you should be 50% of the solution.

Each area would look at their percentage of how they affect the Rattlesnake and follow the same program.

**The Red and Orange area 5 is the critical area.** I consulted with some Hydrologists and I have a degree in Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis in fluid movement. To achieve the most effective results in the LEPA is to have the largest water usage reduction in the Red and Orange areas.

This may sound heartless, but I believe all water users in GW5 must step up to the plate and become part of the solution in this area.

I propose the following steps in a solution:

1. Buying water rights and retiring them in the Red-Orange areas.
2. Encouraging participation in the Conservation Reserve Program in the Red-Orange area.
3. Encouraging producers to rotate crops using a low water crop such as cotton.
4. Allowing the transfer of water rights out of the Red-Orange to another area.
5. Finally, I propose GW5 offer a program of leasing 42 irrigated circles at \$20,000 per circle per year for 5 years. This would be a cost of a little over \$800,000. This can be funded by increasing the water tax to \$200 a circle a year in GMW. The irrigator has the right to dry land farm the circle for five years.

**I feel this is a small price for all water users to help that area.**

I have visited with several Hydrologists. By using the previous suggestions, I believe we could reduce water usage by **12,000 acre feet** in the Red-Orange area. This far exceeds what is needed to help the stream flow in the Rattlesnake.

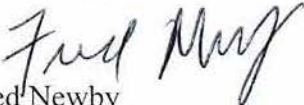
A producer that that goes into the 5 year program, will have the funding possibility to develop a dry land quarter outside the Red-Orange area or purchase a quarter outside the area and transfer his water right and his irrigation equipment to the other area.

I know there will be hardship cases in the Red-Orange area. Hopefully, selling water rights, participating in conservation reserve, allowing movement of water rights to other areas and GW5 leasing 42 circles will soften the blow of the hardships. I believe this is a better solution than the Chief Engineer forcefully shutting down all water rights in the area indefinitely.

**I believe all water users in the GW5 are responsible for solving this problem** in the Red-Orange area. I believe the recreation water users, the industrial users, and the cities and towns must step up and make their share of the cuts as being proposed to the irrigators and help with the funding.

These are my suggestions from my knowledge and training and consulting the Hydrologists. Hopefully, you will consider my suggestions.

Yours truly,

  
Fred Newby