

# City of St. John



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October 24, 2018

Dear Board of GMD5:


The governing body of the City of St. John urges the implementation of water augmentation at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. We support the efforts of GMD5 to remediate the impairment issue filed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Schools, Governments and Cities within the LEMA area will be affected catastrophically by the severe curtailment of irrigation in the Rattlesnake Basin.


Augmentation relieves the impairment to the refuge. It should be obvious to persons of reason that onsite wells would be the most efficient method of water supply to the affected area. The well field proposal is an effective but less efficient method. The intransigence of the US Fish and Wildlife Service along with the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources impedes a logical and win-win solution to the impairment via augmentation.


We agree with many of the proposals in the LEMA draft and whole heartedly support the efforts of the board and staff of GMD5 to remediate the claim. The economic impact on this area's population must be part of the consideration. The economic drivers of our area are the agricultural, oil, and gas industries. Our area's economy is already in a fragile condition. We are anxious about threats to our tax base, family incomes, student population and our ability to provide necessary infrastructure to our community. The loss of 4000 acre feet of water usage in zone D will have negative influences on the well-being of our community. Augmentation will help dilute the economic impact to our community and surrounding environ and maximize the preservation of Quivira, as a viable natural resource.


We urge the Board of Big Bend Groundwater Management District 5 to leave the LEMA boundaries as originally drafted to spread the economic impact over the entire Rattlesnake Creek basin.

Sincerely,

  
Dakota Tucker  
City of St. John, Mayor

  
Mark Bryant  
City of St. John, Council President

  
Marshal Sanders  
City of St. John, Council Member

  
Jim Doran  
City of St. John, Council Member

  
Ryan Christie  
City of St. John, Council Member

  
Esai Macias  
City of St. John, Council Member

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OCT 29 2018

Big Bend GMD #5