



VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

August 7, 2019

Board of Directors
Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5
125 South Main Street
Stafford, Kansas 67578

Re: Letter dated July 30, 2019 (the **Rejection**) from David Barfield, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources (**DWR**), to Darrell Wood, President, Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 (**GMD**) regarding Request to Initiate Local Enhanced Management Area (**LEMA**) Proceedings

All:

The Water PACK board asked me to convey via this letter the pressing need for further progress on augmentation. Many of the initiatives that Water PACK is currently pursuing require that substantial progress be made, in as expedient a manner as possible, in achieving augmentation of Rattlesnake Creek stream flow. Water PACK recognizes that GMD 5 and KDA/DWR have a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the development of augmentation that was reached in November of 2018. Water PACK encourages GMD 5 to pursue state permitting and augmentation design and operational procedures identified as necessary as this project moves forward.

In the last year, Water PACK has commissioned an independent review of the augmentation and conservation measures described in the most recent LEMA. We also facilitated the development of an economic study, performed by a group of leading Kansas State University professors that demonstrated the critical role of water to our local economy. Finally, Water PACK led the formation of the ACRES Initiative in the hopes of facilitating public support for market-based solutions to the Quivira complaint. Taken together, these projects have shown the clear need for expediting augmentation, drawn interest from funding partners, and identified varied programs both public and private that could help achieve augmentation and other related conservation objectives.

DWR has made clear in the Rejection its intent to pursue direct administration while working with others to develop a form of water conservation area (**WCA**). At the same time, DWR has urged continued planning and development of augmentation in order to avoid significant cuts in water use, estimated to range between 60 and 70% in the absence of completed augmentation infrastructure. In light of such proposed cuts, despite the prospect of imminent conflict, continued and accelerated progress on augmentation is required.

To that end, Water PACK recently renewed efforts to strengthen communications between the GMD and key staff from U.S. Fish and Wildlife through in-person meetings at the Refuge that focused on the Service's water quality and quantity criteria. Fostering technical assistance and information sharing in this manner, during the planning and development stages, should hasten successful collaborations and not

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overburden critical resources in this critical time. Again, however, we hope that you continue to press forward on augmentation with all deliberate speed.

We remain committed to partnering with the GMD and with others as augmentation and related projects evolve. There are many pieces to this complex puzzle, but it remains imperative that we work in concert to complete the work required so that we can continue with the farming and ranching that is so important to our members, region and state. It is our hope that a cooperative, collaborative path can be identified and followed.

We propose a meeting in the near future to develop that avenue. Please let us know how we might assist in organizing such a conversation, as well as how we might continue to press forward in our related efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kent Moore
President

Copy: Kansas Department of Agriculture