

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

September 29, 2017

BY E-MAIL (PDF) AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Ron Klataske
Executive Director
Audubon of Kansas
210 Southwind Place
Manhattan, KS 66503
Ron_klataske@audubonofkansas.org

Ms. Margy Stewart
Chair, Board of Trustees
Audubon of Kansas
210 Southwind Place
Manhattan, KS 66503
aok@audubonofkansas.org

Dear Mr. Klataske and Ms. Stewart,

Thank you for your interest in the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) impairment investigation and remedy development as expressed in your letter dated September 6, 2017.

We are actively working with Groundwater Management District No. 5 (GMD 5) and basin stakeholders to develop a long-term solution to remedy the impairment.

GMD 5 is working on a project to augment flows into the refuge and is developing a local enhanced management plan (LEMA) to reduce groundwater pumping. The GMD is actively working to develop more details on both components and each will be carefully evaluated by KDA-DWR to ensure they address the existing impairment. The goal is to provide the Refuge with water of sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy their water right.

While we appreciate the concerns expressed in your letter, we believe it is premature to determine that either the process or the product of this process is insufficient.

As more details become available, we will make them available on our web site and via other public processes as appropriate. We encourage you to remain informed and engaged in these processes.

David W. Barfield, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Division of Water Resources
Kansas Department of Agriculture

Cc:

Mr. Will Meeks
Assistant Regional Director
United States Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 6, Mountain-Prairie Region
P.O. Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225-0486

Mr. Brian Caruso
Chief, Division of Water Resources
Regional Hydrologist
United States Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 6, Mountain-Prairie Region
P.O. Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225-0486

United States Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
Rocky Mountain Region
755 Parfet St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Mr. Mike Oldham
Project Leader and Refuge Manager
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1434 NE 80th St.
Stafford, KS 67578

Mr. Orin Feril
Manager
Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5
125 South Main St.
Stafford, KS 67578

Jackie McClaskey
Secretary of Agriculture
Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502-5000

Jeff Lanterman
Water Commissioner
Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water
Division of Water Resources - Stafford Field Office
300 S. Main Street
Stafford, KS 67578-1521