

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO HEARING OFFICER, EARL LEWIS, CHIEF ENGINEER,
DWR

Date: January 9, 2026

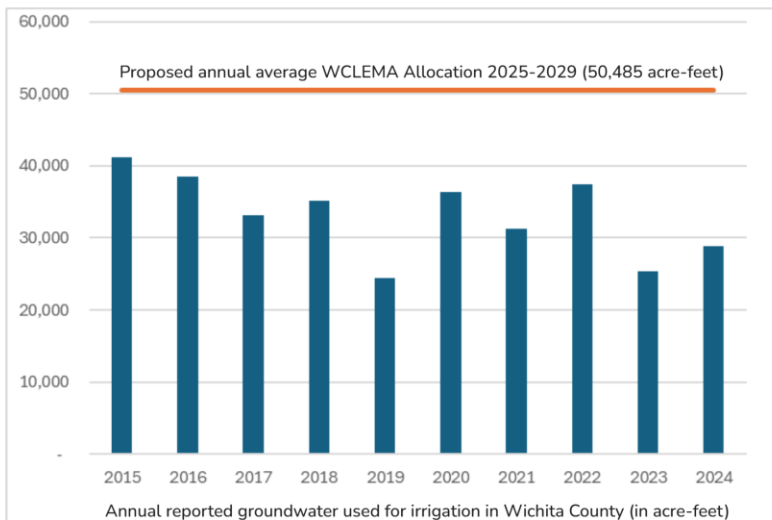
RE: Public Hearing for the renewal of the Wichita County LEMA

My name is Lane Letourneau, and I am the Water Appropriation Program Manager for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources. I have been employed by DWR for 38 years and have been program manager for approximately the last 19 years.

Chris Beightel, Water Management Services Program Manager, and myself reviewed the proposed Wichita County Local Enhanced Management Area (WCLEMA) submitted by Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD).

DWR had two main observations that caused us to question how the proposed WCLEMA would generate water savings:

- 1) The goal for irrigation withdrawals proposed in the WCLEMA (252,425 acre-feet) is higher than the LEMA it is replacing (246,835 acre-feet).
- 2) The goal for irrigation withdrawals proposed in the WCLEMA (252,425 acre-feet), averaged by year ($252,425/5 = 50,485$ acre-feet) is higher than the average use in Wichita County for 2015-2024 and higher than any individual year in that period. See the graphic below.



We met with GMD manager Katie Durham and GMD's consultant, David Barfield, to discuss our observations and concerns. Mr. Barfield presented data responsive to our concerns, including that a subset of less than 30% of the water rights within the WCLEMA boundary would generate the LEMA's water savings by using less than their recent historical use.

I am prepared to answer any clarifying questions from the Chief Engineer or from representatives of Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

By: 
Lane Letourneau
Water Appropriations Program Manager