

EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

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**Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2
Testimony Before the
Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Concerning the Proposed Expansion of the
Equus beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 Boundaries
Tim Boese, Manager
October 4, 2016**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 (District), I wish to thank the Chief Engineer for the opportunity to provide information regarding the proposed expansion of the District boundaries.

The District was formed in 1975 and the boundaries remain unchanged until December 20, 1988, when the Chief Engineer approved an expansion of the District boundaries following a petition by the District Board and public hearing. On September 10, 2013, the District Board approved a petition and resolution of intent to expand the District. The petition, resolution, and accompanying map were received by the Chief Engineer on March 6, 2014.

In support of the petition to expand the District, the District is providing the following information pursuant to KSA 82a-1033(b) and K.S.A 82a-1024(b).

- 1) The currently established District and proposed expansion areas substantially comprise a hydrologic community as evidence by similar hydrology, aquifer characteristics, bedrock, climate, precipitation, soil, land use, and farming practices. Both the existing District area and proposed expansion areas are located in the same physiographic areas (primarily the Arkansas River Lowlands, Wellington-McPherson Lowlands, and High Plains areas) and overlie the eastern extent of the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas. The areas proposed to be included in the District are located immediately adjacent to the current District boundaries and better represent the boundaries of the High Plains Aquifer as shown on the attached map (courtesy of the Kansas Geological Survey). While some locations in the proposed expansion areas may have limited groundwater resources and saturated thickness, nevertheless, management of these limited groundwater resources is increasingly important due to technology advancements in low water use crops and irrigation systems.
- 2) The proposed expansion areas do not include any land currently inside another groundwater management district. In fact, one of the proposed expansion areas (Area 1) would eliminate the current gap in Reno County located between the District and Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5.
- 3) The statement of purposes contained in the petition conform with the intent and purposes of the Groundwater Management District Act.
- 4) The lands proposed to be annexed into the District or part thereof overlie an aquifer subject to management. The principal source of groundwater in both the District and the expansion areas is the High Plains Aquifer. The aquifer in the proposed expansion areas has similar characteristics as the aquifer in the District and therefore uniform management of the groundwater resource is desirable. Parts of the proposed expansion

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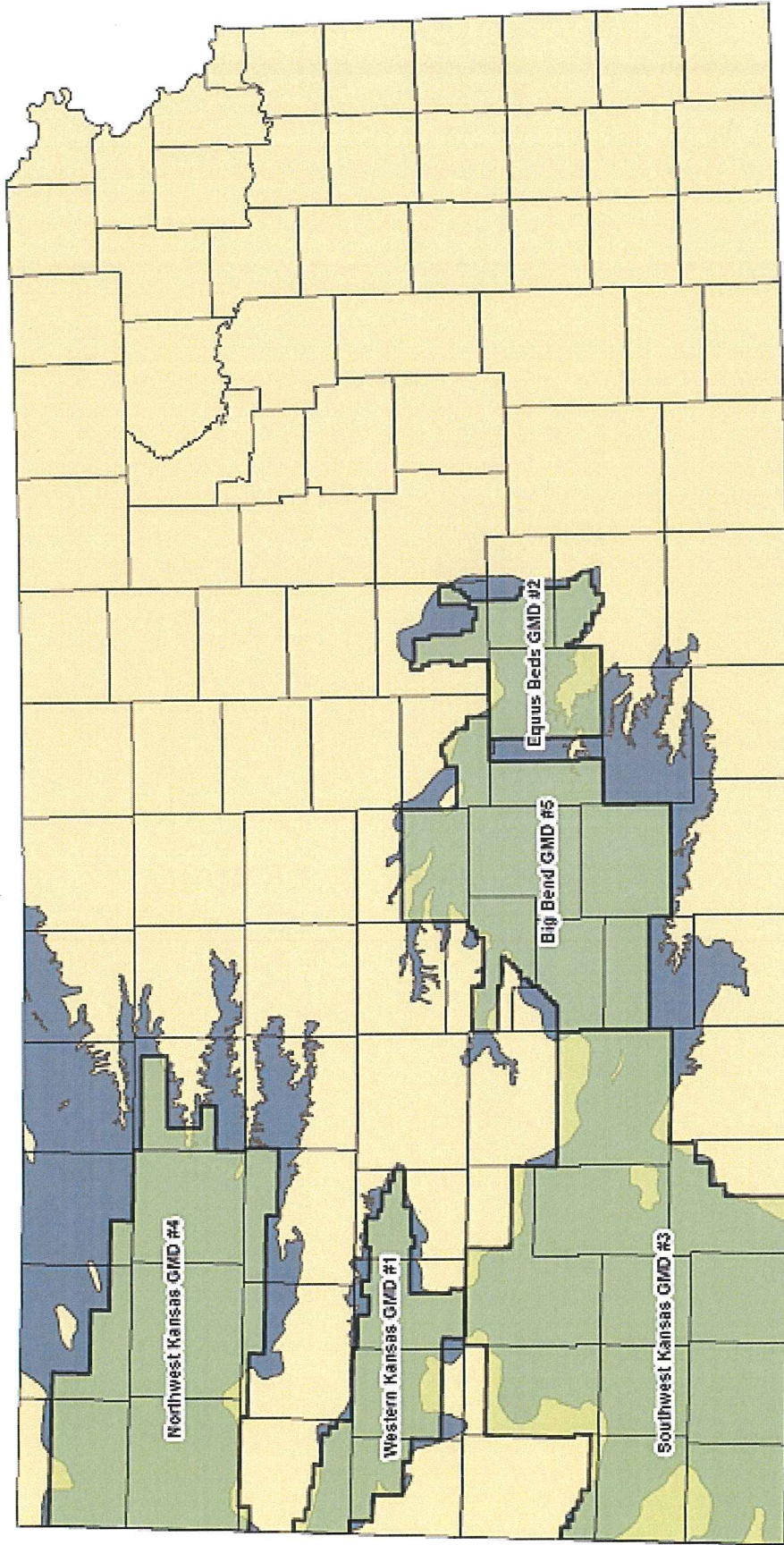
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areas represent the “edge” of the High Plains Aquifer and, although groundwater resources may be limited in parts of these areas, proper groundwater management and groundwater levels monitoring is important. Due to differences between the District’s and the Division of Water Resources’ safe yield regulation and calculation, it is the intent of the District for the expansion areas to be subject to the Division of Water Resources safe yield regulation and calculation until such time the District completes the currently ongoing sustainability modeling being cooperatively completed between the District and the Kansas Geological Survey.

- 5) The map attached to the petition is substantially correct.
- 6) The area of the proposed expanded District and existing and prospective uses of groundwater within the expanded District are sufficient to support a groundwater management program. The District is in the process of updating the current management program and the expansion areas would be included in the management program resulting in more uniform and consistent management of the aquifer and groundwater resource.
- 7) The public interest will be served by the expansion of the District boundaries. As noted by the existence of permitted non-domestic wells currently located in the expansion areas, the public interest will be served by annexing these areas into the District and therefore allowing for uniform, consistent management and enhanced monitoring of groundwater use, levels, and quality. Additionally, the District’s technical assistance to water users and landowners in the expansion areas will serve the public interest.

The District would be glad to provide additional supporting information needed for the Chief Engineer to properly evaluate the expansion request.

Groundwater Management Districts within Kansas



Legend

- Groundwater Management Districts
- High Plains Aquifer



KU KANSAS
GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY

The University of Kansas
Kansas Geological Survey – Geology
University of Kansas – Lawrence, KS
High Plains Aquifer Extent KGS 1985
NAQ 1983 UTM Zone 14 03 May 2012