

RESOLUTION 2013 – 5

To establish concern on new appropriations of water from the palio-river channel aquifer in Hamilton County

OF THE

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 (GMD3) board of directors is locally elected and empowered by the Kansas legislature to represent the groundwater interests of the GMD3 area of Kansas; and,

WHEREAS, the GMD3 board of directors is aware of poor quality Arkansas River flow from upstream of the boundaries of GMD3 interring GMD3 and infiltrating fresh groundwater supplies and affecting the usability of the GMD3 groundwater supply; and,

WHEREAS, the GMD3 board of directors and staff have participated in a drinking water supply and distribution alternatives study in the groundwater areas affected by the poor river water quality infiltration in Finney, Kearny and Hamilton Counties; and,

WHEREAS, presentations of the special study work in Hamilton County included the need to define and better manage a very fresh water local paleo-river channel aquifer that supplies the City of Syracuse, is tributary to the Arkansas River that feeds GMD3 and general statewide safe yield rules allow additional appropriations; and,

WHEREAS, the GMD3 work resulted in a local run to file for available appropriations that forced a filing by GMD3 to establish a priority as a management tool in the joint water quality and water distribution evaluation of GMD3, Reclamation, Kansas Water office and WSU; and,

WHEREAS, the joint water supply study identified a lack of reliable information on the sustainable yield of the Hamilton County paleo-river channel that exists from inside Colorado south of Holly, to where it connects directly with the Arkansas River alluvium near Syracuse; and,

WHEREAS, the paleo-river channel in Hamilton County runs parallel to the boundary of the Arkansas River IGUCA and is tributary to the IGUCA; and,

WHEREAS, there is a local interstate groundwater supply concern of a proposed Holly Farm development project on the Stateline in Colorado that may adversely affect the paleo-river channel aquifer groundwater supply into Kansas to sustaining the quality and quantity of the paleo-river channel supply to existing Kansas appropriations in Hamilton County and into GMD3; and,

WHEREAS, the effects of the present fresh groundwater flow from the paleo-river channel aquifer to the Arkansas river above GMD3 to mitigate the very poor quality water supply from Colorado to GMD3 member individuals and Communities is not well understood; and,

WHEREAS, The City Of Lakin recently was required to spend millions of dollars on a new micro-filtration water treatment plant to address the high uranium and other pollutants from river water that are adversely affecting the groundwater quality in GMD3 ; and,

WHEREAS, the board of directors of GMD3 desires to be provided more time to install monitoring equipment, gather more data, have additional water quality samples collected and evaluated, and complete some ongoing studies with Reclamation and other local water management partners inside and outside the GMD3 before additional new appropriations of water are considered from the paleo-river channel aquifer;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 Board of Directors of Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 of the State of Kansas, in regular meeting duly assembled this 17^h day of December, 2013, that the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 Board of Directors act to establish a letter of concern to the chief engineer regarding any new appropriation of water from the Palio-river channel aquifer in Hamilton County, beginning with the priority of the GMD3 new appropriation application, to provide GMD3 and its study partners an opportunity to conduct additional data collection, evaluation and community meetings informing public water suppliers and other stakeholders of the results of our work, seek letters of support for cities in the affected area and provide recommendations for water management to protect and properly manage the available water options in the Upper Arkansas River valley in Kansas.

Adopted this 17th day of December, 2013



President



Secretary