

RESOLUTION 97-2

OF THE

SOUTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the District is fundamentally aware of the dynamic economic and hydrologic impacts provided by Federal Agriculture Programs (i.e. the Farm Bill) on groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, the hydrologic destiny of the District is based on an agricultural based economy which utilizes 97% of its groundwater resources for irrigation; and

WHEREAS, the groundwater resources of the District require innovative conservation strategies being implemented in an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach; and

WHEREAS, it is a purpose of the District to work cooperatively with the Federal Government to effect meaningful management of the District's groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the irrigation of "center-pivot corners" is an essentially inefficient farming practice driven by the economic necessity to irrigate every acre allowable under federal agriculture programs; and

WHEREAS, it is also recognized that the targeted enrollment of "center-pivot corners" in the Conservation Reserve Program would be an extremely beneficial endeavor resulting in the conservation of precious, non-renewable groundwater reserves, creation of environmental buffering areas and abundant wildlife habitat, and provide a source of economic advantage for farmers all across the high plains aquifer; then

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District that all appropriate entities, particularly the United States Department of Agriculture, be solicited and encouraged to support the targeted, comprehensive enrollment of additional CRP acres in the form of "center-pivot corners" overlying the High Plains Aquifer and other significant groundwater reservoirs in need of conservation and management; and also, then

THEREFORE, that the District work cooperatively with local water users to further develop effective programs in the long term protection and conservation of water rights and related "base acres" to implement the comprehensive enrollment of CRP acres and pro-actively enhance the future longevity of groundwater supplies in Southwest Kansas.

Adopted this 11th day of June, 1997.


Steve Stone, President


Michael J. McNiece, Secretary