

Definitions

Q-Stable: The quantity of water that can be pumped from a region that will balance out with recharge and sub-surface inflow, so that the water table will be stable. This relationship is expected to hold true for at least a decade or two.

50% Q-Stable: The quantity of water that can be pumped from a region that will reduce the current rate of water table declines by half.

GMD: Groundwater Management Districts (GMDs) provide local representation to water users. GMDs can propose rules specific to their district boundary to protect water right holders from the effects of aquifer decline and poor water quality. GMDs assist producers and municipalities in reducing water use through efficiency improvements and projects to improve the quality and reliability of water supply. GMDs also provide valuable feedback to state water agencies and the state legislature on the impact to local water users on proposed waivers of rules and on proposed legislation.

DWR: The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR) is responsible for administering water rights and enforcing all statutes, rules, and regulations pertaining to water rights and water use.

Kansas Water Office: The Kansas Water Office is the planning, policy, coordinating, and marketing agency for the state. The Water Office is responsible for the development and implementation of the Kansas Water Plan.

LEMA: A Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) is an area designated by a GMD for coordinated conservation of water to achieve a defined conservation goal for the overall benefit of the local water users and local economy. Water users within a LEMA may be granted flexibilities in water use that otherwise would not be allowed under state water law, rules, and regulations, at the discretion of the Chief Engineer. A LEMA typically consists of a water conservation goal and an action plan to achieve that goal through reductions in water use by temporarily reducing the allocation of water rights within the area.

WCA: A Water Conservation Area (WCA) is like a LEMA, except that participation is at the discretion of individual water rights holders and participants may withdraw from the WCA at any time. Water conservation goals and any flexibilities within a WCA must be approved by DWR prior to implementation. GMDs provide recommendation for approval of all WCAs prior to adoption.

MYFA: A Multi-Year Flex Account gives water users a five-year water allocation, allowing them to exceed their base water right in any year so long as the five-year quantity is not exceeded.

I-CARE: Irrigation, Climate, and Resource Evaluation reports that are sent to water users annually by GMD3, detailing recent water use and aquifer conditions. See www.gmd3.org/icare for more information.