



Southwest Kansas
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House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Testimony supporting HB 2357
By: Mark E. Rude, Executive Director, GMD3
March 7, 2011

Chairman Powell and members of the committee, I am Mark Rude, Executive Director of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3. I appear before you today in support of the restoration of funding for the lost water measurement stations needed to manage the available Arkansas River water supplies in Southwest Kansas, which is the purpose of HB 2357. We support using state revenue generated from State owned oil and gas property beneath the bed and banks of the river to manage the river flows.

On April 12, 1984 an IGUCA was requested by GMD3 for the Upper Arkansas River, and in 1985 the KS v CO Supreme Court case was filed. Since those dates, work to improve timely information on the Upper Arkansas River and canal operations has been ongoing to improve measurement and management decisions that maximize the usable water supply in southwest Kansas. Efforts to develop and maintain usable gaging sites and important timely data have been sporadic and dependent on available DWR resources since that time. Working agreements between DWR and the Ditch companies in the 1990's resulted in sophisticated concrete measuring flumes installed by the ditches with the understanding that if this was done, DWR would contract with the USGS to provide hydrographer and equipment services and provide web based publishing of flow information for timely and accurate information. This has worked very well until the agency funding crunch.

The lack of agency funds ended the operating partnership with the USGS on five sites (two river gages and three canal gages). In October 2010 the U.S. Geological Survey discontinued operation of the five gages which are located in the Upper Arkansas River or in irrigation ditches fed by Arkansas River flows. DWR's share for funding these five discontinued Arkansas River/ditch gages would have been \$33,420 in FY 2011. At present, the cost to resume operation of these five gages would be \$55,360 because federal matching funds were committed to other streamgages and federal funds for streamgages are expected to decrease this year. Projects to improve river operations and water sharing in the Upper Ark are underway and the results of these projects rely on accurate gaging data. Compact commissioners Randy Hayzlett and Dave Brenn are directly involved in the projects and support this initiative to restore funding to the needed gages.

The loss of these gages affects Kansans ability to manage the river resource and to quantify releases needed from John Martin Reservoir to satisfy Kansas water users and to distribute the available surface water flows. The management of the river water supplies is impaired without the needed funding for these gages. I have attached some information and graphs that may help illustrate how this information is used to manage deliveries from Colorado in southwest Kansas.

State general fund revenues from oil and gas leases of state land have been provided from the river corridor for many years, and HB 2357 simply seeks to establish a fund from these river revenues to manage the river.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

House Ag & Natural Resources
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Attachment 2

Key Gaging stations in the Arkansas River Basin below Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado (From Kansas DWR)

Most recent data for House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Hearing, HB 2357

	27-Feb-11	28-Feb-11	01-Mar-11	02-Mar-11	03-Mar-11	04-Mar-11	05-Mar-11
1 Pueblo Reservoir Content (USBR)	249,648	250,279	251,094	251,956	252,867	253,918	
2 Trinidad Reservoir Content (Corps)	18,674	18,706	18,746	18,785	18,831	18,864	
3 John Martin Reservoir Content (Corps)	56,997	57,298	57,561	57,787	58,050	58,277	
4 JMR storage chg (calculated)	338	301	263	226	263	227	
5							
6							
7 Purgatoire @ Madrid (ARB 19)	19	21	16	19	17	19	
8 Purgatoire below Trinidad Reservoir (ARB 19)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9 Purgatoire @ Fishers Crossing	19	17	17	14	14	14	
10 Highland Canal (Ark River Basin 17)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11 Purgatoire @ Highland Canal (ARB 17)	na	na	na	na	na	na	
12							
13 Fountain Creek @ Pueblo (USGS)	150	146	142	146	102	102	
14 Ark @ Avondale (USGS)	330	338	347	314	318	314	
15 Ft Lyon Storage Canal (Ark River Basin 17)	49	57	61	24	0	0	
16 Ark near Rocky Ford	16	15	16	47	49	48	
17 Timpas Creek near Swink	11	11	11	10	12	12	
18 Ft Lyon Canal (Ark River Basin 17)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19 Ark @ Lajunta (Ark River Basin 17)	71	72	66	85	96	101	
20 Ark River Las Animas (USGS)	93	95	99	93	108	128	
21 Purgatoire Las Animas (USGS)	48	33	19	13	8	6	
22 Muddy Creek (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
23 JMR Release (USGS)	1	1	1	1	1	1	
24 JMR KS Call	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25 Fort Bent (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26 Amity (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27 Fort Bent Ditch Aug Station (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28 Lamar Canal (ARB 67)	8	7	7	7	7	7	
29 Lamar Power & Light Discharge	10	10	10	10	10	10	
30 Ark @ Lamar (USGS)	9	8	8	8	9	9	
31 Hyde (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32 Center Farm Aug Station (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33 Buffalo (ARB 67)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
34 Ark @ Granada (USGS)	66	63	61	63	61	60	
35 Wild Horse near Holly (USGS)	seasonal	seasonal	seasonal	seasonal	seasonal	seasonal	seasonal
36							
37 Frontier Ditch (USGS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
38 Ark @ Coolidge (USGS)	97	91	87	87	83	83	
39 Stateline (calculated)	97	91	87	87	83	83	0
40 Ark @ Syracuse (USGS)	89	89	82	78	76	76	
41 Ark @ Kendall (USGS)							
42 Amazon / Great Eastern Ditch (USGS)							
43 Southside Ditch (USGS)							
44 Ark @ Deerfield (USGS)							
45 Farmers Ditch (USGS)							
46 Ark @ Garden City (USGS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
47							
48 Ark @ Coolidge Conductivity (USGS)	4,210	4,220	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,210	
49							



