



**Before the  
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee, Ways and Means  
Kansas Water Office Budget  
Earl Lewis, Acting Director  
February 19, 2019**

Madam Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the FY 2020 budget of the Kansas Water Office. I am Earl Lewis, Acting Director of the Kansas Water Office.

The Kansas Water Office budget is comprised of primarily three sources: the State General Fund (SGF), user fees from our Water Marketing and Water Assurance programs, and the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF). Today's presentation and the accompanying Agency Budget Overview are provided to outline these sources of funds within the Kansas Water Office agency. First and foremost, I support the Governor's budget, with one proposed change which is described later in this testimony.

I also would like to thank you for the action you took during the 2018 legislative session to approve a \$2.75 million SGF and a \$500,000 EDIF transfer into the SWPF. These funding lines are also included within *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*, with the Kansas Water Office being supportive of these funding recommendations and the continued legislative support of these projects benefitting the water resources of Kansas. The table below highlights these funding lines:

Page #	Program/Project	Agency	SGF Demand Transfer FY2019	Governor's Rec. FY2020
--	Streambank Stabilization	Department of Agriculture	\$500,000	\$500,000
--	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy	Department of Health and Environment	\$175,000	\$175,000
17	Milford Lake RCPP	Kansas Water Office	\$200,000	\$200,000
11	Vision Education Strategy	Kansas Water Office	\$100,000	\$100,000
15	Watershed Conservation Practice Imp	Kansas Water Office	\$900,000	\$900,000
--	Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	Department of Health and Environment	\$450,000	\$450,000
12	Reservoir and Water Quality Research	Kansas Water Office	\$350,000	\$350,000
--	Crop and Livestock Research	Department of Agriculture	\$250,000	\$250,000
--	Irrigation Technology	Department of Agriculture	\$100,000	\$100,000
14	Water Tech Farms	Kansas Water Office	\$75,000	\$75,000
16	Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project	Kansas Water Office	\$50,000	\$50,000
--	Water Resource Planner	Kansas Water Office	\$100,000	**
<b>Total State Water Plan Expenditures</b>			<b>\$3,250,000</b>	<b>\$3,150,000</b>

One item of note for your attention today is funding for a Water Resource Planner position currently located in Garden City, Kansas. The Kansas Water Office was approved in the 2018 Legislative session to hire this position, with \$100,000 in FY 2019 SWPF being appropriated for that purpose. This Water Resource Planner position serves as coordinator for four Regional Advisory Committees in the Western third of the State. The Planner coordinates and implements vision related projects including Water Technology Farms, Water Conservation Area and Local Enhanced Management Area support. The agency has already hired and filled this position. The incumbent is providing vital support to stakeholders in Western Kansas addressing issues previously noted.

For FY 2020 this position is not included within *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*. The Kansas Water Office is recommending that funding lines within the Kansas Water Office budget be adjusted to continue the funding for this vital

position. The agency requests that the current SGF appropriation, as recommended in the Kansas Water Office budget under the Water Planning and Implementation Program, be increased by \$100,000 to cover the costs for the position, overhead, travel and related expenses. We further request that the SGF demand transfer to the SWPF be reduced from \$2.75 million to \$2.65 million so that there is no net impact to the SGF. SWPF projections show a FY 2020 ending balance of \$300,582. This change could be implemented without further modifications to the recommended appropriations from either the SGF for SWPF.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear today and I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.