



Alisa Fisher
Board Clerk
fishera@usd350.com

Marla Irvine
Board Treasurer
irvinem@usd350.com

Josh Meyer
Superintendent
meyerj@usd350.com

St. John – Hudson USD 350

505 N. Broadway
St. John, Kansas 67576
Ph. (620) 549-3564
FAX (620) 549-3964

September 13, 2018

Noreen Walsh, Regional Director
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Ms. Walsh,

At the regular September meeting, the USD 350 Board of Education took action to suspend all activities with Quivira National Wildlife Refuge for the current school year. School trips will not be taken to Quivira NWR and employees will not be invited to present at our school.

This action was taken in response to the water impairment conflict that stands to have a very negative impact on our community. Our students have benefited from the positive relationship between our school district and the refuge. The learning opportunities have always been good for our kids. However, the negative impact of the impairment claim on our local economy overshadows any benefit we realize from working with the refuge.

The economic impact of a 25%-30% reduction in pumping for agriculture has not been quantified, but it is reasonable to assume that production will be lower and our tax base will be reduced. The ripple effect from lost agricultural production will affect every business and government entity in our county.

This Board of Education would suggest that the US Fish & Wildlife Service consider the impact on our local community in regard to this impairment claim. At the very least, you should consider reasonable options, such as augmentation, as opposed to drastic reductions in water use.

Respectfully,

Josh Meyer, Superintendent

Chad Fisher, Board President

Board of Education

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