

## **Flexibility in the Use of Water Rights; HB 2634**

**HB 2634** allows an Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) plan or Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) plan to include flexibility in the use of water rights and amends laws regarding delegation of corrective control enforcement. [Note: Both IGUCAs and LEMAs are groundwater management tools with water conservation goals. An IGUCA can be implemented by the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture, or upon request of local stakeholders, and it is determined that one or more of five conditions regarding groundwater declines exists in a particular area. LEMAs set goals and control measures for water conservation and are recommended by groundwater management districts (GMDs) and approved by the Chief Engineer.]

The bill allows the Chief Engineer to consider allowing flexibility in the use of water rights, including, but not limited to, multi-year allocations and use in excess of a water right's annual authorized quantity in any given year so long as the overall use of water is reduced during the term of an IGUCA or LEMA.

Statutes had authorized the Chief Engineer to delegate the enforcement of any corrective control provisions ordered for an IGUCA to GMD No. 4 or any city located within the boundaries of that area. The bill removes the reference to GMD No. 4 and allow this action to occur in any GMD.