

## GMD 4 LEMA Myth vs. Fact

**Myth:** If I don't use all of my LEMA allocation I will lose it.

**FACT:** Your LEMA allocation only regulates the maximum amount you can pump over five-years. Your certified water right is the maximum allowed in any one year. If you think you may need to pump more than your certified quantity in a given year you can enroll into a Multi-year Flex Account (MYFA) that would allow you to pump more than your authorized annual quantity over five-years. You must apply for a MYFA before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The maximum amount of your MYFA quantity cannot exceed your LEMA or five times your authorized quantity (whichever is less) and may be less depending on the historical pumping of that water right.

**Myth:** The GMD 4 LEMA and SD 6 LEMA will sustain the aquifer.

**FACT:** Although sustainability of the aquifer is ideal, no evidence suggests that the aquifer is sustained under the LEMAs. SD-6 still has a rate of decline, but the rate of decline has slowed and extended the life of the aquifer in that area, not sustained it. It is still too early to tell how the aquifer will respond to reduced pumping in the GMD 4 LEMA. At present, sustainability is not yet the goal of the LEMAs. Extending the life of the aquifer for future use is.

**Myth:** The next GMD 4 LEMA will not have a carry-over quantity if I don't use all of my LEMA quantity during the course of the LEMA.

**FACT:** The current board of directors cannot tell a future board of directors to implement another LEMA. However, the board of directors did include in their motion for the GMD 4 LEMA that any possible future LEMA could consider a maximum of a 10% carry-over. If the future board of directors chooses to develop another GMD 4 LEMA based on the advice from the GMD 4 LEMA Advisory Committee, then they could decide to include a specified carry-over quantity. This would be a decision made by the board of directors in place at that time.

**Myth:** The GMD 4 LEMA allows me to bank water.

**FACT:** You can bank water over the five-year period, but you cannot exceed the annual authorized certified quantity of your water right. For example: If your five-year LEMA quantity of 600 acre-feet and your water right is authorized 200 acre-feet per year then you can pump up to 200 acre-feet per year, but cannot exceed 600 acre-feet over the five-year period. So, if in the first three years you only pumped 50 acre-feet per year (total of 150 acre-feet) you now have 450 left of your LEMA quantity but cannot exceed 200 acre-feet in any one year.

**Myth:** My water right allows me to pump 24" per acre but my LEMA quantity only allows me to pump 18" per acre in any one year.

FACT: The LEMA quantity is over five-years, not annually. You are limited annually by your certified water right quantity. You can still pump 24" per acre in any one year if needed, but other years will have to be less to not exceed 18" per acre over five years.