

**STATEMENT BY REPUBLICAN RIVER NRDs ON PLAN FOR COMPACT
COMPLIANCE**

“A recent statement by a Nebraska water official that Nebraska has no compliance plan for the Republican River Compact with Kansas was incomplete and made it appear that no efforts are being made to develop a plan or comply with the Compact. The Republican Basin Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) have moved forward to implement the integrated management plans (IMP) approved by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in 2005, which will assist the State of Nebraska in complying with the Republican River Compact Settlement Agreement. In fact, recent groundwater modeling performed by the Department of Natural Resources shows that the Republican River Basin NRDs’ plans would put Nebraska in compliance with the Republican River Compact settlement agreement.”

“These NRD plans combine reductions in groundwater pumping, removing unwanted vegetation from the river, and undertaking stream flow augmentation projects made possible with LB 701 passed in May by the Nebraska Legislature. LB 701 allows NRDs to use locally collected funds to purchase available water from reservoirs for the sole purpose of increasing instream water flows in the Republican River to make sure the needed amount of water is delivered to the State of Kansas. These actions appear to be sufficient to put Nebraska in compliance with the Compact. State law requires NRDs to consider the economic impact of any regulations they impose. The Department of Natural Resources modeling indicates that these economic consequences could be minimized if the State would protect the increases in stream flow – resulting from the actions mentioned previously – before the water reaches Kansas.”

“The Republican River Basin Natural Resources Districts continue to strive for compliance with the Republican River Compact. The goal has been challenging, as groundwater irrigators were forced to reduce the amount of water they use to generate farm revenue in an effort to increase stream flow to attain compliance with the Republican River Compact agreement with Kansas. However, the sacrifices made by groundwater irrigators to attain compliance with the Compact were not protected by the State of Nebraska for compact compliance.”

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Republican River Basin Natural Resources District Managers—

Upper Republican	Jasper Fanning
Middle Republican	Dan Smith
Lower Republican	Mike Clements
Tri-Basin	John Thorburn