



# Rock Creek Augmentation Project Annual Report

The following report is provided pursuant to LB758, approved by the Legislature and signed into law in 2018, requiring annual reporting on water augmentation projects. The Rock Creek Augmentation Project, constructed by the Upper Republican NRD in 2012 and located near the headwaters of Rock Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Republican River in Dundly County, Nebraska, is such a project. The legislation requires the following information be contained in the annual report: Amount of water pumped; amount of land leased and for what purposes; amount of revenue gained from land leases; amount of payments made in-lieu of taxes; financial details including amount of debt, amount of outstanding bonds and loans, and the project budget; whether the project is achieving its intended purpose; the effect of the project on groundwater supplies; and projections for use of the project in the future and the effect of the project on groundwater supplies. The information below pertains to calendar year 2018.

**Amount of Water Pumped:** 47.3 acre feet was pumped to maintain augmentation infrastructure; the water was not needed for Compact compliance.

**Amount of Land Leased:** 5,919 acres are subject to a prescribed grazing agreement to aid in the restoration of the formerly irrigated land to native rangeland pursuant to statutorily authorized Natural Resources Districts purposes including for soil conservation, wildlife habitat and range management.

**Land Lease Revenue:** \$37,256.07

**In-Lieu of Tax Payments:** \$29,579.44 paid for the 2017 tax year

**Amount of Debt:** \$20,579,522

**Amount of Outstanding Bonds and Loans:** \$20,579,522

**Project Budget:** The FY 17-18 budget for the project was \$750,000, much of that amount due to the need to prepare for possible 2018 augmentation pumping that was uncertain at the time the budget was approved and did not occur in 2018.

**Achieving Intended Purpose:** The project helped the State achieve Republican River Compact Compliance while lessening administration of surface water and preventing shutdowns of groundwater irrigation in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017. The project was not operated in 2018.

**Effect on Groundwater Supplies:** Groundwater levels rose an average of 1.58 feet from 2017 to 2018 across 33 monitoring wells on project property that are measured monthly.

**Future Projections and Effects on Groundwater Supplies:** The Rock Creek project could be used to pump up to 600 acre feet in late 2019 if that amount is requested by Kansas and if the URNRD chose to use the Rock Creek project rather than NCORPE.