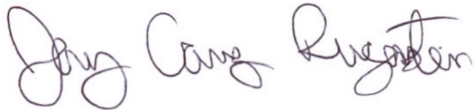


March 17, 2024

Dear Dr. Reyes,

We have now fixed the minor points raised by Dr. Fox (see line-by-line responses below). Thank you again for handling our manuscript, and please let us know if any additional files are necessary for acceptance of the manuscript.

Sincerely and on behalf of all authors,



Jeremy K. Caves Rugenstein

**Responses to Minor Comments by Dr. Fox**

*Line 87: change "paleoclimate data indicates" to "paleoclimate data indicate" (data is plural).*

Fixed.

*Line 165: change "contains low d18O" to "has low d18O [values]" (d18O is a value, not an object)*

Fixed.

*Line 168: "encoded in the d18O data"...Which data do you mean? This is a little inexact.*

Fixed. We have now clarified this by writing, "The aridity gradient, which depends on the relative contributions of westerly vs GPLLJ moisture, is therefore encoded in the value of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_p$  across the Great Plains, which can generally be understood as the precipitation-weighted average of the end-member sources."

*Line 200: change "Plio-Pleistocene the Blackwater" to "Plio-Pleistocene Blackwater"*

Fixed.

*Line 584: change "also do to" to "also due to"*

Fixed.