



TEJON-CASTAC  
**WATER**  
DISTRICT



## South of Kern River Executive Committee Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Information Posted:

[www.sokrgsp.com](http://www.sokrgsp.com)

<http://www.aewsd.org> \* <http://www.wrmwsd.com>

<http://www.tejoncastacwd.com> \* <https://www.arvincsd.com>

In Person: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Headquarters  
20401 E. Bear Mountain Blvd. Arvin, CA 93203

Via Remote (**Microsoft Teams**): <https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

**[Click here to join the meeting](#)**

Meeting Number: **244 668 249 653 95**

Meeting Password: **hi2im9Dj**

Phone: **1.213.437.9052**

Phone Meeting Number (access code): **395 321 113#**

**NOTICE:** Members of the public interested in participating by teleconference may do so using the call-in information above or by following [this link](#). Please note that this teleconference option is provided as a courtesy and at the participant's own risk. The Committee cannot guarantee that there will be no loss of connectivity or other technological obstacle to full participation through teleconferencing. By participating in this way, participants confirm that they understand this risk and that the Committee is not obliged to delay any portion of the meeting due to such technological obstacles and thus that teleconference participants may be unable to participate.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025 MEETING MINUTES
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. REPORT ITEMS
  - a. GSP Manager Report (*Muhar*)
    - i. Basin Coordination
    - ii. Outreach and Engagement
  - b. Technical Consultant Report (*EKI*)
    - i. SGMA Monitoring Network performance and sustainable management criteria (SMC) compliance

- ii. Update on California Department of Water Resources (DWR) final Land Subsidence Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- iii. Summary of DWR meeting on the 2025 Plan overview
- c. Finance Report (*Nicholas*)
- d. California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) update (*Nicholas*)
- e. Management Area updates (*Muhar, Nicholas, Martin, Barraza*)

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. State Water Resources Control Board letter dated 8 December 2025 “Returning the Kern County Subbasin to the Jurisdiction of the Department of Water Resources under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act”

9. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Potential Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), (e)(1); 1 item).

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH OF KERN RIVER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**November 20, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Yurosek called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m., and determined a quorum was present with attendance by:

**Executive Committee Directors**

Derek Yurosek – Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (AEWSD; Arvin GSA) (present)  
Mark Valpredo – Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD; Tejon-Castac Water District GSA) (present)  
Michael Blaine – Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSO; Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA) (absent)  
Rafael Gallardo – Arvin Community Services District (ACSD) (present)

**District Staff**

Sheridan Nicholas – WRMWSO (remote)  
Angelica Martin – TCWD (remote)  
Raul Barazza – ACSD (remote)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Director Valpredo moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Gallardo. The motion passed 3-0-0.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 14, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Director Valpredo moved to approve the August 14, 2025, SOKR Executive Committee meeting minutes. Director Gallardo seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**REPORT ITEMS**

**GSP Manager Report**

**Basin Coordination**

Mr. Nicholas reported that that Subbasin GSAs are working on the Annual Report, establishing standard operating procedures for water quality and subsidence, and

preparing for the December meeting with the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP). Mr. Nicholas reported that the Todd Groundwater Basin Study is continuing to progress, but a safe yield number has yet to be established.

EKI reported that members of the Technical Working Group are finalizing the data gap assessment with work to establish new monitoring wells continuing in 2026, and the subsidence subcommittee is developing templates for the exceedance investigation report and sustainable management criteria (SMC) tracking. EKI also reported that there will be an Annual Report workshop in early 2026.

### Technical Consultant Report

EKI reported on the SGMA Monitoring Network performance and SMC compliance. There was one MT exceedance within the Arvin GSA. RMW-009 continues to be monitored. There were no exceedances reported in WRM GSA or TCWD GSA. Lastly, EKI reported that the Subbasin GSAs will be engaging with CASP in December to discuss monitoring survey techniques along the CA Aqueduct in consideration of potential exceedances at select mileposts. Mr. Nicholas reported that exceedances in CA Aqueduct Pool 31 are outside of WRM GSA.

### **Finance Report**

Mr. Nicholas reported on finances to date. The Financial Report included GSP development efforts, technical consultant fees, and legal expenses. All costs are shared equally between SOKR entities. Mr. Nicholas reported that the latest funding request was received. No action was needed on SOKR finances.

### **CASP update**

Mr. Nicholas reiterated that the subsidence subcommittee is preparing for the December 2025 meeting with CASP.

### **Management Area updates**

Arvin GSA continues to track groundwater levels at RMW-009 and is in the process of mitigating a domestic well failure.

Mr. Nicholas reported that the WRM GSA continues to investigate subsidence along the California Aqueduct and gather historical information needed for exceedance reports.

Ms. Martin did not have any TCWD-specific updates to report.

Mr. Barazza did not have any ACSD-specific updates to report.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

The Directors considered the following action items:

- a. Discuss and potential action to revert to quarterly SOKR Executive Committee schedule to meet on the second Thursday of every quarter at 9:00 a.m.
- b. Discuss and consider endorsement of and ratification to GSA home boards for:
  - i. Funding up to \$32,800 per GSA for Kern Subbasin Task Orders for GSP Implementation into 2026.
  - ii. Contracting with Land IQ for Evapotranspiration Data Procurement.
  - iii. Funding the EKI Task Order for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support October 2025 Through December 2026

Director Valpredo moved to approve action item (a). Director Gallardo seconded the motion. Director Gallardo moved to approve action items b(i), b(ii), and b(iii). Director Valpredo seconded the motion. Both motions passed 3-0-0.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Potential Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), (e)(1); 1 item).

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

There was nothing to report out of the closed session.

The next SOKR Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Yurosek adjourned the SOKR Executive Committee meeting at 3:11 p.m.

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Mark Valpredo, South of Kern River  
Executive Committee Secretary



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## State Water Resources Control Board

December 8, 2025

Paul Gosselin  
Deputy Director  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Office  
Department of Water Resources

Sent via Email: [Paul.Gosselin@water.ca.gov](mailto:Paul.Gosselin@water.ca.gov)

### **RETURNING THE KERN COUNTY SUBBASIN TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

On March 2, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (Department) found, pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), that the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Kern County Subbasin were inadequate (2022 GSP Inadequate Determination). Upon the Department's 2022 GSP Inadequate Determination, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) assumed regulatory oversight over the Subbasin. On September 17, 2025, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2025-0029](#), finding that revisions in the Kern County Subbasin's draft GSPs submitted to the Board on June 20, 2025 (draft 2025 GSPs) substantially addressed the deficiencies identified in the 2022 GSP Inadequate Determination as well as additional issues raised by State Water Board staff during review of subsequent GSPs. Resolution No. 2025-0029 directed staff to transmit a letter to the Department formalizing the return of the Kern County Subbasin to Department's jurisdiction, pending Board staff's review of the Kern County Subbasin's adopted GSPs submitted to the Board on September 2, 2025 (adopted 2025 GSPs). Board staff completed review of the adopted GSPs, and this letter serves as notice to the Department that the State Water Board is returning the Kern County Subbasin to the Department's jurisdiction.

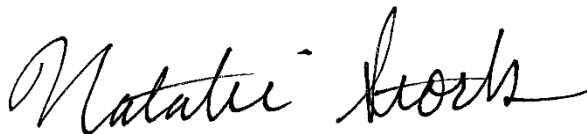
In accordance with the Board's directive to return the subbasin to the Department's jurisdiction, Board staff reviewed the adopted 2025 GSPs for consistency with the draft 2025 GSPs and changes needed to address three priority deficiencies that Board staff identified in the draft 2025 GSPs: (1) providing an adequate mitigation program for drinking water wells impacted by any constituent for which a minimum threshold is established in the GSPs, where groundwater management activities cause concentrations to exceed those minimum thresholds; (2) providing an adequate mitigation program for state small water system wells impacted by groundwater

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

management activities; and (3) eliminating the sunset provision in the Kern Non-Districted Land Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. Following review, Board staff determined that the adopted 2025 GSPs were consistent with the draft 2025 GSPs. Board staff further determined that the adopted 2025 GSPs, along with a memorandum that Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) submitted to Board staff on October 21, 2025, describing the progress of developing the mitigation program for state small water system wells impacted by groundwater management activities (enclosed here) satisfactorily resolved the three identified priority deficiencies. Accordingly, designation of the Kern County Subbasin as a probationary basin is unnecessary at this time and the Subbasin is being returned to the jurisdiction of the Department under Chapter 10 of SGMA (Wat. Code, § 10733, seq.) in accordance with Resolution No. 2025-0029.

While the State Water Board found the Kern County Subbasin's adopted 2025 GSPs, along with the October 21, 2025, memorandum on well mitigation program, are sufficient to return the subbasin to the Department's jurisdiction, Board staff included recommendations for GSP improvement in the [Board Staff Review \(released on September 5, 2025\)](#) to further SGMA's sustainability goals. For the GSAs' consideration and for the Department's awareness during annual and periodic reviews under Water Code sections 10733.4 and 10733.8, both the GSAs and the Department may consider the recommendations for GSP improvement contained in Section 4.0 of the Board Staff Review.

Please contact me at [Natalie.Stork@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Natalie.Stork@waterboards.ca.gov) if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Stork". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Natalie Stork, P.G.  
Director  
Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management  
State Water Resources Control Board

Enclosure: Kern County Subbasin State Small Water System Financial Assistance  
Track Updates Memorandum



# M E M O R A N D U M

**Date:** October 20, 2025

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**To:** Natalie Stork  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, California 95812-1000

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**Via:** Electronic Mail

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**From:** Kristin Pittack  
Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager / Point-of-Contact  
[kernsubbasinpoc@rinconconsultants.com](mailto:kernsubbasinpoc@rinconconsultants.com)

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**Subject:** Kern County Subbasin State Small Water System Financial Assistance Track Updates

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This memorandum is submitted on behalf of the Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Kern Subbasin). On September 17, 2025, before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Kern Subbasin shared their commitment to develop a State Small Water System Financial Assistance Track, which would be incorporated into the Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program. This memorandum further documents that commitment and the anticipated process for development and adoption of the State Small Water System Financial Assistance Track (Financial Assistance Track) for inclusion into the Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program.

As conveyed at the SWRCB public hearing on September 17, the Financial Assistance Track will be available to State Small Water Systems, as defined by the Health and Safety Code as being systems “for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year” (Health & Safety Code, § 116275(n)). State Small Water Systems are not considered public water systems.

In general, the Kern Subbasin will provide financial assistance up to \$100,000 per system in the event that a groundwater well serving the system becomes dry after January 1, 2015, if determined that the impact is due to GSA groundwater management activities, and the State Small Water System otherwise meets application eligibility criteria for assistance. Further, under the Financial Assistance Track, emergency drinking water will be supplied to residents served by the system. To determine how best to disseminate financial assistance, the Kern Subbasin expects to conduct a case-by-case analysis to evaluate available options. Examples of such options include working with a third-party contractor such as Self-Help Enterprises to assist the State Small Water System, working with a Technical Assistance Provider through the SWRCB SAFER program, and engaging an independent contractor to implement the solution for the groundwater well in question.

Currently, the Kern Subbasin is working on draft language to revise the Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program. This draft language will set forth the framework for such assistance as well as the application submittal and review process. Once the revisions are completed, the revised Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program document will need to be considered by each GSA for approval because it would be considered as a minor amendment to the Kern Subbasin 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plans. With respect to timing, the Kern Subbasin set a goal for completing this task by the end of 2025, or early 2026 at the latest. In the meantime, the Kern Subbasin is actively considering



Kern County Subbasin  
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

requests from State Small Water Systems for assistance and conducting case-by-case analysis as to eligibility for assistance.

Please contact Kristin Pittack at [kernsubbasinpoc@rinconconsultants.com](mailto:kernsubbasinpoc@rinconconsultants.com) if you have further questions regarding the State Small Water System Financial Assistance Track.

Sincerely,

Kristin Pittack, MS  
Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager / Point-of-Contact