
TO: County of Kern, City of Arvin, City of Bakersfield, City of Delano, City of Maricopa, City of McFarland, City of Shafter, City of Taft, City of Wasco

FROM: Kristin Pittack, Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact

RE: Notice of Intent to Adopt Amended GSPs for the Kern County Subbasin

DATE: March 14, 2025

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT

Please be advised that the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (**GSAs**) overlying the Kern County Subbasin (**Subbasin**) intend to adopt further amended Groundwater Sustainability Plans (**GSPs**) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (**SGMA**). The GSAs are identified below and enclosed is a map showing their locations within the Subbasin.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide formal notice of the GSAs' intent to adopt amended GSPs in accordance with Water Code section 10728.4.

BACKGROUND

In January 2020, GSAs managing the Subbasin adopted and submitted five GSPs to the Department of Water Resources (**DWR**), as required by SGMA. In January 2022, DWR determined those GSPs to be "incomplete" and provided additional time for the GSAs to address deficiencies. In July 2022, the GSAs submitted six GSPs—five revised and one new.

In March 2023, DWR deemed all six GSPs "inadequate" and referred the Subbasin to the State Water Resources Control Board (**State Water Board**) for intervention under SGMA.

To address deficiencies identified by DWR and the State Water Board, the GSAs adopted amended GSPs in December 2024 (**2024 GSPs**). All the GSAs use the Kern County Subbasin GSP elements as their foundational Plan with six GSAs providing supplemental information to create their own GSP. The 2024 GSPs can be found here: <https://kerngsp.com/gsp-documents/>. These amended GSPs incorporate significant technical updates and management actions aimed at improving the Subbasin's sustainability approach. Notably, the 2024 GSPs were developed in coordination with all 20 GSAs in the Kern County Subbasin, ensuring consistency across the Subbasin.

A probationary hearing before the State Water Board was held on February 20, 2025, which was continued to September 17, 2025. The purpose of the continuance is to allow the GSAs to submit further amended GSPs to the State Water Board addressing issues in their 2024 GSPs identified by State Water Board staff prior to the probationary hearing.

ADOPTION OF AMENDED GSPs

The GSAs plan to hold public hearings later this year to adopt the further amended GSPs.

Pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4, a GSA must provide at least 90 days' notice to cities and counties within the area covered by the GSP before adoption or amendment of a GSP.

This notice serves as the official communication to ensure that Kern County and all cities within the Subbasin receive the required notice and are informed of the current status of the State Water Board process.

Each GSA that has not yet provided individual notice under Water Code section 10728.4 must review and consider comments from any city or county receiving this notice. Additionally, any city or county requesting consultation must be accommodated within 30 days of receipt of this notice. The contact information for your GSA can be found here: <https://kerngsp.com/contact-us/>.

For any questions regarding this notice or SGMA implementation in the Kern Subbasin, please contact me at kpittack@rinconconsultants.com.



Signature

March 14, 2025

Date

Kristin Pittack, MS

Name

Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact

Title

Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies:

Arvin GSA	Olcese Water District GSA
Buena Vista Water Storage District GSA	Pioneer GSA
Cawelo Water District GSA	Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District GSA
Greenfield County Water District GSA	Semitropic Water Storage District GSA
Henry Miller Water District GSA	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District GSA
Kern Non-Districted Land Authority GSA	Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District GSA
Kern River GSA	Tejon-Castac Water District GSA
Kern-Tulare Water District GSA	West Kern Water District GSA
Kern Water Bank GSA	Westside District Water Authority GSA
North Kern Water Storage District GSA	Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District GSA

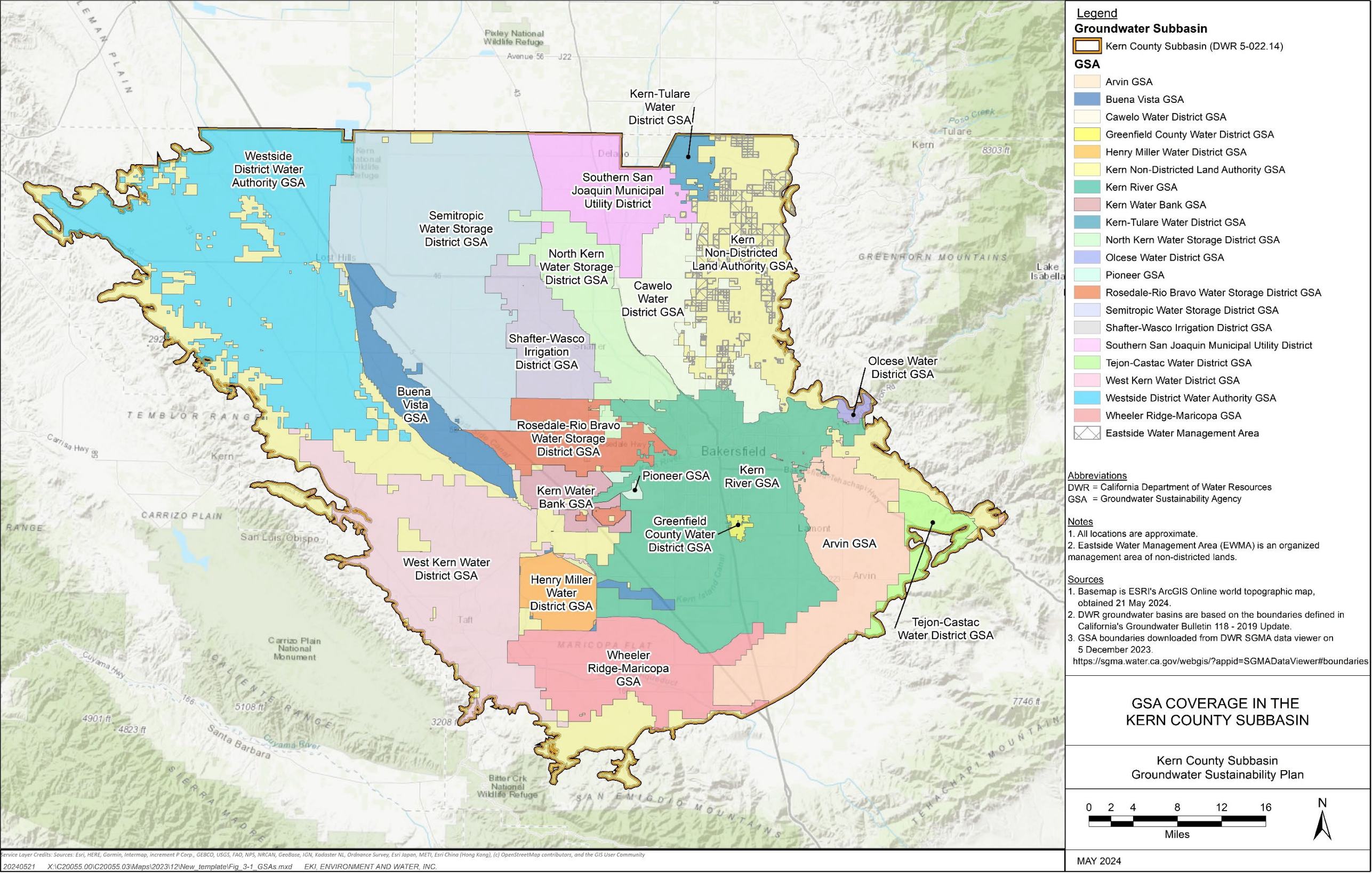


Figure 3-1. GSA Coverage in the Kern Subbasin