



April 21, 2022

State of California
Department of Water Resources

**Re: Initial Notification to Prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Kern County Subbasin (DWR No. 5-022.14)**

To Whom It May Concern:

This initial notification is provided pursuant to California Water Code § 10727.8 and California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 23, § 353.6. The Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (AEWSD GSA), Wheeler-Ridge Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSd) GSA, and Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD) GSA (collectively referred to as the “South Kern GSAs”) are hereby providing notice that they, in coordination with the Arvin Community Service District, intend to initiate development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the portion of the Kern County Subbasin (DWR No. 5-022.14) that is South of the Kern River.

The South Kern GSAs previously drafted three separate Management Area Plans which were included in the Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) Umbrella GSP. The development of these Management Area Plans included a number of interim work products that were prepared in draft form and available for review by the interested stakeholders within each management area. A Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (SCEP) was developed by each of the South Kern GSAs to comply with GSP requirements for notice and communication (see Cal. Code Regs. tit. 23, § 354.10) and to guide stakeholder engagement throughout development of the Management Area Plans.

As the South Kern GSAs transition these individual Management Area Plans into one coordinated and cohesive GSP, the South Kern GSAs continue to welcome and encourage the participation of interested parties in upcoming GSP development and implementation. The GSP work plan will be implemented in a transparent and collaborative fashion such that all stakeholders within the Plan Area will have ample opportunity to provide timely input. Each of the GSA’s Board meetings are open to the public and include multiple opportunities for public comment.

The Public Review Draft South Kern GSP will be available for download in late spring 2022 from each of the South Kern GSAs’ websites. The South Kern GSP is expected to be adopted by the South Kern GSA Boards following a public hearing in July 2022 and once adopted, will be implemented within the South Kern GSP area in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA; California Water Code, Division 6, Part 2.74) and implementing regulations.

Please provide any questions or comments you may have either by:

1. Email to Jeevan Muhar at jmuhar@aeusd.org, Sheridan Nicholas at snicholas@wrmswd.com, Angelica Martin at amartin@tejonranch.com, or Raul Barraza at rbarraza@arvincsd.com, or

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2. Mail to: South Kern GSP
c/o: Jeevan Muhar
P.O. Box 175
Arvin, CA 93203-0175

Sincerely,

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District



By: _____
Jeevan Muhar, Engineer-Manager

Wheeler ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District



By: _____
Sheridan Nicolas, Engineer-Manager

Tejon-Castac Water District



By: _____
Angelica Martin, Water Resources Manager

Arvin Community Services District



By: _____
Raul Barraza, Jr., General Manager

cc: Lorelei Oviatt, Director (LoreleiO@kerncounty.com)
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department (planning@kerncounty.com)
Alan Christensen, Chief Deputy (achristensen@kerncounty.com)
Jeff Jones, City Manager (jeffjones@arvin.org)
Board of Directors