



TEJON-CASTAC
WATER
DISTRICT



South of Kern River Executive Committee Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2025

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

Meeting Information Posted:

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: **289 619 843 830**

Meeting Password: **ko5K35**

Phone: **1.213.437.9052**

Phone Meeting Number (access code): **276 512 496#**

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 JUNE 12, 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. Report on technical meetings with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff on potential GSP revisions
 - ii. SGMA Monitoring Network performance and sustainable management criteria (SMC) compliance

- c. Finance Report (*Nicholas*)
- d. California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) update (*Nicholas*)
- e. Management Area updates (*Muhar, Nicholas, Martin, Barraza*)

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager/Point of Contact letter to SWRCB re: Kern County Subbasin Final Draft Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan, dated 6/20/2025
- b. Six public comment letters on the Draft 2025 Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), see amended final version 2025 GSP, Appendix N-2 , available at www.kernGSP.com.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consider recommendation to GSA home boards for approval of the following items, including ratification of any prior approvals granted by individual home boards:
 - i. Adoption of the 2025 Kern County Subbasin GSP, available online at www.kernGSP.com and www.sokrGSP.com.
 - ii. Approving the Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement among subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, available as Appendix C-1 to the 2025 GSP, available online at www.kernGSP.com.

10. CLOSED SESSION

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SOUTH OF KERN RIVER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
June 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Director Valpredo called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and determined a quorum was present with attendance by:

Executive Committee Directors

Derek Yurosek – Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (AEWSD; Arvin GSA) (absent)

Mark Valpredo – Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD; Tejon-Castac Water District GSA) (present)

Michael Blaine – Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSD; Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA) (present)

Rafael Gallardo – Arvin Community Services District (ACSD) (present)

District Staff

Jeevan Muhar – AEWSD (present)

Sheridan Nicholas – WRMWSD (present)

Angelica Martin – TCWD (remote)

Raul Barazza – ACWD (remote)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MAY 08, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Director Gallardo moved to approve the May 08, 2025 SOKR Executive Committee meeting minutes. Director Blaine seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORT ITEMS

GSP Manager Report

Basin Coordination

Mr. Muhar reported that Subbasin GSAs are currently undergoing the board approval process to release the 2025 Draft Amended GSP for public comment and to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The Technical Working Group (TWG) will continue to meet with SWRCB staff after the submittal deadline of June 20, 2025, and

leading up to the Probationary Hearing scheduled for September 17, 2025, to support open communication regarding questions that may arise during SWRCB staff's review. Mr. Muhar noted that additional scope for the TWG to continue to engage with SWRCB staff during this period may be included as a future action item.

Mr. Muhar also reported on the expiration of the LandIQ program contract in March 2025. This program was grant-funded and estimates evapotranspiration on GSA service area lands. Given that this data is essential for groundwater modeling and water budget calculations, it is likely that each individual GSA will have to form a direct relationship with the LandIQ program and execute individual agreements to continue the service. The LandIQ program has continued to provide evapotranspiration data services as a courtesy while the GSAs consider future contracting.

Lastly, Mr. Muhar reported on ongoing Subbasin stakeholder engagement efforts, including three successful 2025 Draft Amended GSP Workshops held in early June 2025. Virtual and in-person options were provided for these meetings, resulting in strong turnout and helpful public input via comments and survey responses. The Subbasin GSAs will continue to conduct outreach and engagement to solicit input and disseminate information.

Technical Consultant Report

EKI reported ongoing coordination efforts between the TWG and SWRCB staff on targeted revisions to the 2025 Draft Amended GSP, including the final technical meeting held prior to the submittal deadline of the 2025 Draft Amended GSP on June 20, 2025. The TWG provided an overview of Plan refinements and discussed outstanding questions related to land subsidence.

EKI also reported that SWRCB staff noted that only a Final Staff Report will be issued, no later than 10 days before the Probationary Hearing on September 17, 2025.

Lastly, EKI reported on the SGMA Monitoring Network performance and SMC compliance. There were no MT exceedances in the SOKR area based on May groundwater levels, however three monitoring wells did not have water level measurements taken since the previous measurements in April. Additionally, EKI reported that Arvin GSA is closely monitoring and investigating RMW-009 because the May water level was approaching an MT exceedance.

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 with the exception of legal expenses, which were split differently according to needs pertaining to the White Lands (Non-Districted Lands). No action was needed on SOKR finances.

California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) update

The Subbasin GSAs have been in communication with CASP staff regarding 2025 Draft Amended GSP revisions. Subbasin GSAs are actively working to schedule one meeting on the 2025 Draft Amended GSP, and recurring quarterly meetings post-September with CASP staff.

Management Area Updates

Mr. Muhar reported on the following SGMA-related items in Arvin GSA: (1) initiation of the MT Exceedance Policy path for RMW-009 to investigate the cause of the water level decline, (2) coordination with Kern Delta Water District GSA to identify and fill water quality and water level data gaps, (3) coordination with Kern River GSA for a boundary change between the two GSAs to accommodate a land use conversion in the East Niles Community Services District, and (4) consideration of active bids for a recharge pond project at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

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

Mr. Nicholas did not have any WRM GSA-specific updates to report.

Ms. Martin reported that the single RMW in TCWD GSA (Caratan Well) experienced a panel burnout. The well owner is attempting to repair the well within the next 30 days, however it is noted that June water level data may be incomplete or unavailable as a result of the burnout.

ACTION ITEMS

The Directors considered the following action items:

- a. Discussion and possible action to ratify the home boards' actions to (a) approve final draft amendments to Groundwater Sustainability Plan and supporting appendix of projects and management actions for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- b. Authorize their submission by the Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) before June 20th for review by SWRCB staff.
- c. Authorize their release for public review and comment.

EKI reported on the 2025 Draft Amended GSP major revisions. Key revisions specific to the SOKR GSAs included: (1) raised groundwater level MTs in Arvin GSA for two wells by 12 and 30 feet, respectively, and in WRM GSA for three wells by 30 feet to 61 feet to prevent subsidence impact risk and risk to groundwater storage, (2) identified two data gaps in Arvin GSA and plan for resolution, (3) updated groundwater quality Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) such that 92% of water quality MTs are based on the applicable water quality objectives (i.e., the applicable Maximum Contaminant Level for the constituent of concern), (4) added a water quality mitigation track to the Well Mitigation Program, and (5) added details to the Action Plan for Land Subsidence.

Director Valpredo moved to approve action items (a), (b), and (c). Director Gallardo seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to report.

CLOSED SESSION

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

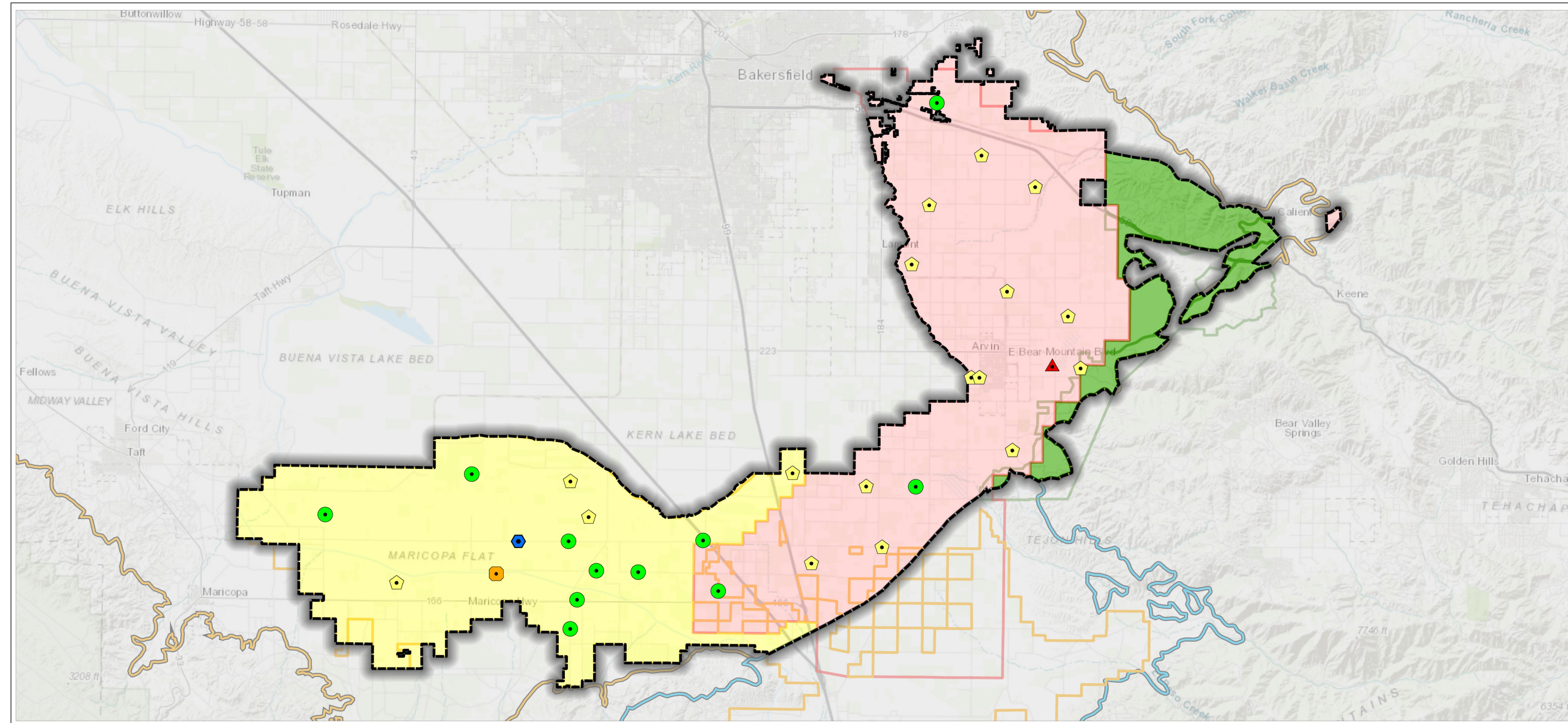
There was nothing to report out of the closed session.

The next SOKR Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2025 at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Valpredo adjourned the SOKR Executive Committee meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Mark Valpredo, South of Kern River
Executive Committee Secretary



Legend

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of July 2025

- Water Level Above MO (11 or 36%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MO (17 or 55%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MT (1 or 3%)
- Water Level Below MT (1 or 3%)
- No Water Level Measurement (1 or 3%)

Groundwater Subbasin

- Kern County (DWR 5-022.14)
- White Wolf (DWR 5-022.18)

Abbreviations

AEWSD = Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
DWR = California Department of Water Resources
GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MO = Measurable Objective
MT = Minimum Threshold
RMW = Representative Monitoring Well
SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMC = Sustainable Management Criteria
TCWD = Tejon-Castac Water District
UR = Undesirable Result
WRMWS D = Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

Notes

1. All locations are approximate.
2. Status is based on the SMCs in the 2024 Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
3. Undesirable Results are deemed to occur if (1) more than 15 drinking water wells within the Subbasin are reported as dry in any given year, or (2) groundwater levels in 25% or more RMWs are below their respective MT over a single year (two consecutive seasonal measurements).

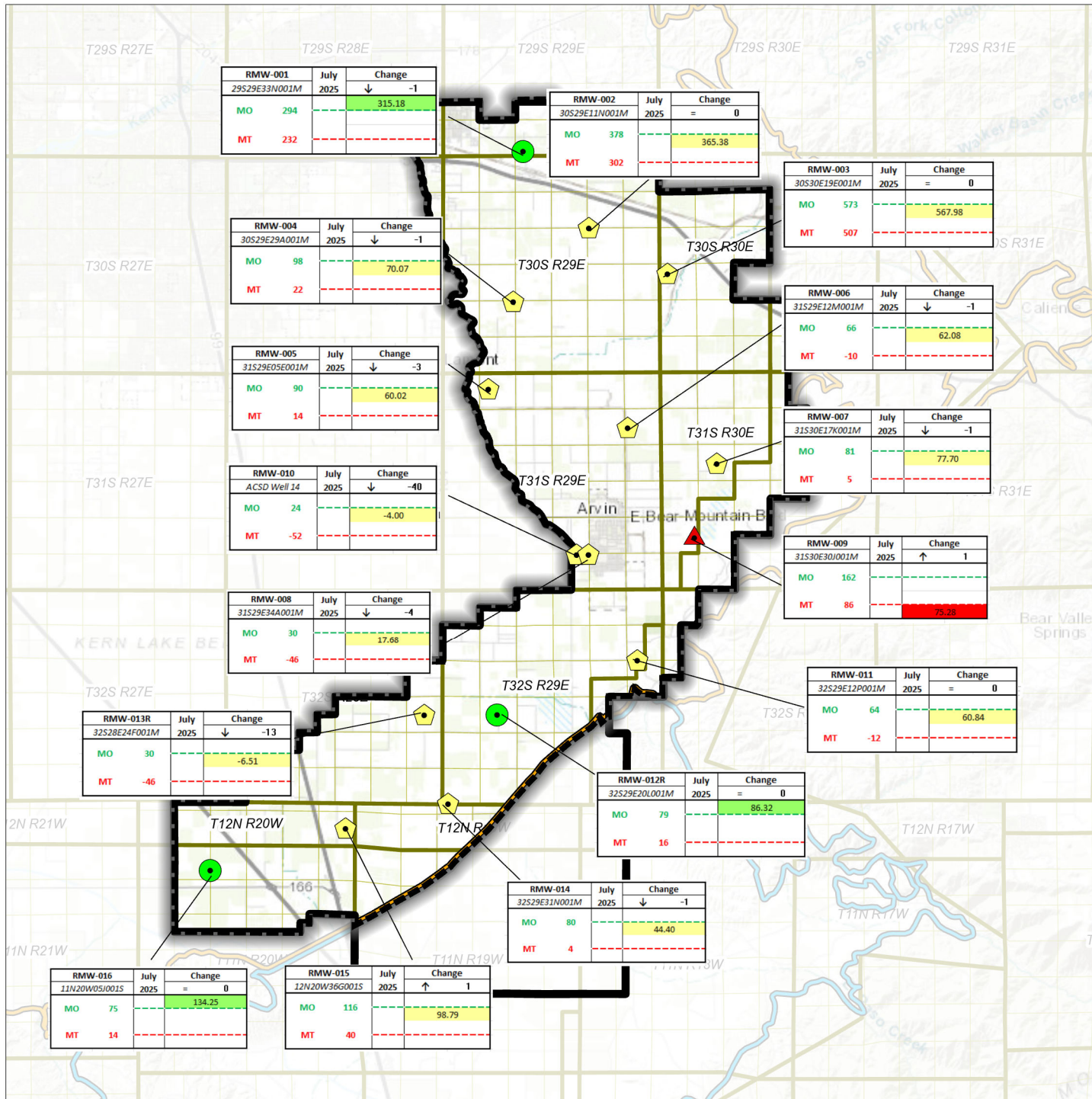
Sources

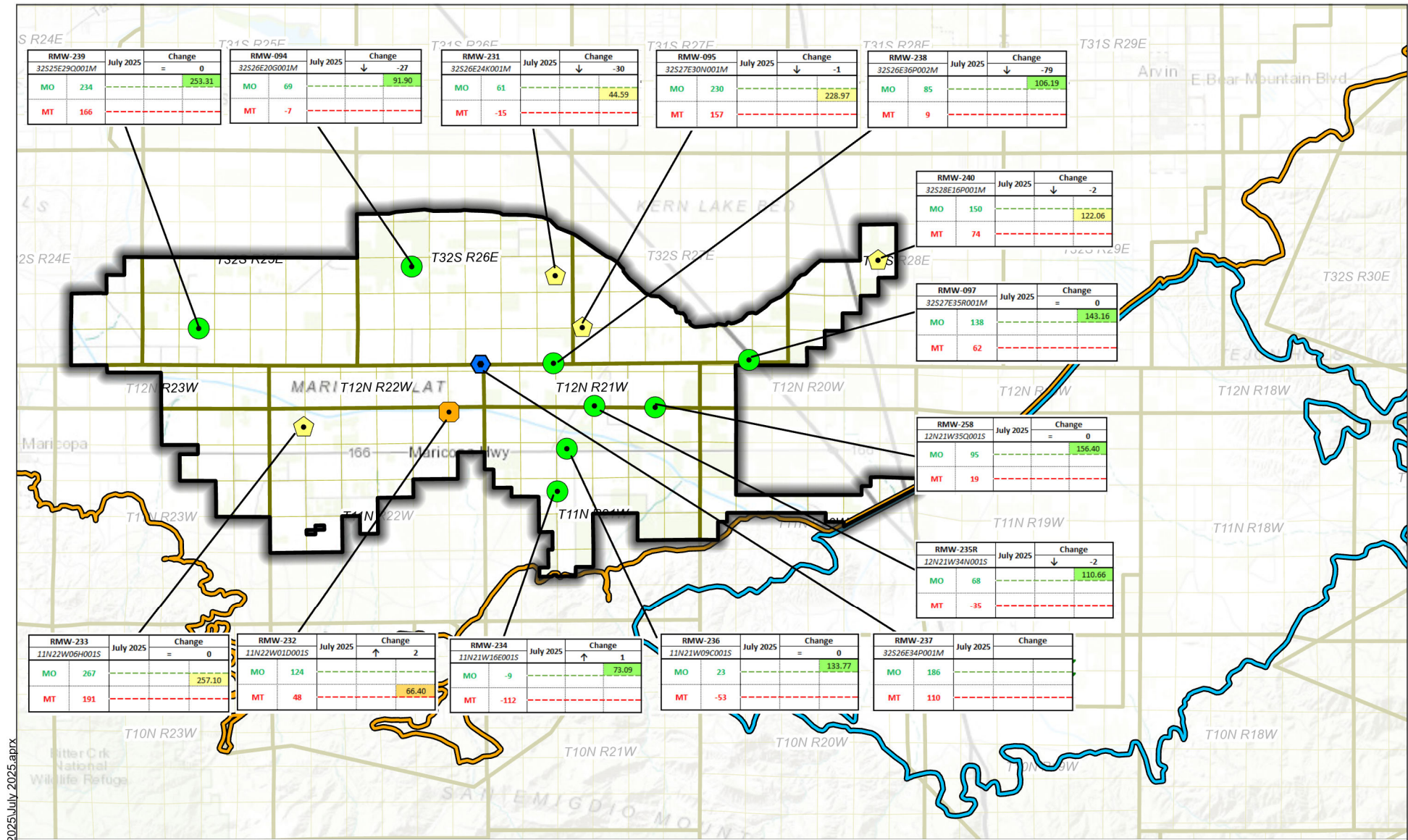
1. Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 7 August 2025.
2. GSA boundaries obtained from SGMA GSA Map Viewer portal, accessed 6 May 2022.
3. DWR groundwater basins are based on the boundaries defined in California's Groundwater Bulletin 118 - 2019 Update.

July 2025 Water Levels Relative to SMCs

South of Kern River GSAs
Kern County, CA
July 2025
C20055.00
Figure 1

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Legend

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of July 2025

- Water Level Above MO (8 or 57%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MO (4 or 29%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MT (1 or 7%)
- Water Level Below MT (0)
- No Water Level Measurement (1 of 7%)

Groundwater Subbasin

- Kern County (DWR 5-022.14)
- White Wolf (DWR 5-022.18)
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA

Notes

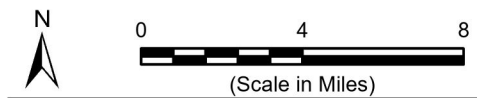
1. All locations are approximate.
2. Groundwater elevations reported in units of ft msl.
3. All water levels collected during July 2025.
4. Arrow direction indicates water level change from previous month.
5. Status is based on the SMCs in the 2024 Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
6. Undesirable Results are deemed to occur if (1) more than 15 drinking water wells within the Subbasin are reported as dry in any given year, or (2) groundwater levels in 25% or more RMWs are below their respective MT over a single year (two consecutive seasonal measurements).

Sources

1. Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 8 August 2025.

Abbreviations

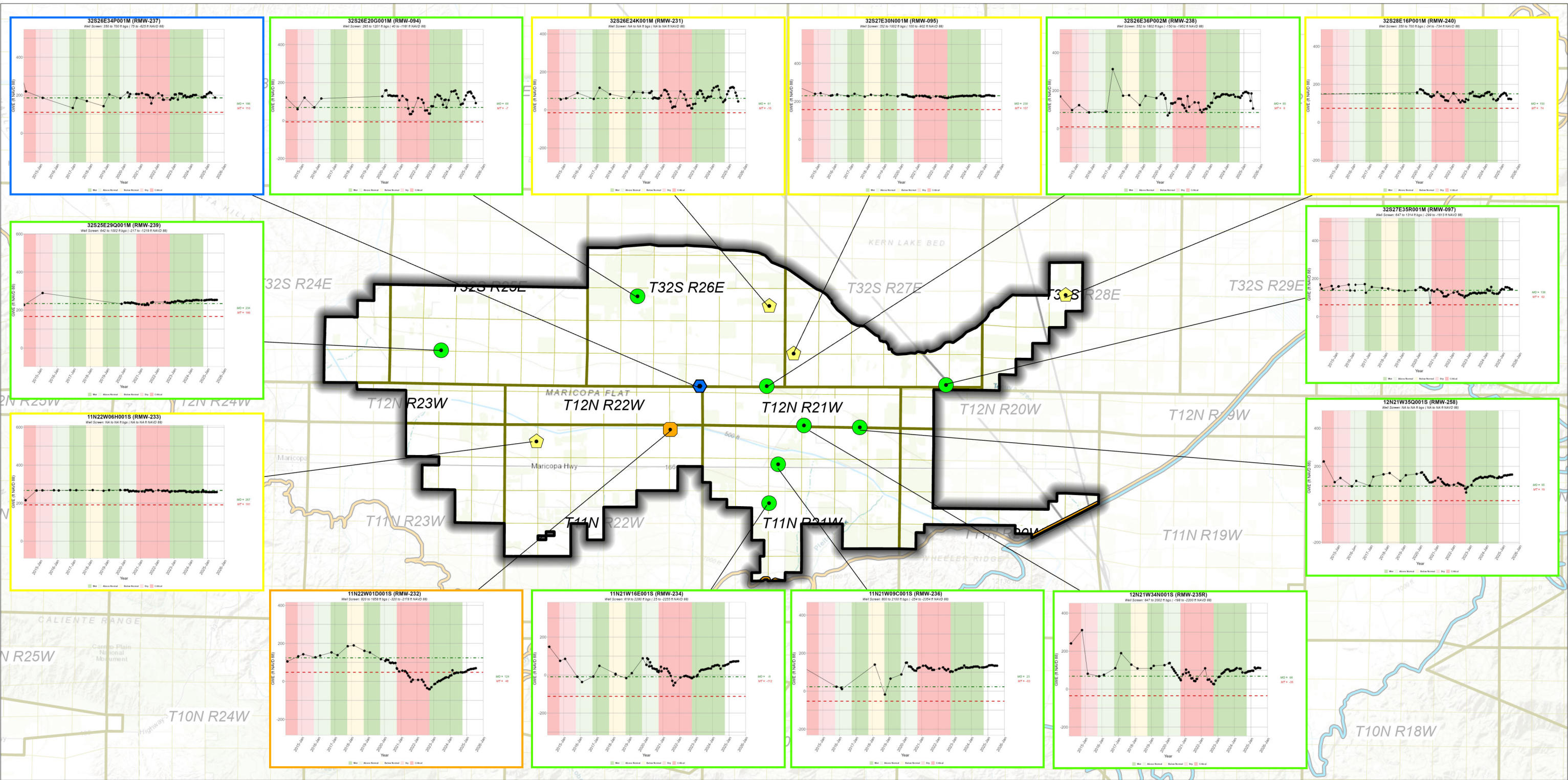
DWR = California Department of Water Resources
ft msl = feet above mean sea level
GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MO = Measurable Objective
MT = Minimum Threshold
SMC = Sustainable Management Criteria



Groundwater Levels Relative to SMCs
July 2025

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA
South of Kern River
Kern County, California
July 2025
C20055.00
Figure 8

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Legend

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of July 2025

- Water Level Above MO (8 or 57%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MO (4 or 29%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MT (1 or 7%)
- Water Level Below MT (0)
- No Water Level Measurement (1 of 7%)

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA

Groundwater Subbasin

- Kern County (DWR 5-022.14)
- White Wolf (DWR 5-022.18)

Notes

- All locations are approximate.
- Groundwater elevations are in feet mean sea level.
- Status is based on the SMCs in the 2024 Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- Undesirable Results are deemed to occur if (1) more than 15 drinking water wells within the Subbasin are reported as dry in any given year, or (2) groundwater levels in 25% or more RMWs are below their respective MT over a single year (two consecutive seasonal measurements).
- All RMW status based on July 2025 measurements.

Sources

- Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 7 August 2025.
- Groundwater elevation data provided by WRMWSD.

Abbreviations

- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- ft msl = feet above mean sea level
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- MO = Measurable Objective
- MT = Minimum Threshold
- RMW = Representative Monitoring Well
- SMCs = Sustainable Management Criteria
- WRMWSD = Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District



Hydrographs in Representative Monitoring Wells (January 2015 - July 2025)

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
Kern County, CA

July 2025
C20055.00

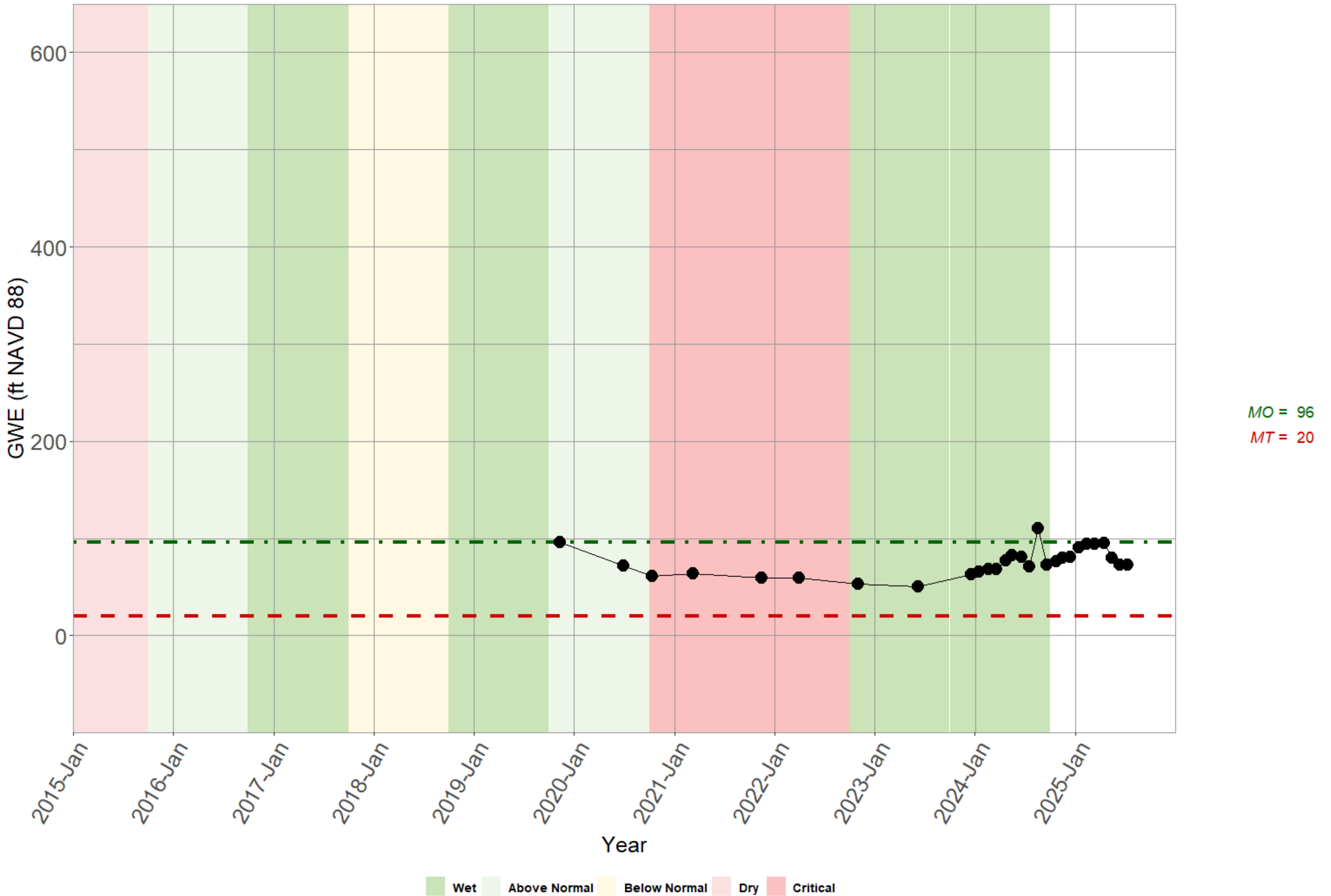
Figure 9

eki environment & water

INTERIM FIGURE - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Caratan Well (RMW-070)

Well Screen: NA to NA ft bgs (NA to NA ft NAVD 88)





FINAL 2025 KERN SUBBASIN PLAN



Kern County Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

SOUTH OF KERN RIVER GSAS, 2025

AGENDA

- Summary of Revisions: Draft to Final
- Implementation Updates
- Schedule Updates

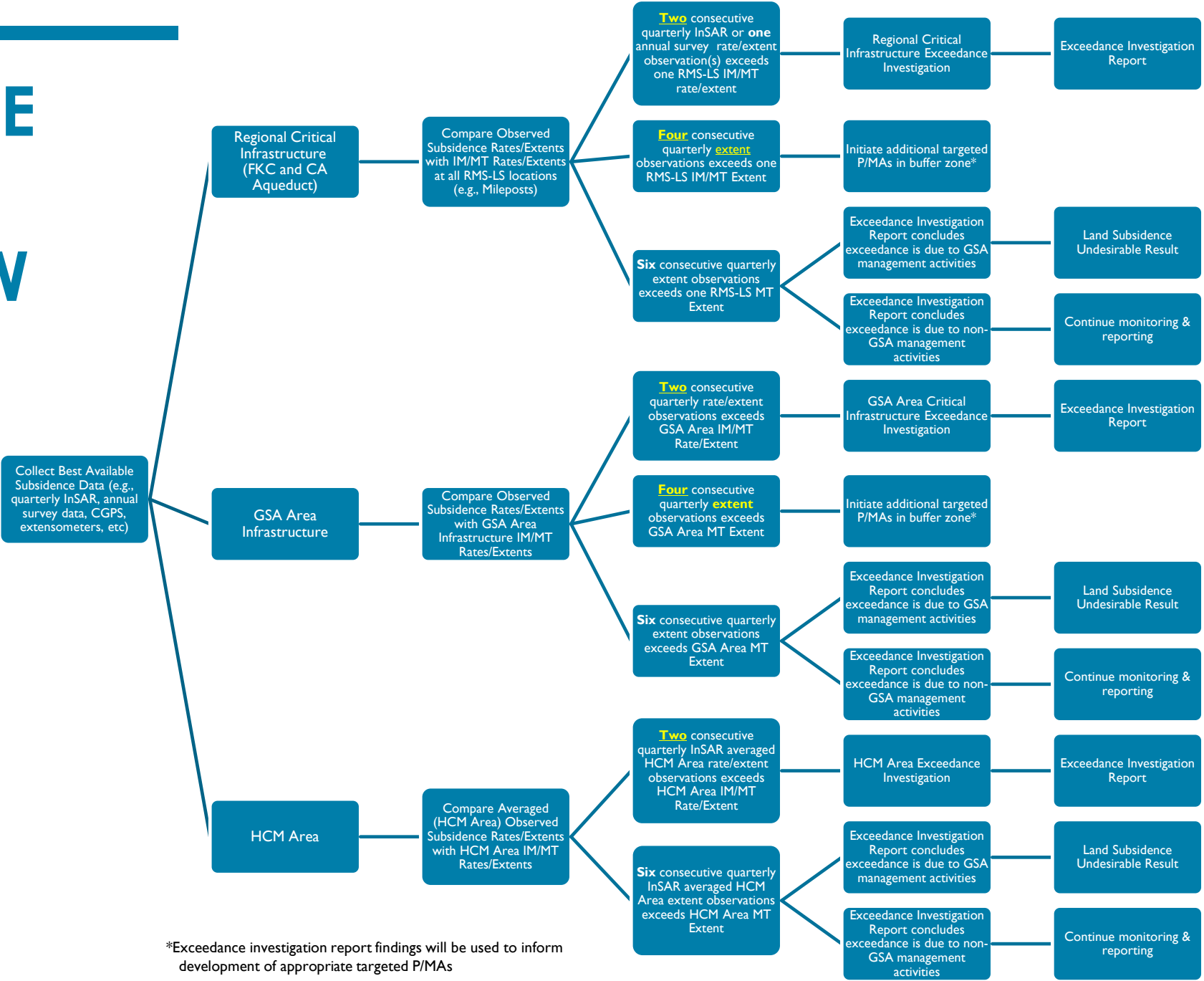
SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **ES & Sections 1 – 4:** Introduction; Sustainability Goal; Agency Information; GSP Organization
 - Minor Editorial Changes
- **Section 5:** Description of the Plan Area
 - Section 5.6: Beneficial Use
 - Clarified well planned use/user type definitions and made consistent across GSP and Appendices
 - Section 5.10: Notice and Communication
 - Updates throughout this section regarding 2025 Plan public noticing and outreach to describe engagement activities for consistency with updated Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan and Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy
- **Sections 6 – 10:** Basin Setting; Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model; Groundwater Conditions; Water Budget; Management Areas
 - Minor editorial changes

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **Sections 11 – 13: Sustainable Management Criteria**
 - **Section 13.1: Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels**
 - All figures/tables and appendices updated to reflect latest MTs and MOs
 - Revised well impact analysis with latest MTs (with nominal changes)
 - Appendix I-3: Added well consolidation information
 - **Section 13.2: Groundwater Storage**
 - Revised storage change analysis using latest MT surface
 - Clarified storage estimates provided are contextual only and UR criteria use groundwater levels as proxy
 - **Section 13.3: Groundwater Quality**
 - Minor editorial changes (clarifying well nomenclature)
 - **Section 13.5: Subsidence**
 - Removed hierarchy for monitoring
 - Appendix K-I (Subsidence Action Plan): Clarified IM/MT triggers and timelines and added flow chart based on input from CASP

SUBSIDENCE ACTION PLAN FLOW CHART



*Exceedance investigation report findings will be used to inform development of appropriate targeted P/MAs

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

■ **Section 14: Projects and Management Actions**

- Updated Subbasin Figures based on minor GSA P/MA refinements
- Updated Appendix J (GSA P/MAs) reflecting implementation progress and minor refinements
- Clarified well user type in all relevant appendices (Appendices G and K)

■ **Section 15: Monitoring Network**

- Clarified subsidence monitoring network data sets and associated figures

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

■ **Appendix F-1: Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan**

- Updated references as appropriate to 2025 Plan
- Revised introduction to reflect 2025 Plan process and incorporation of CO&ES
 - From CO&ES: Added description of gap analysis, Community Partner meetings, 2025 Community Workshops, Focus Groups and Pop-Ups, and Digital Outreach
- Removed timeline (outdated) and combined evaluation and reporting sections

■ **Appendix F-3: Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy**

- Added a new section outlining 2025 Plan revisions in response to community feedback on water quality and mitigation concerns in coordination with SVRCB staff, e.g., expansion of monitoring network, addition of degraded water quality mitigation program track, clarification on well user types

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **Appendix G-I: Well Mitigation Program, Version 2.0**
 - Revised terms and references to the types of systems that are eligible for technical assistance for consistency with Health and Safety Code definitions
 - Clarified Dry Well Mitigation Track and Groundwater Quality Mitigation track for domestic wells and multi-use used for drinking water
 - Clarified Well Technical Assistance Track for Community Water Systems and State Small Water Systems
 - Identified potential future revisions to provide funding assistance to State Small Water systems – up to \$100,000

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

■ **Coordination Agreement**

- Revisions to ensure consistency with 2025 GSP

■ **KNDLA JPA**

- Revisions in response to SWRCB staff comments

■ **Projects and Management Actions**

- **CASP Coordination:** Two bi-weekly meetings with CASP (7/11 & 7/25)
 - Key Takeaways - commitment to ongoing data sharing and collaboration. Final 2025 GSP will be revised to clarify timelines for exceedance triggers and investigation initiation, monitoring data, among other items.
 - Subbasin has committed to collaborating with CASP on further analysis of potential causes of subsidence
- **Data Gaps/RMS: Well Inventory Updates**
 - Salient Updates – GSAs continuing to actively work on their well inventory and submitting updates to incorporate into the Subbasin dataset
 - Focused on identifying destroyed/replaced wells
 - Integrated public supply and Kern County Public Health state-small into the well inventory
 - GSAs incorporated “known” wells without a matching record to ensure all production wells are accounted for in the final inventory

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

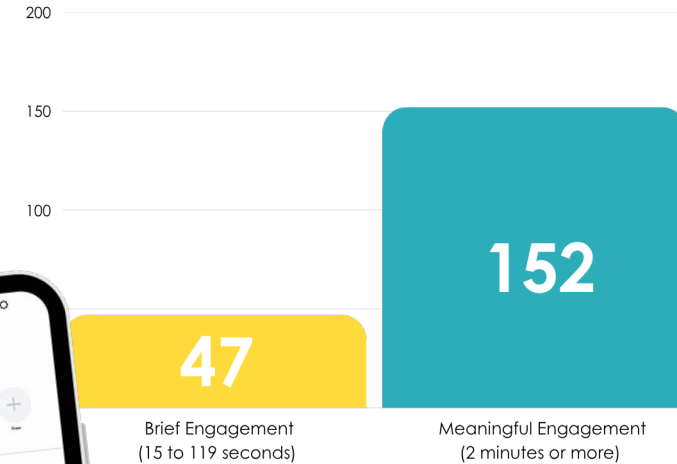
Community Outreach & Engagement

- 5 Meetings with Community Partners (NGOs and CBOs)
- 5 Community Pop-Up Events
- 3 GSP Workshops
- Social media and website updates
- 5 Focus Groups
 - 2 with Lost Hills community members and community partners
 - 1 with Shafter community member and community partners
 - 1 with Small Growers
 - 1 in process of being scheduled with other community groups

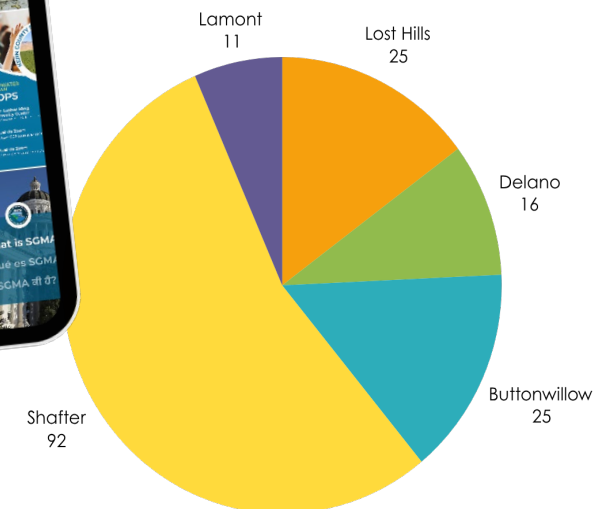


Documentation of engagement and feedback incorporation available in Appendix F

Engagement at April - May 2025 Community Pop-Up Events



Count of Survey Responses by Community Pop-Up Event



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Critical Milestones and Success Factors



Timeline	Project Goals	Key Milestones
March 2025	✓ Increase Awareness	Drafted and submitted CO&ES Strategy Outline to SWRCB Updated Kern Subbasin website Created social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) Created surveys: Community Partners, Focus Groups, and community members <i>Community Partners Meeting #1</i>
April 2025		Developed Engagement Toolkit Social media accounts went live – ongoing social media updates monthly <i>Pop-up Event #1</i> <i>Focus Group #1</i> <i>Community Partners Meeting #2</i>
May 2025	✓ Comprehensive Feedback	<i>Focus Group #2</i> <i>Pop-up Event #2-5</i> <i>Focus Group #3</i> <i>Community Partners Meeting #3</i>
June 2025	✓ Improve Communication	<i>Community Workshops #1-3 “2025 Plan” (In-Person and Virtual)</i> Distributed Engagement Toolkit (GSAs, Community Partners) <i>Community Partners Meeting #4</i> Submitted CO&ES Strategy to SWRCB and posted to Kern Subbasin website for public review and comment
July 2025		<i>Focus Group #4</i> <i>Community Partners Meeting #5</i>

SCHEDULE

- **June 20 – July 21:** Kern Subbasin Public Comment Period
 - 6 Comment Letters Received
 - Responses to Comments Addressed (Appendix N-2)
- **August:**
 - Adoption by all Kern Subbasin GSAs
 - Coordination with SWRCB Board Members
 - SWRCB Probationary Hearing Panel Presentations:
 - Notice for Panel Presentations (8/8) & Panel Presentations Due (*end of month; 8/27*)
- **Early September:**
 - Transmittal of Final 2025 Plan to SWRCB staff
 - Transmittal of Community Outreach and Engagement Progress Update to SWRCB Board
 - SWRCB Final Staff Report (*~10 days prior to hearing, no later than 9/5*)
- **September 17:** Continued Probationary Hearing