



TEJON-CASTAC
WATER
DISTRICT



South of Kern River Executive Committee Regular Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. REPORT ITEMS
 - a. GSP Manager Report (*Muhar*)
 - i. Basin Coordination
 - b. Technical Consultant Report (*EKI*)
 - i. Technical Working Group (TWG) Update
 - ii. Report on technical meeting with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Staff
 - iii. 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. ACTION ITEM(S)

- a. Consider endorsement of and recommendation for funding the EKI Task Order for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support January through June 2024 (*Muhar*).
- b. Discussion and potential action to recommend the proposed Amendment to Rincon Consultants, Inc.'s Contract Agreement for Kern County SGMA Plan Manager Support for approval by SOKR GSA boards (*Muhar*).
- c. Discussion and potential action to recommend Todd Groundwater's Proposal for Preparation of GSP Annual Report for WY 2023 Kern County Subbasin GSPs for approval by the SOKR GSA boards (*Muhar*).
- d. Discussion and potential action to recommend GEI Consultants' Task Order for Kern Subbasin 2024 Data Management System (DMS) for approval by SOKR GSA boards (*Muhar*).

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 21, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Director Yurosek called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., with a quorum and 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 GSA) (present)
Michael Blaine – Wheeler Ridge-Mariposa Water Storage District (WRMWSD; Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA) (absent)
Rafael Gallardo – Arvin Community Services District (ACSD) (present)

District Staff

Jeevan Muhar – AEWSD (present)
Sheridan Nicholas – WRMWSD (present)
Angelica Martin – (TCWD) (remote)
Raul Barazza (ACSD) (absent).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Valpredo moved to approve the agenda. Director Yurosek seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0 (Director Blaine absent).

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Director Valpredo moved to approve the October 20, 2023 South of Kern River (SOKR) Executive Committee meeting minutes. Director Gallardo seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0 (Director Blaine absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORT ITEMS

GSP Manager Report

Basin Coordination

Mr. Muhar reported that the Subbasin representatives met with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Staff on 1 November 2023 to discuss revisions to the chronic lowering of groundwater levels Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs).

The Subbasin GSAs continue to: (1) coordinate technical methodologies, work products, and other tasks related to revising the Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (GSP) by Spring 2024, (2) discuss the Plan Manager contract, and (3) discuss the Kern cost-share agreement.

Technical Consultant Report

Technical Working Group (TWG) Update

EKI reported on the subbasin-wide technical work efforts the TWG has been conducting over the past month to address DWR-identified GSP deficiencies, as presented in the 1 November 2023 meeting with the SWRCB technical staff. SWRCB staff have scheduled the six requested technical meetings; the next meeting will be held on 13 December 2023 on the topic of land subsidence.

SGMA Monitoring Network performance and sustainable management criteria (SMCs) compliance

EKI reported on October groundwater conditions within the SOKR Plan Area compared to the existing Minimum Thresholds (MTs).

Finance Report

Mr. Nicholas reported on finances to date, which are split equally between the SOKR GSAs, except for white lands issues where TCWD is excluded. WRMWSD will continue to be billed and AEWSD and TCWD will reimburse WRMWSD.

California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) update

Mr. Nicolas had no reported updates regarding CASP.

Management Area Updates

Mr. Muhar reported no updates from last month.

Mr. Nicholas reported that WRMWSD continues to meet to discuss potential demand reduction management actions.

Ms. Martin reported no updates from last month.

ACTION ITEMS

Kern Cost-Sharing Agreement. Mr. Muhar presented the Kern cost-sharing agreement for revising GSP(s). Mr. Nicholas and Ms. Martin each provided an update regarding their respective district's approval of the agreement, and clarified the approvals were conditioned on the Executive Committee recommending the same. Mr. Muhar reported the Arvin GSA would consider the agreement at its December meeting. Following discussion, Director Valpredo made a motion, seconded by Director Gallardo, to

recommend the Kern cost-sharing agreement for revising GSP(s) for approval by the SOKR GSA boards. The motion passed 3-0-0 (Director Blaine absent).

Arvin GSA request for monitoring well replacement. Mr. Muhar presented Arvin GSA's proposal to replace a monitoring well located within the Arvin Management Area. He reported that Arvin GSA intended to seek the Subbasin's concurrence with the proposal, consistent with the terms of the Subbasin Coordination Agreement. Following discussion and opportunity for public comment, Director Gallardo made a motion, seconded by Director Valpredo, to formally endorse Arvin GSA's proposal for replacement of the monitoring well. The motion passed 3-0-0 (Director Blaine absent).

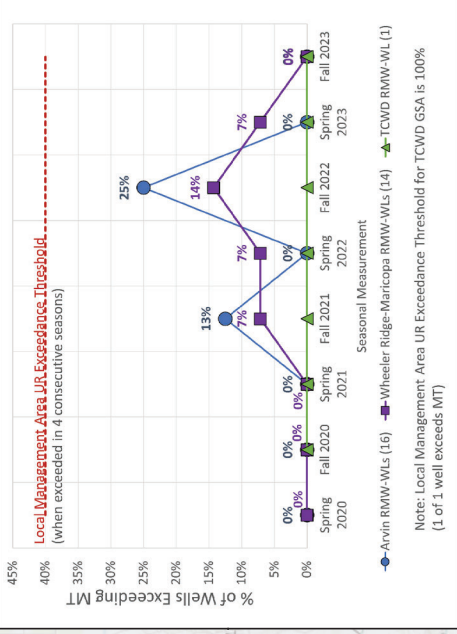
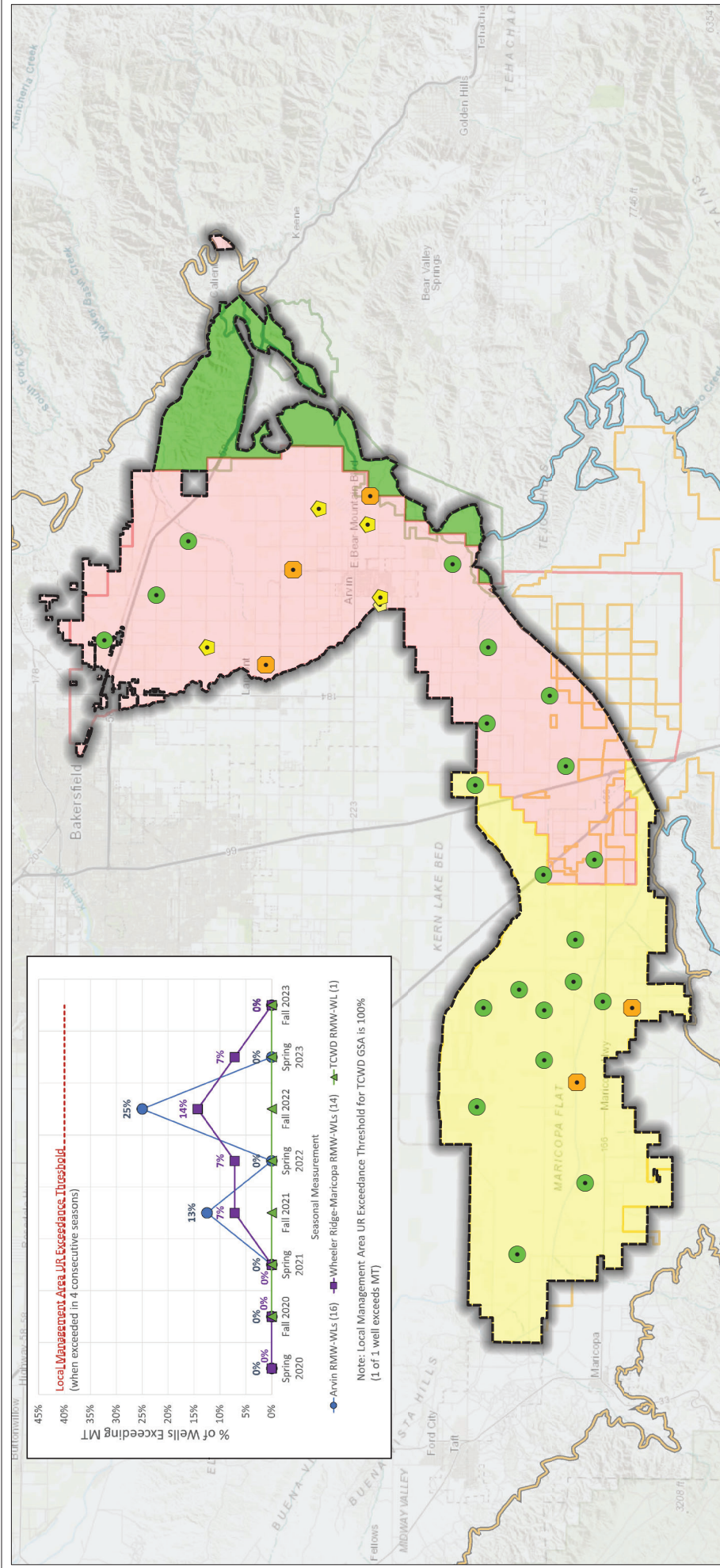
CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), (e)(1) (potential litigation; 1 item). There was no action to report out of closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Yurosek adjourned the South of Kern River Executive Committee meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Mark Valpredo, South of Kern River
Executive Committee Secretary



Legend

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of November 2023

- Water Level Above MO (8 or 56%)
- Water Level between MO and MT but closer to MO (5 or 31%)
- Water Level between MO and MT but closer to MT (2 or 13%)
- South of Kern River Plan
- Arvin GSA
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA
- Tejon-Castac Water District GSA
- WRMWSD Service
- AEWSD Service
- TCWD Service
- 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
- WRMWSD = Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

Sources

- Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 6 December 2023.
- GSA boundaries obtained from SGMA GSA Map Viewer portal, accessed 6 May 2022.
- DWR groundwater basins are based on the boundaries defined in California's Groundwater Bulletin 118 - 2019 Update.

Notes

- All locations are approximate.
- Undesirable Results are deemed to occur if groundwater levels in 40% or more RMWs are below their respective MT for four consecutive biannual measurements (Spring and Fall) in any management area.

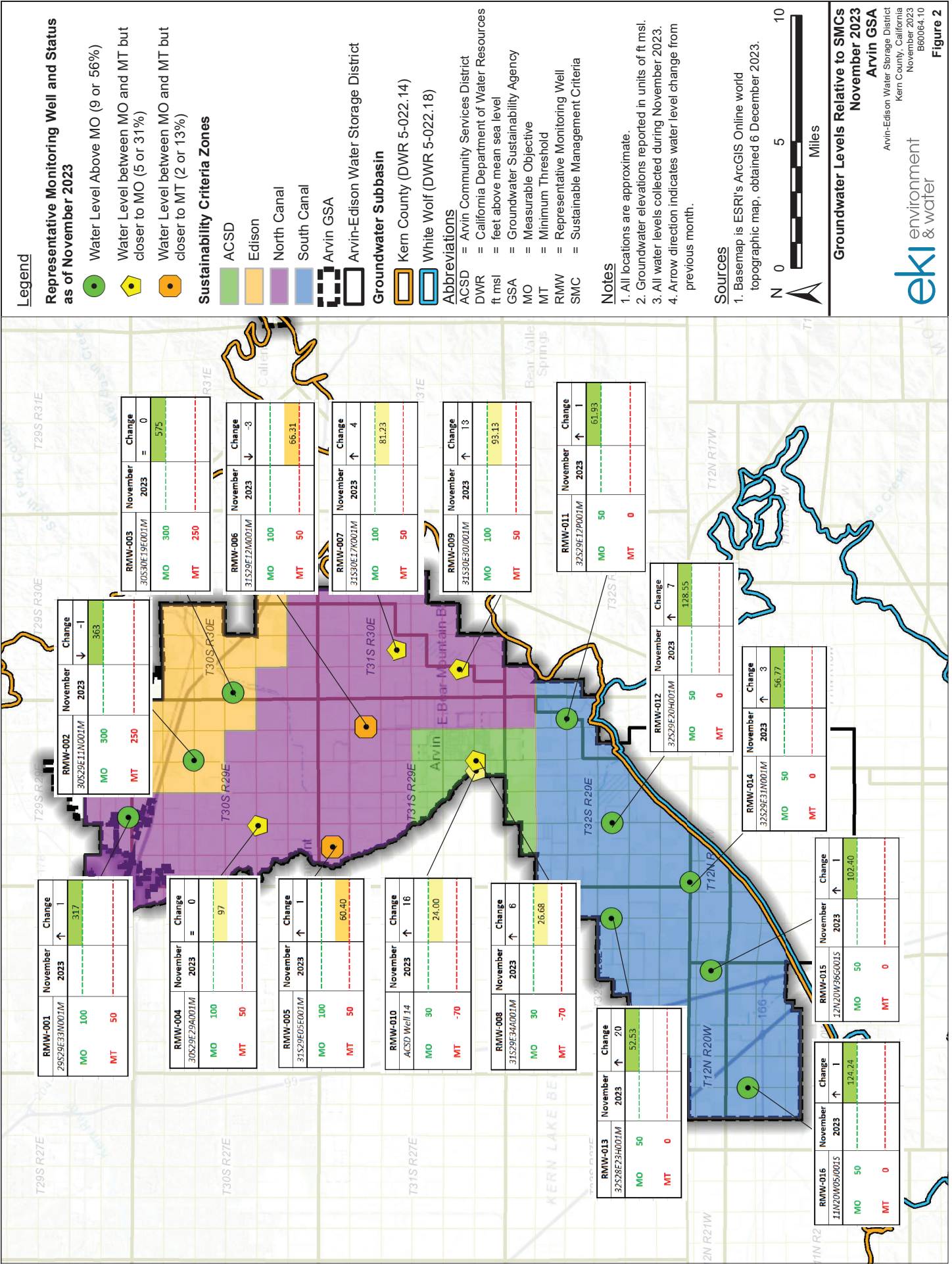
November 2023 Water Levels Relative to SMCs

South of Kern River GSP
Kern County, CA
November 2023
C20055.00

Figure 1

eki environment & water

INTERIM FIGURE - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY



Legend

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of November 2023

- Water Level Above MO (9 or 56%)
- Water Level between MO and MT but closer to MO (5 or 31%)
- Water Level between MO and MT but closer to MT (2 or 13%)

Sustainability Criteria Zones

- ACSD
- Edison
- North Canal
- South Canal
- Arvin GSA
- Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

Groundwater Subbasin

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

Abbreviations

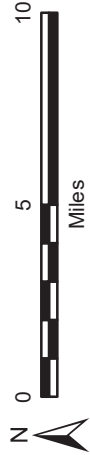
- ACSD = Arvin Community Services District
- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- ft msl = feet above mean sea level
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- MO = Measurable Objective
- MT = Minimum Threshold
- RMW = Representative Monitoring Well
- SMC = Sustainable Management Criteria

Notes

1. All locations are approximate.
2. Groundwater elevations reported in units of ft msl.
3. All water levels collected during November 2023.
4. Arrow direction indicates water level change from previous month.

Sources

1. Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 6 December 2023.



Groundwater Levels Relative to SMCs November 2023

Arvin GSA
 Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 Kern County, California
 November 2023
 B60064.10



Figure 2

INTERIM FIGURE - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

RMW-001 29529E33N001M	November 2023	Change
MO 100	↑	317
MT 50		

RMW-004 30529E39A001M	November 2023	Change
MO 100	=	97
MT 50		

RMW-005 31529E05E001M	November 2023	Change
MO 100	↑	60.40
MT 50		

RMW-010 ACSD Well 14	November 2023	Change
MO 30	↑	16
MT -70		24.00

RMW-008 31529E34A001M	November 2023	Change
MO 30	↑	26.68
MT -70		

RMW-013 32528E23H001M	November 2023	Change
MO 50	↑	52.53
MT 0		

RMW-016 11N20W05J001S	November 2023	Change
MO 50	↑	124.24
MT 0		

RMW-015 12N20W36G001S	November 2023	Change
MO 50	↑	102.40
MT 0		

RMW-014 32529E31N001M	November 2023	Change
MO 50	↑	56.77
MT 0		

RMW-012 32529E20H001M	November 2023	Change
MO 50	↑	128.55
MT 0		

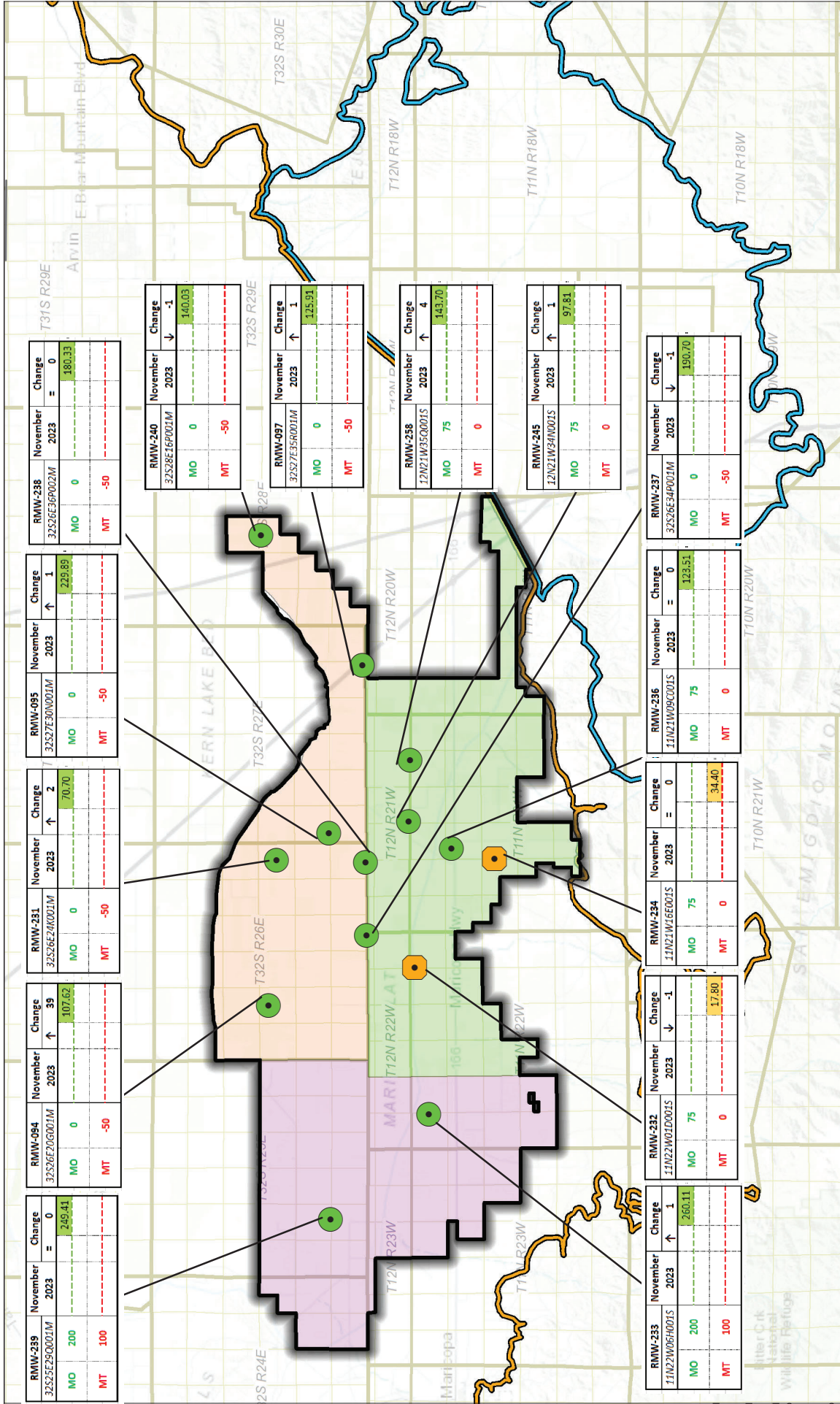
RMW-011 32529E12P001M	November 2023	Change
MO 50	↑	61.93
MT 0		

RMW-009 31530E30U001M	November 2023	Change
MO 100	↑	93.13
MT 50		

RMW-007 31530E17K001M	November 2023	Change
MO 100	↑	81.23
MT 50		

RMW-006 31529E12M001M	November 2023	Change
MO 100	↓	66.31
MT 50		

RMW-003 30530E19E001M	November 2023	Change
MO 300	=	575
MT 250		



RMW-239	November 2023	Change
32S25E290001M	200	↑ 249.41
MO	0	↑ 107.62
MT	100	↑ 39

RMW-094	November 2023	Change
32S26E240001M	0	↑ 107.62
MO	0	↑ 70.70
MT	-50	↑ 2

RMW-231	November 2023	Change
32S26E240001M	0	↑ 70.70
MO	0	↑ 229.89
MT	-50	↑ 1

RMW-238	November 2023	Change
32S26E360002M	0	↑ 180.33
MO	0	↑ 140.03
MT	-50	↓ -1

RMW-240	November 2023	Change
32S28E160001M	0	↑ 140.03
MO	0	↑ 125.91
MT	-50	↑ 1

RMW-097	November 2023	Change
32S27E350001M	0	↑ 125.91
MO	0	↑ 143.70
MT	-50	↑ 4

RMW-233	November 2023	Change
11N22W050001S	200	↑ 260.11
MO	75	↑ 17.80
MT	100	↓ -1

RMW-234	November 2023	Change
11N22W160001S	75	↑ 34.40
MO	75	↑ 123.51
MT	0	↓ -1

RMW-237	November 2023	Change
32S28E340001M	0	↑ 190.70
MO	0	↑ 97.81
MT	-50	↑ 1

RMW-232	November 2023	Change
11N22W010001S	75	↑ 17.80
MO	75	↑ 123.51
MT	0	↓ -1

RMW-236	November 2023	Change
11N21W090001S	75	↑ 123.51
MO	75	↑ 190.70
MT	0	↓ -1

RMW-245	November 2023	Change
12N21W340001S	75	↑ 97.81
MO	75	↑ 143.70
MT	0	↑ 4

RMW-258	November 2023	Change
12N21W350001S	75	↑ 143.70
MO	75	↑ 143.70
MT	0	↑ 4

Legend

Groundwater Subbasin

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

Sustainability Criteria Zones

- Northeast
- Southeast
- West
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA

Notes

- All locations are approximate.
- Groundwater elevations reported in units of ft msl.
- All water levels collected during November 2023.
- Arrow direction indicates water level change from previous month.

Sources

- Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 6 December 2023.

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of November 2023

- Water Level Above MO (12 or 86%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but closer to MT (2 or 14%)

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 November 2023

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA
 South of Kern River
 Kern County, California
 November 2023
 C20055.00

eki environment & water

Figure 3

INTERIM FIGURE - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Legend

Representative Monitoring Well and Status as of November 2023

- Water Level Above MO (9 or 56%)
- Water Level between MO and MT but closer to MO (5 or 31%)
- Water Level between MO and MT but closer to MT (2 or 13%)

District Recovery Well

- AEWSD Spreading Basin
- Arvin GSA
- Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- Groundwater Subbasin**
- Kern County (DWR 5-022.14)
- White Wolf (DWR 5-022.18)

Abbreviations

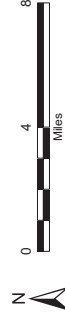
- AEWSD = Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- ft msl = feet above mean sea level
- GWE = groundwater elevation
- MO = measurable objective
- MT = minimum threshold
- RMW = Representative Monitoring Well

Notes

1. All locations are approximate.
2. Groundwater elevations are in feet mean sea level.
3. Undesirable Results are deemed to occur if groundwater levels in 40% or more (7 or more) RMWs are below their respective MT for 4 consecutive bi-annual measurements (Spring and Fall).
4. All RMW status based on November 2023 measurements.

Sources

1. Basemap is ESRI's ArcGIS Online world topographic map, obtained 6 December 2023.
2. Water level information obtained from AEWSD.



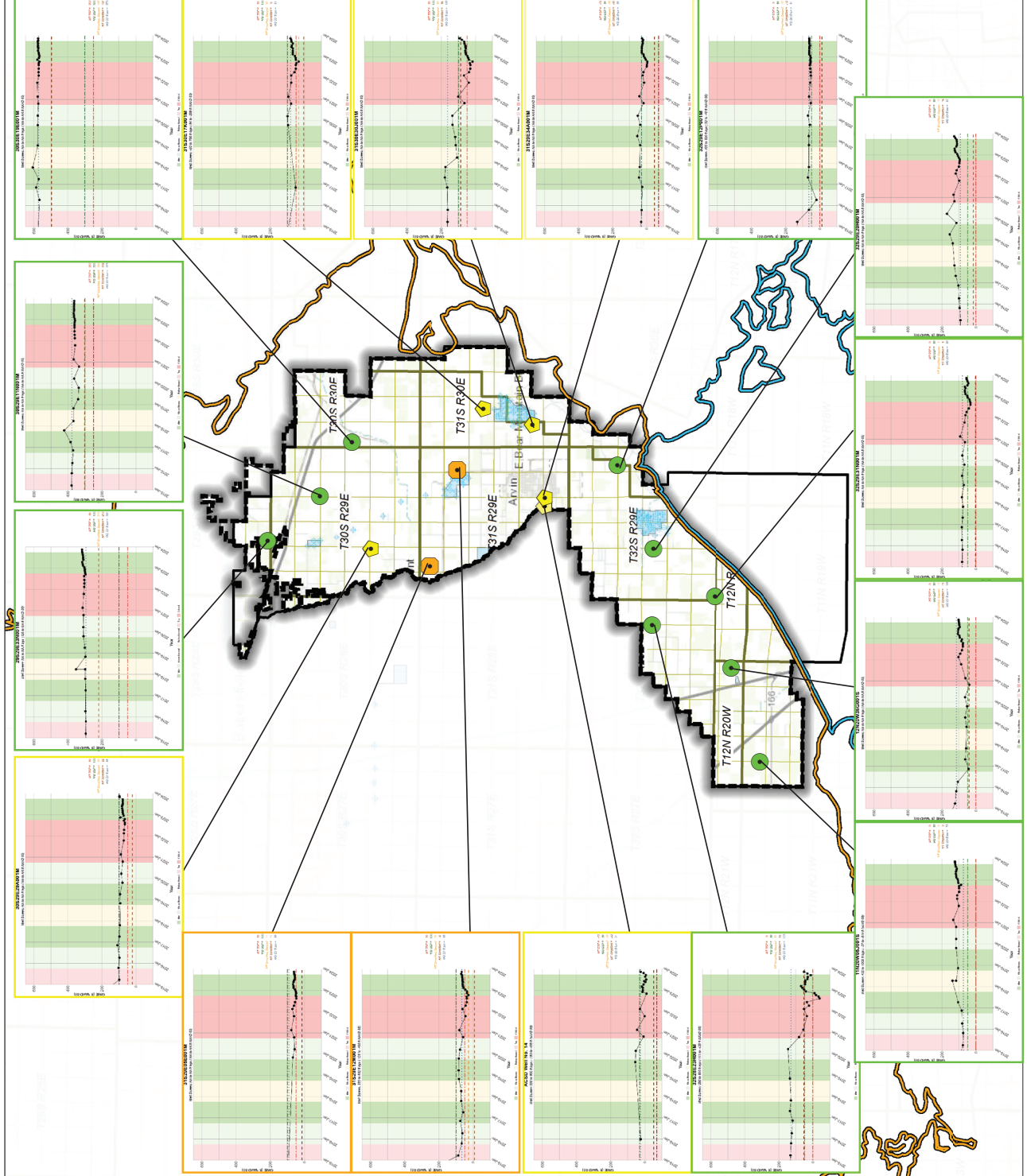
DRAFT
Hydrographs in Representative Monitoring Wells
 (Jan 2015 - November 2023)

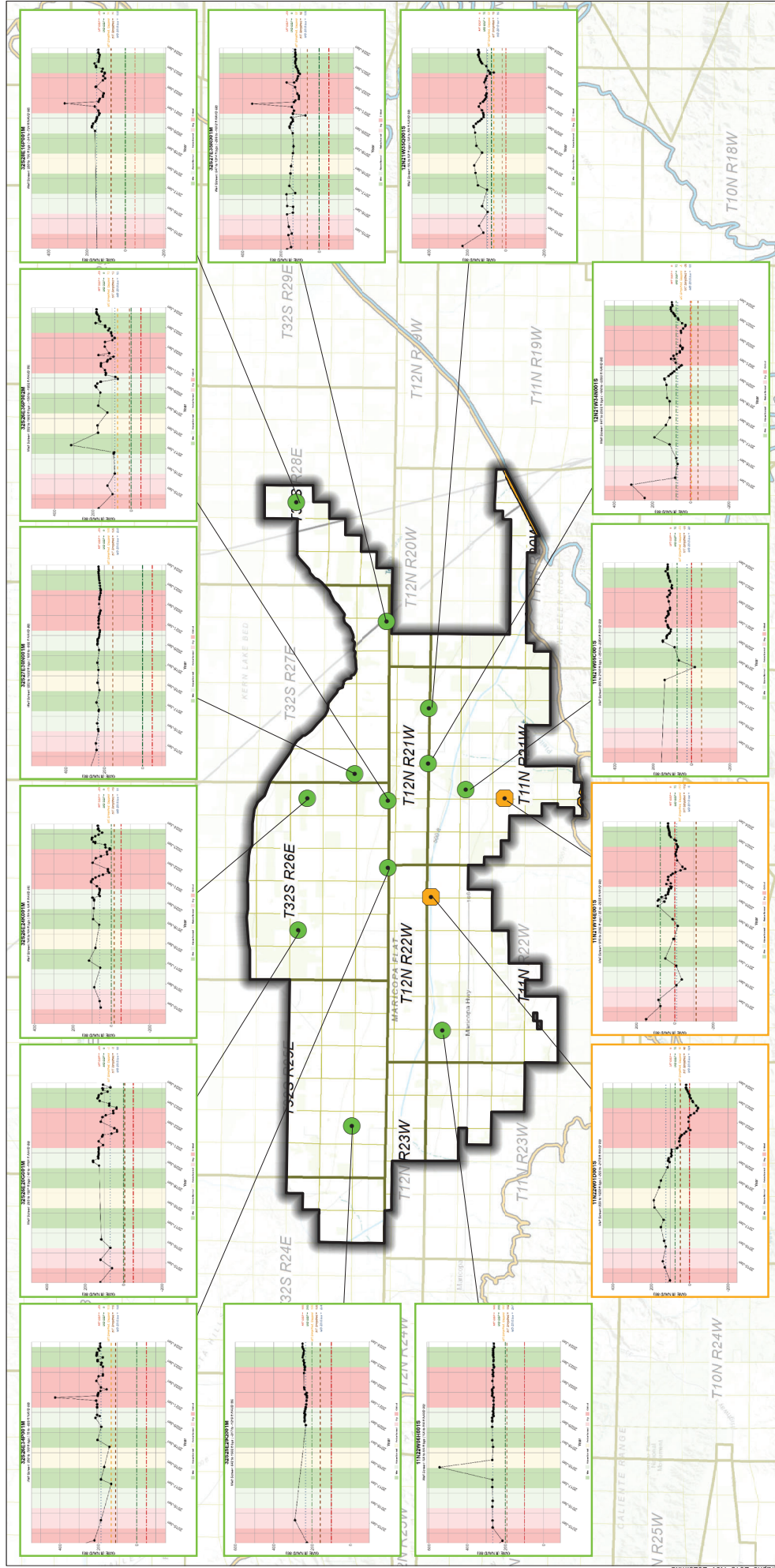
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 Kern County, CA
 November 2023
 C20055.01



Figure 4

INTERIM FIGURE - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY





Legend

- Water Level Above MO (12 or 66%)
- Water Level Between MO and MT but Closer to MT (2 or 14%)
- Water Wolf (DWR 5-022.18)
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA
- Kern County (DWR 5-022.14)
- White Wolf (DWR 5-022.18)

Groundwater Subbasin

- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA
- 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.
- Undesirable Results are deemed to occur if groundwater levels in 40% or more (5 or more) RWMS are below their respective MT for 4 consecutive bi-annual measurements (Spring and Fall).
- All RMW status based on November 2023 measurements.

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
- WRMWS = Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

Hydrographs in Representative Monitoring Wells (January 2015 - November 2023)

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
Kern County, CA
November 2023
B70103.01

Figure 5

INTERIM FIGURE - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY



4 December 2023

Sheridan Nicholas
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
12109 Hwy 166
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Subject: South of Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Support January through June 2024
Kern County Subbasin, Kern County
(EKI C20055.02)

Dear Mr. Nicholas:

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSO, District, or Client) has requested that EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) prepare a scope to support Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities for the South of Kern River (SOKR) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in 2024. The Client approved a previous Task Order, dated 8 September 2023, that covered SOKR GSP Implementation Support through December 2023. This Task Order extends the scope of the previous agreement and covers SOKR GSP implementation activities from January through June 2024.

BACKGROUND

The SOKR GSP was adopted in July 2022 by the Arvin GSA, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA, and Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD) GSA. The SOKR GSAs have jointly adopted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that describes the coordinated implementation of the SOKR GSP. The SOKR GSP identifies the key technical aspects of GSP implementation that are the responsibility of each GSA within their respective management areas, all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2024, including: (1) Monitoring, Data Collection and Data Gap Filling; (2) Projects & Management Action (P/MA) implementation; (3) Intrabasin Coordination; (4) Stakeholder Engagement; (5) Reporting; and (6) Enforcement and Response Actions. As described in the MOA, each GSA is responsible for implementing the SOKR GSP within its respective management area, bearing its own costs with respect to activities and responsibilities under the MOA, and no GSA will implement the GSP within any other GSA's management area without consent. Therefore, the scope of work below does not address these GSA-specific efforts, but is rather focused exclusively on coordinated SOKR GSP work efforts related to GSA administration, coordination and implementation.

On 2 March 2023, DWR released its determination that the Revised 2020 GSPs for the Kern County Subbasin were Inadequate, transitioning the Subbasin oversight to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). An Inadequate determination requires ongoing Plan revisions and coordination with the SWRCB. In response to the Inadequate determination, the Coordination Committee established the Technical Working Group (TWG) which has been tasked with conducting technical analyses to support recommendations to address the three deficiencies identified by DWR and to work with SWRCB Staff prior to the SWRCB noticing and holding a probationary hearing.

In the 7 June 2023 SWRCB meeting, SWRCB Staff prioritized Kern County Subbasin as fourth in line for a probationary hearing, now with an anticipated hearing date in Fall 2024. As directed by SOKR GSAs, EKI has provided a leadership role in the TWG, producing subbasin-wide work products focusing on the chronic lowering of groundwater levels sustainable management criteria (SMCs), participating on the subsidence and water quality subcommittees, and drafting the common language for select GSP chapters. EKI's work supporting the subbasin-wide revisions to the GSP is covered separately under the Kern Subbasin Cost Share Agreement. The Scope of Work below identifies work efforts specific to the SOKR GSP group for ongoing administration and coordination.

SCOPE OF WORK

The tasks listed below are to facilitate coordination and administration of the SOKR GSP amongst the three SOKR GSAs through 30 June 2024.

Task 1 – GSA Coordination and Administration

EKI will support the SOKR GSAs to coordinate, participate in, and manage the following SOKR GSP meetings scheduled through 30 June 2024, including development of meeting agendas, as-needed PowerPoint presentations, meeting minutes, as-needed meeting packet memoranda and supporting documents:

- Up to twenty-six (26) weekly SOKR Managers meetings. EKI has assumed virtual attendance at all SOKR Managers meetings. It is assumed that these meetings will be one hour in length and will include discussion of key technical matters, as well as development of agendas for the SOKR Executive Committee meetings.
- Up to six (6) monthly SOKR Executive Committee meetings. EKI has assumed virtual attendance at the Executive Committee meetings, and that these meetings will be two hours in length.

EKI assumes that SOKR GSAs will maintain and post materials to both the SOKR GSP website and their own individual GSA websites. EKI will work with the SOKR GSAs to ensure all meeting materials are posted to websites under Brown Act noticing requirements.

Task 2 – GSP Implementation Support

Task 2 involves intrabasin coordination and ongoing SOKR-specific technical support with developing a subbasin-wide strategic response and coordinated revised GSP. Specifically, EKI will support the SOKR GSAs involvement with Basin-wide activities, including:

- Participation in the TWG, review of materials produced by the TWG outside of EKI's subbasin-wide scope of work, and non-presenter attendance at meetings with SWRCB Staff. EKI has assumed virtual attendance at up to twenty-one (21) TWG meetings and four (4) SWRCB meetings, and that these meetings will be two hours in length.
- Attendance of Basin coordination meetings with other Kern Subbasin GSAs, including attendance at Basin Study Update meetings, as-needed support and attendance at Kern Subbasin coordination committee meetings and managers meetings. EKI has assumed virtual attendance and/or support at up to thirty-six (36) meetings, and that these meetings will be two hours in length.

- Coordination of and participation in one (1) follow up meeting with DWR California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP).

Subbasin-wide work efforts to support TWG subcommittee work and common GSP language will be invoiced separately to the Kern Subbasin Cost Share Agreement budget and is not covered under this Task Order.

Task 3 – Project Management

EKI will provide project management and as-needed consultation services during the GSP implementation process. This task includes coordination and communications with the SOKR GSAs, and project management services by EKI including the preparation of invoices, coordination of staff, and monthly progress reports.

PERSONNEL

EKI’s staff members who will lead this project include Anona Dutton, P.G., C.Hg. (Officer) and Christina Lucero, P.G. (Associate 1), with technical and strategic support provided by Chris Heppner, P.G. (Supervising 1), Aaron Lewis, P.E. (Associate 2), and Sarah Hodson, P.E. (Grade 3); grades in parentheses are for purposes of billing in accordance with the attached Schedule of Charges (see Attachment A). Other EKI staff members will be assigned to assist with the performance of the tasks as required to meet project commitments.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All work performed by EKI under this Task Order will be performed pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of our existing Agreement with Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District.

COMPENSATION

Inasmuch as the exact level of effort required to complete the above Scope of Work cannot be known precisely, EKI proposes to perform the work on a time and materials expense reimbursement basis in accordance with our current Schedule of Charges (Attachment A). Based on EKI’s level of effort over the last three months, the estimated budget for this scope of work is \$169,800 (see also Table 1). We will inform you if the level of effort exceeds this anticipated amount.

Table 1. Estimated Budget

TASK	Cost Estimate
Task 1 – GSA Coordination and Administration	\$46,700
Task 2 – GSP Implementation Support	\$116,200
Task 3 – Project Management	\$6,900
TOTAL:	\$169,800

SCHEDULE

Upon authorization to proceed, EKI is prepared to start work on the above Scope of Work immediately. This Scope of Work will cover work efforts conducted from 1 January 2024 through 30 June 2024. EKI will inform the SOKR GSAs of any issues that arise that may affect the schedule for completion or impact the anticipated level of effort. This Task Order covers a six-month period. EKI will present an additional Task Order at the June 2024 SOKR Executive Committee meeting to cover the anticipated level of effort to support third and fourth quarter 2024 SOKR GSP implementation.

We are happy to discuss the proposed approach and anticipated level of effort for these tasks in more detail with you and look forward to working with you on this important project. If this Task Order meets with your approval, please sign where noted below and return a fully executed copy to our office to confirm authorization to proceed. Please call if you have any questions or wish to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

Very truly yours,

EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.



Anona L. Dutton, P.G., C.Hg.
Vice President / Principal-In-Charge

AUTHORIZATION
WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT (CLIENT)

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Attachments

Attachment A. 2024 Schedule of Charges

Client/Address: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
12109 Hwy 166
Bakersfield, CA 93313



Proposal/Agreement Date: 4 December 2023

EKI Proposal/Project # C20055.02

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

1 January 2024

<u>Personnel Classification</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Officer and Chief Engineer-Scientist	345
Principal Engineer-Scientist	333
Supervising I, Engineer-Scientist	323
Supervising II, Engineer-Scientist	310
Senior I, Engineer-Scientist	297
Senior II, Engineer-Scientist	286
Associate I, Engineer-Scientist	275
Associate II, Engineer-Scientist	259
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 1	241
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 2	227
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 3	209
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 4	187
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 5	165
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 6	144
Project Assistant	135
Technician	129
Senior GIS / Database Analyst	170
CADD Operator / GIS Analyst	148
Senior Administrative Assistant	162
Administrative Assistant	128
Secretary	108

Direct Expenses

Reimbursement for direct expenses, as listed below, incurred in connection with the work will be at cost plus fifteen percent (15%) for items such as:

- a. Maps, photographs, reproductions, printing, equipment rental, and special supplies related to the work.
- b. Consultants, soils engineers, surveyors, drillers, laboratories, and contractors.
- c. Rented vehicles, local public transportation and taxis, travel, and subsistence.
- d. Special fees, insurance, permits, and licenses applicable to the work.
- e. Outside computer processing, computation, and proprietary programs purchased for the work.

A Communication charge for e-mail access, web conferencing, cellphone calls, messaging and data access, file sharing, local and long distance telephone calls and conferences, facsimile transmittals, standard delivery U.S. postage, and incidental in-house copying will be charged at a rate of 4% of labor charges. Large volume copying of project documents, e.g., bound reports for distribution or project-specific reference files, will be charged as a project expense as described above.

Reimbursement for company-owned automobiles, except trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles, used in connection with the work will be at the rate of sixty cents (\$0.60) per mile. The rate for company-owned trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles will be seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per mile. There will be an additional charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day for vehicles used for field work. Reimbursement for use of personal vehicles will be at the federally allowed rate plus fifteen percent (15%).

CADD and other specialized software computer time will be charged at twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour. In-house material and equipment charges will be in accordance with the current rate schedule or special quotation. Excise taxes, if any, will be added as a direct expense.

Rate for professional staff for legal proceedings or as expert witnesses will be at a rate of one and one-half times the Hourly Rates specified above.

The foregoing Schedule of Charges is incorporated into the Agreement for the Services of EKI Environment & Water, Inc. and may be updated annually.



Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003
805-644-4455

Revised December 6, 2023
Rincon Project No. 23-14981

Kern County Subbasin Coordination Committee
Rodney Palla, Coordination Committee Chair
Kern Delta Water District
501 Taft Highway, Bakersfield, CA 93307
Via email: Rodney@rpfarms.com

Subject: Amendment to the Contract Agreement for Kern County Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency Plan Manager Support, Kern County, California

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) is pleased to provide this proposed amendment for continued support of the Kern County Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency (SGMA) Plan Manager position (Plan Manager) in advance of the current Contract Agreement expiration date of December 31, 2023. Kristin Pittack has been supporting the Kern County Subbasin Coordination Committee (Committee) as the hired Plan Manager with Rincon since August 14, 2023. This proposal is prepared to continue providing the requested services through June 30, 2024.

Since October 16, 2023, additional service time has been provided per the direction of the Committee in response to development of a Subbasin GSP which includes:

- Changes from monthly to weekly two (2) hour Committee meetings (Task 1);
- Addition of weekly two (2) hour Managers' Meetings (Task 1);
- Changes from bi-weekly to weekly two (2) hour TWG meetings (Task 2); and
- Recurring virtual meetings with State officials during probationary consultation (Task 3).

The addition and increased frequency of these meetings is necessary to make progress on development of the Kern County Subbasin GSP prior to the probationary hearing. The increased meeting frequency has resulted in coordinated efforts to address Subbasin-wide agreements on the approach for MTs, MOs, URs, GSP development, and supporting relationships with State Agencies, and establishes the path forward for SGMA compliance for basin stakeholders. The Committee has further requested support service time to assist 3rd party consultants in the preparation and submittal of the Subbasin's Annual Report to DWR (Task 4).

Scope of Work

Task 1 Coordination Committee Support

Serving as Plan Manager, Ms. Pittack will continue providing on-call support to the Client. Typical services to be provided under this task will include:



- Organizing weekly Committee Meetings (led by Committee Chair)
- Organizing and facilitating weekly Subbasin Managers' meetings
- Facilitating meetings with California Department of Water Resources (DWR), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and others
- Upload and maintenance of SharePoint site with Committee materials
- Coordinating subbasin-wide submittal of Spring and Fall groundwater level data
- Facilitating Coordination Committee oversight of Subbasin-wide projects, topics, and project scoring. Administration and management of existing grants will remain with the grantee; however, scheduling subbasin-wide coordination or meetings will be included in the Plan Manager role.

For budgeting purposes, we anticipate up to 16 hours per week that will be required to complete this task throughout the duration of the contract (shared between Ms. Pittack and supporting water resource planner). Additionally, four (4) virtual meetings with the Client monthly for six (6) months is budgeted under this task, and the option of one (1) in-person meeting per month estimated at 114 miles roundtrip.

Deliverables:

- Various documents (meeting agendas, meeting notes, etc.) in Word and PDF format

Task 2 Technical Working Group Support

Serving as Plan Manager, Ms. Pittack will continue to provide support to the GSP Plan Manager and Technical Working Group through the development of the GSP, including weekly meeting coordination and phone and email correspondence. For budgeting purposes, we anticipate up to 8 hours per week will be required to complete this task throughout the duration of the contract.

Deliverables:

- Meeting agendas and meeting notes in Word and PDF format

Task 3 Agency Meetings

Serving as Plan Manager, Ms. Pittack will provide support as the SGMA Point-of-Contact between the Kern County Subbasin, DWR, and the SWRCB by attending public hearings and meetings as directed by the Coordination Committee, including providing agency meeting coordination and phone and email correspondence. For budgeting purposes, we anticipate up to five (5) virtual meetings with SWRCB and two (2) DWR/SWRCB virtual quarterly meetings to occur throughout the duration of the contract (shared between Ms. Pittack and supporting water resource planner).

Deliverables:

- Meeting agendas and meeting notes in Word and PDF format



Task 4 Subbasin Annual Report Support

Serving as Plan Manager, Ms. Pittack will provide support to assist the existing 3rd party consultants contracted for the Subbasin’s Annual Report formation, including coordination of discussions with contracted consultants, individual GSAs to obtain needed report information and data, and DWR for final report submittal. For budgeting purposes, we anticipate up to 20 hours to complete this work.

Assumptions

This scope of work assumes the following:

- Estimated 6-month timeline from January to June 2024. If services extend beyond 6-months, a contract and budget amendment for program support and management will be necessary.
- Additional services may be needed during the estimated contract timeframe based on the Client’s need; the Client may request a contract amendment for additional services provided by Rincon.

Cost

As shown in Table 1 below, the estimated cost for this scope is \$118,593.

Table 1 Cost Summary

Task	Estimated Cost
Task 1 Coordination Committee Support	\$72,768
Task 2 Technical Working Group Support	\$36,400
Task 3 Agency Meetings	\$5,925
Task 4 Subbasin Annual Report Support	\$3,500
Total	\$118,593

Note: Rincon reserves the right to escalate hourly billing rates at the beginning of each calendar year.

Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to support this position. If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact me at 760-930-7671 or rprickett@rinconconsultants.com, or Kristin Pittack at 760-223-5062 or kpittack@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Rosalyn Prickett
Principal

PROJECT BUDGET

Client Name: Kern SGMA Coordination Committee
Project: Kern County SGMA Plan Manager

Task Description	Labor Rates			Hours				Expenses		TOTALS
	Supervisor II	Planning		Total Hours		TOTAL LABOR	Mileage	TOTAL NON-LABOR EXPENSES		
		Senior Supervisor I (adjusted rate)	Senior Professional I	Professional I						
Services	\$285	\$175	\$150				\$0.66			
1 - Coordination Committee Support (January 2024 to June 2024 - 428 hours total for 26 weeks)										
- General Coordination Support (Email and Phone Correspondence, Miscellaneous Tasks as identified under Task 1) - 4 hrs/week - 116 hours total	12.0	104.0		116.0		\$21,620	-	\$448	\$448	\$22,068
- Weekly Committee Virtual/In-Person Meeting Support (Agenda Preparation, Meeting Attendance/Updates, Meeting Notes) - 6 hrs/week - 156 hour total		78.0	78.0	156.0		\$25,350	-	\$0	\$0	\$25,350
- Weekly Managers Virtual Meeting Support (Agenda Preparation, Meeting Facilitation, Email and Phone Correspondence, Meeting Notes) - 6 hrs/week - 156 hours total		78.0	78.0	156.0		\$25,350	-	\$0	\$0	\$25,350
2 - Technical Working Group Support (January 2024 to June 2024 - 208 hours total for 26 weeks)										
- General Coordination Support (Email and Phone Correspondence, Miscellaneous GSP Tasks as Needed) - 2 hrs/week - 52 hours total		52.0		52.0		\$9,100	-	\$0	\$0	\$9,100
- Weekly Virtual Meeting Support (Agenda Preparation, Meeting Facilitation Support, Meeting Notes) - 4 hrs/week - 104 hours total		104.0		104.0		\$18,200	-	\$0	\$0	\$18,200
- GSP Coordination with Project Manager (Email and Phone Correspondence, Weekly Update Meetings) - 2 hrs/week - 52 total		52.0		52.0		\$9,100	-	\$0	\$0	\$9,100
3 - Agency Meetings (7 meetings total for 26 weeks)										
- SWRCB Virtual Meetings (Meeting Preparation, Agenda Creation, Attendance, Notes to CC Members) - 6 hrs x 5 mtgs		15.0	15.0	30.0		\$4,875	-	\$0	\$0	\$4,875
- DWR/SWRCB Quarterly Virtual Meetings (Attendance, Meeting Notes) - 3 hrs x 2 mtgs		6.0	6.0	6.0		\$1,050	-	\$0	\$0	\$1,050
4 - Subbasin Annual Report Support (20 hours total for 26 weeks)										
- Coordination with consultants for report preparation and submittal		10.0		10.0		\$1,750	-	\$0	\$0	\$1,750
- Coordination with individual GSAs for information and data collection		5.0	5.0	5.0		\$875	-	\$0	\$0	\$875
- Coordination with DWR for plan submittal		5.0	5.0	5.0		\$875	-	\$0	\$0	\$875
Subtotals	12.0	509.0	171.0	692.0		\$118,145	\$448	\$448	\$448	\$118,593
TOTALS	12.0	509.0	171.0	692.0		\$118,145	\$448	\$448	\$448	\$118,593



Standard Fee Schedule for Environmental Sciences and Planning Services

Professional, Technical, and Support Personnel*	July 1 – December 31, 2023
Senior Principal	\$308
Principal	\$297
Director	\$297
Senior Supervisor II	\$282
Supervisor I	\$263
Senior Professional II	\$246
Senior Professional I	\$230
Professional IV	\$204
Professional III	\$189
Professional II	\$168
Professional I	\$150
Associate III	\$126
Associate II	\$113
Associate I	\$105
Field Technician	\$91
Data Solutions Architect	\$189
Senior GIS Specialist	\$181
GIS/CADD Specialist II	\$161
GIS/CADD Specialist I	\$145
Technical Editor	\$142
Project Accountant	\$121
Billing Specialist	\$103
Publishing Specialist	\$116
Clerical	\$103

* Professional classifications include environmental scientists, urban planners, biologists, geologists, marine scientists, GHG verifiers, sustainability experts, cultural resources experts, and other professionals. Expert witness services consisting of depositions or in-court testimony are charged at the hourly rate of \$400.

Reimbursable Expenses

Direct Cost	Rates
Photocopies – B/W	\$0.25 (single-sided), \$0.45 (double-sided)
Photocopies – Color	\$1.55 (single-sided), \$3.10 (double-sided)
Photocopies – 11” by 17”	\$0.55 (B/W), \$3.40 (color)
Oversized Maps	\$8.50/square foot
Digital Production	\$15/CD, \$20/flash drive
Light-Duty and Passenger Vehicles*	\$90/day
4WD and Off-Road Vehicles*	\$150/day

*Current IRS mileage rate for mileage over 50 and for all miles incurred in employee-owned vehicles.

Other direct costs associated with the execution of a project, that are not included in the hourly rates above, are billed at cost plus 16%. These may include, but are not limited to, laboratory and drilling services, subcontractor services, authorized travel expenses, permit charges and filing fees, mailings and postage, performance bonds, sample handling and shipment, rental equipment, and vehicles other than covered by the above charges.

Annual Escalation. Standard rates subject to 3.5% annual escalation, on January 1.

Payment Terms. All fees will be billed to Client monthly and shall be due and payable upon receipt or as indicated in the contract provisions for the assignment. Invoices are delinquent if not paid within 10 days from receipt or per the contractually required payment terms.



Equipment	Rate
Environmental Site Assessment	
Soil Vapor Extraction Monitoring Equipment	\$160
Four Gas Monitor	\$137
Flame Ionization Detector	\$110
Photo Ionization Detector	\$82
Hand Auger Sampler	\$62
Water Level Indicator, DC Purge Pump	\$46
CAPDash	\$7,500
Natural Resources Field Equipment	
UAS Drone	\$276
Spotting or Fiberoptic Scope	\$170
Pettersson Bat Ultrasound Detector/Recording Equipment	\$170
Sound Level Metering Field Package (Anemometer, Tripod and Digital Camera)	\$113
GPS (Submeter Accuracy)	\$67
Infrared Sensor Digital Camera or Computer Field Equipment	\$57
Scent Station	\$23
Laser Rangefinder/Altitude	\$11
Pitfall Traps, Spotlights, Anemometer, GPS Units, Sterilized Sample Jar	\$9
Mammal Trap, Large/Small	\$1.55/\$0.55
Water and Marine Resources Equipment	
Boat (20-foot Boston Whaler or Similar)	\$800
Multiparameter Sonde (Temperature, Conductivity, Turbidity, DO, pH) with GPS	\$170
Water Quality Equipment (DO, pH, Turbidity, Refractometer, Temperature)	\$62
Refractometer (Salinity) or Turbidity Meter	\$38
Large Block Nets	\$114
Minnow Trap	\$98
Net, Hand/Large Seine	\$57
Field Equipment Packages	
Standard Field Package (Digital Camera, GPS, Thermometer, Binoculars, Tablet, Safety Equipment, and Botanic Collecting Equipment)	\$114
Remote Field Package (Digital Camera, GPS, Thermometer, Binoculars, Tablet and Mifi, Delorme Satellite Beacon, 24-Hour Safety Phone)	\$144
Amphibian/Vernal Pool Field Package (Digital Camera, GPS, Thermometer, Decon Chlorine, Waders, Float Tube, Hand Net, Field Microscope)	\$170
Fisheries Equipment Package (Waders, Wetsuits, Dip Nets, Seine Nets, Bubblers, Buckets)	\$57
Underwater and Marine Sampling Gear (Photo/Video Camera, Scuba Equipment [Tanks, BCD, Regulators, Wetsuits, etc.])	\$57/diver
Marine Field Package (Personal Flotation Devices, 100-foot Reel Tapes with Stainless Carabiners, Pelican Floats, Underwater Slates, Thermometer, Refractometer, Anemometer, Various Field Guides)	\$100
Insurance, Hazard, and Fees	
Historic Research Fees	\$55
L&H Dive Insurance	\$57/diver
Level C Health and Safety	\$70/person

December 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Kristin Pittack, Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager

From: Michael Maley, Principal Hydrogeologist

Re: Proposal – Preparation of GSP Annual Report for WY2023
Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)

1 INTRODUCTION

The Kern County Subbasin (Subbasin) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) submitted adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) covering the entire Subbasin to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 31, 2020. Annual Reports are due to DWR “by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the Plan” (§356.2). Subbasin GSAs are cooperating in preparation of the fifth GSP Annual Report covering Water Year (WY) 2023 for the Kern County Subbasin.

Todd Groundwater successfully prepared and submitted the previous four Annual Reports (WY2019 through WY2022) to DWR. We envision working cooperatively with Subbasin GSAs and their consultants to compile and incorporate information that either is currently available or is being collected as part of GSP implementation. In WY2022, the Subbasin Data Management System (DMS) was expanded for uploading of the required water budget data and GSP Implementation Progress Summaries for the Annual Report. As occurred during the preparation of the previous annual reports, we assume that all the Subbasin GSAs will provide their data and information required for the Annual Report in a timely manner to meet the April 1, 2024, submittal deadline. Todd Groundwater will work with the Subbasin Plan Manager (Kristin Pittack) to coordinate communications with Subbasin GSAs and DWR.

2 APPROACH

Preparation of the WY2023 Annual Report will continue to follow regulatory requirements provided in reporting standards for Annual Report data in Article 3 (§352.4) and additional reporting provisions in Article 4 (§353.4). In October 2023, DWR issued a new Guidance¹ document for preparation of Annual Reports that included additional information requirements. The new DWR Guidance document lists three primary sections for the Annual Report. These include:

- Executive Summary
- Data Analysis Summary
- Progress Toward Implementation

¹ Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations & Plan Amendments, California Department of Water Resources, October 2023.

The Executive Summary and Data Analysis Summary sections in the previous Annual Report are in generally consistent with the requirements of the new DWR Guidance document with only minor modifications. The Progress Toward Implementation provided a more detailed description of the reporting requirements than were listed in Article 7 of the GSP regulations (§ 356). These include the following topics to be covered;

- **Current Conditions for Each Sustainability Indicator** - The Report should describe, tabulate, and provide graphical representation of how current sustainability indicator conditions compare to minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives identified in the Plan.
- **Projects and Management Actions (PMAs)** – The Report should provide a description and table(s) of the status and/or progress toward implementing PMAs. The discussion should include the status of each PMAs listed in the GSP (e.g., active, pre-planning, conceptual, inactive), the benefits observed from active PMAs, expected schedule for PMAs in planning stages, and descriptions of anticipated benefits to occur within the next water year.
- **Progress Made on Recommended Corrective Actions** - The Annual Report should describe what actions have been taken during the preceding water year to address recommended corrective actions. This section is for approved GSPs, so will not be included in this Annual Report.
- **Other Information on Implementation Progress** - summarize any agency outreach and engagement during the preceding water year to inform the public of the status of GSP implementation, such as committee meetings, stakeholder engagement, public outreach events, coordination efforts with state and federal agencies, local well permitting and land use planning agencies, and neighboring GSAs.

Addressing these new Annual Report requirements will require additional time, budget and coordination with the Subbasin GSAs to accomplish. Additional information is provided in the Scope of Services.

Todd Groundwater will coordinate with the Subbasin Plan Manager and DMS Group for the for collection of the water budget data and GSP Implementation Progress summaries for the WY2023 Annual Report.

- The target date for getting GSAs to update the DMS with their water budget data and GSP Implementation Progress summaries is January 19, 2024.

The water budget data serves a dual purpose of populating the DWR water budget templates and updating the C2VSimFG-Kern model. Todd Groundwater will generate hydrographs of the Subbasin monitoring network wells that conform with the new DWR Guidance document..

We will continue to use the C2VSimFG-Kern model, following the same technical approach used in the previous annual reports, to support the data analysis for the WY2023 Annual Report. The model has proved to be an efficient tool to develop several of the required regulatory water budgets and other analyses. Specifically, the model will be used to develop change in groundwater in storage (maps and tables), a map of groundwater extractions, and the non-measured components on the four DWR templates. Use of the model for each of these analyses provided technically credible results that are consistent with the water budgets presented in current Subbasin GSPs.

Component #2 of the DWR Round 1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation grant (Basin Study) includes budget for updating the C2VSimFG-Kern input files for the WY2023 Annual Report under Task 5, and therefore, budget for this task is not included in this proposal. However, budget for

post-processing and evaluating of the model results to meet requirements specific to the Annual Report were not covered by the Basin Study and are included in this proposal.

3 SCOPE OF SERVICES

Tasks associated with the proposed scope of services are summarized below. Todd Groundwater intends to follow a similar approach used for previous annual reports to maintain consistency in methodology and presentation.

Task 1: Update Groundwater Conditions and Water Budgets

The guidance from Article 7 of the GSP regulations specified annual reporting requirements that include presentation of water budget data, hydrographs, groundwater elevation maps that are compiled from GSAs, member agencies, and other entities throughout the Subbasin. The existing format is considered to meet the requirements of the new DWR Guidance, so no substantial report format changes are considered necessary for these sections. The generation of hydrographs and water budget data will be performed via the DMS for WY2023. The subtasks described below outline the steps necessary to meet these annual reporting requirements.

Subtask 1A: Review Hydrographs

In compliance with regulatory requirements and the new DWR Guidance document, hydrographs will be prepared for all of the GSP network wells in the Subbasin. These will be as an appendix to the Report. The hydrographs will present overall trends and fluctuations for WY1995 through WY2023, which will be described briefly in the context of water year type. Hydrographs will include the minimum threshold and measurable objective for each well; therefore, any updates to these values will need to be provided by the reporting GSA. A map showing the location of submitted hydrographs will be developed and PDF files of each hydrograph will be included in an appendix of the Annual Report.

Subtask 1B: Prepare Water Budget Templates

DWR provides four required templates documenting water types, sources, and use within the Subbasin. Working with the individual agencies, Todd Groundwater will compile water supply data for the following categories:

- Groundwater Extractions tabulated by water use sector (generally Urban, Agricultural, Managed Recharge, and Other).
- Groundwater extraction measurement methods and accuracy.
- Surface Water Supply tabulated by water use source type.
- Total Water Use.

In accordance with guidance from Article 7 of the GSP regulations, data from more than 40 member agencies, municipalities and other entities throughout the Subbasin will be compiled through the DMS. Metered groundwater extractions, surface water supplies and water use data will be compiled for the DWR water budget templates via the DMS. The C2VSimFG-Kern model update will be used to calculate agricultural water demand. Reported data will be reviewed for consistency with the previous templates and with information provided for the model update. For example, the total surface water supply will be compared to total diversions into the basin to check for potential major discrepancies.

Subtask 1C: Construct Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps

Subbasin-wide water level contour maps for the Primary Principal Aquifer will be developed consistent with interpretations in the previous annual reports. Water level data required for the contour maps will be downloaded from the DMS. For the three additional local Principal Aquifers (Upper Principal Aquifer in the northwest, Santa Margarita Principal Aquifer in the northeast, and the Olcese Principal Aquifer in the east), Todd Groundwater will work directly with the GSAs responsible for those aquifers. It is preferred that the responsible GSA develop the localized groundwater elevation maps to the extent that data are available to better ensure that the interpretation is consistent with their GSP. Todd Groundwater will coordinate with the appropriate agencies to incorporate the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 maps into the Annual Report.

Subtask 1D: Analyze Change in Groundwater in Storage and Groundwater Extraction

GSP regulations (§ 356.2 (b)(5)(B)) for the Annual Report require both a map and graph of changes in groundwater in storage and groundwater extraction be developed over the entire groundwater basin. Todd Groundwater will develop change in groundwater in storage maps and graphs using the C2VSimFG-Kern model, using the same tool and methodology as in previous annual reports to maintain consistency in the results.

Data for the model update will be compiled by the DMS using similar data templates that were sent to each district in prior years. Todd Groundwater will update the natural hydrology for precipitation and flows in gauged streams (Kern River and Poso Creek). Precipitation data will be updated using publicly available precipitation data from the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University. The monthly rainfall data for Kern County for WY2023 will be mapped into C2VSimFG-Kern input files. The Kern River and Poso Creek streamflow for WY2023 will be updated based on locally measured weir data. LandIQ is providing WY2023 ET rates for the Kern County Subbasin. Todd Groundwater will utilize these data sets to develop the WY2023 Annual Report water budget update.

The updated C2VSimFG-Kern subbasin-wide results will be appended to the previous C2VSimFG-Kern results for WY1995 to WY2023 for required water budget tables and graphs. One annual change in groundwater storage map and one groundwater extraction map will be developed for WY2023 for the entire Kern County Subbasin using the updated C2VSimFG-Kern subbasin-wide results. Map generation will follow methodology similar to that used for the previous annual reports.

Task 2: Evaluate GSP Implementation Progress

As GSP implementation progresses, the Subbasin will be evaluating performance with respect to sustainability as part of the Annual Report. To date, this has been performed by each GSA providing a GSP Implementation Summary. In the previous Annual Report, this was expanded to include a summary of changes observed in the basinwide water budgets.

Subtask 2A: Current Sustainability Indicator Conditions

Subtask 2B represents an expanded information of current information for each sustainability indicator applicable to the basin. This is a new requirement from the new DWR Guidance document that will require new and additional data to be added to the Annual Report. These data will be described, tabulated, and presented graphically to represent how current sustainability indicator conditions compare to minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives identified in the Plan,

including an evaluation whether minimum threshold exceedances have occurred and determine if those exceedances constitute an undesirable result in the basin, for each applicable sustainability indicator.

The DWR Guidance document lists the following information to be provided for each sustainability indicator with applicable monitoring and data collected during the previous water year:

- Definition of significant and unreasonable conditions
- Description of sustainable management criteria (minimum threshold, measurable objective and interim milestones, undesirable results)
- Representative monitoring site information (e.g., name and location of well or subsidence InSAR mapping data)
- Measurement information and monitoring methods
- Comparison of measurement to sustainable management criteria
- Discussion of results and potential causes of observed conditions

The DWR Guidance document further recommends assessing whether impacts to beneficial users from changes in groundwater conditions have occurred during the preceding water year. Examples provided include:

- Dry wells
- Subsidence-related infrastructure damage
- Groundwater dependent ecosystem health
- Emergency water shortages
- Changes in water quality
- Extent of seawater intrusion

The current conditions for each sustainability indicator section should also include a description of efforts to fill data gaps during the preceding water year and how new data and information are being applied to improve basin understanding and reduce management uncertainty identified in the Plan. New information obtained from existing wells in the monitoring network during the preceding water year, such as well video surveys, reference elevation surveys, and geophysical data can also be described and used to update the understanding of the basin and the SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module.

Subtask 2B: Projects and Management Actions (PMAs)

Similar to the previous annual report, each GSA will submit a GSP Implementation Progress Summary via the DMS. Each GSA should provide a summary sentence/paragraph along with a bullet list of the WY2023 GSP activities or actions for their area. Documentation of progress with GSP implementation will need to be consistent with the current Revised GSPs for each GSA. Todd Groundwater will review each summary, and any questions will be directed to the reporting GSA. The final GSP Implementation summaries will be compiled into the WY2023 Annual Report.

The new DWR Guidance document requires that the GSA should provide updates in the Annual Report on implemented, planned, or proposed actions to address observed impacts. The GSP Implementation Progress Summary will be updated to provide a description and table(s) should that include the following:

- status of the various projects proposed in the GSP (e.g., active, pre-planning, conceptual, inactive),

- the benefits observed from active PMAs, expected schedule for projects and management actions in planning stages, and
- descriptions of anticipated benefits to occur within the next water year, to be reported on in the next Annual Report.
- assessment of PMAs necessary to respond to hydrologic or climate conditions and the response of those activities on achieving the sustainability goal for the basin.
- brief evaluation of whether the implementation of PMAs are resulting in adverse impacts to the various sustainability indicators, adjacent groundwater basins, or beneficial uses and users
- methods and processes that occurred during the water year to publicly notice and engage interested parties concerning the status and implementation of PMAs

The Annual Report will provide a consolidated basinwide summary of GSP Implementation that will highlight observations demonstrating the effectiveness of GSP implementation and provide documentation potential issues. The purpose is to provide a more coordinated basinwide summary of GSP Implementation progress for DWR reviewers. This summary will include:

- **GSP Implementation Projects and Management Actions.** This is envisioned as a table intended to highlight the actions that have been taken by the Subbasin GSAs. This table will be based on input provided in the GSA GSP Implementation Progress Summaries (Subtask 2A) and will be accompanied by a brief discussion.
- **Compliance with Exceedance Policy.** This will provide a consolidated summary of exceedances and actions taken during WY2023 based on input provided in the GSA GSP Implementation Progress Summaries (Subtask 2A). The discussion of the exceedances will be presented in context with the overall Subbasin monitoring program results to provide a preliminary assessment of undesirable result status.
- **Water Budget Assessment.** The water budget assessment will include a summary of changes observed in the basinwide water budgets based on the WY2023 data submitted to the DMS and other sources. The evaluation will compare the total recharge, water use and change in groundwater in storage for WY2023 to similar hydrologic years from the 1995 to 2014 Historical Baseline period from the GSPs. The assessment will focus on presenting observations, but will be represented as a preliminary since there are multiple potential factors that may be contributing to the observed changes in water use.

Since this is an expanded component the Annual Report based on the new DWR Guidance document, we anticipate that this section will require considerable review by the Subbasin GSAs before it can be finalized in the Annual Report. Additional requirements that may be added to those outlined above may require an additional scope of work. It is important for Subbasin GSAs for provide timely Annual Report input so that there is sufficient time to prepare and review this section before the April 1, 2024 submittal deadline.

Subtask 2C: • Other Information on Implementation Progress

The Annual Report should summarize any agency outreach and engagement during the preceding water year to inform the public of the status of GSP implementation, such as committee meetings, stakeholder engagement, public outreach events, coordination efforts with state and federal agencies, local well permitting and land use planning agencies, and neighboring GSAs. This summary should include any public comments, feedback, or concerns the GSA has received related to plan implementation over the

previous water year, in writing or during public meetings, and how the GSA has considered those comments.

The Annual should provide information or accomplishments related to implementation efforts that it is using to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin, such as obtaining additional funding. Finally, the GSA should outline anticipated implementation activities and efforts to occur in the upcoming water year, such as planned data gap filling efforts or project and management action implementation.

Task 3: Prepare Administrative Draft, Draft, and Final Annual Report

Task 3 provides for the preparation of the Annual Report document. Prior to the submittal of the Final Report to DWR, Todd Groundwater will prepare a series of draft reports that will be circulated to the Subbasin GSAs for review and comment. The general schedule for the draft and final reports are planned as follows:

- An Administrative Draft Annual Report will provide a near-complete document that will be provided to the Subbasin GSAs for review and comment. Initial results presented in this draft will be presented to the Subbasin GSA Manager Meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2024.
- A Draft Annual Report will provide a complete document that will address initial comments on the Administrative Draft. This draft will be provided to the Subbasin Coordination Committee for review and comment. This draft will be presented to the Subbasin Coordination Committee, tentatively scheduled for March 25, 2024.
- A Draft Final Annual Report will be provided prior to submittal for any last-minute minor additions or corrections, if necessary.
- The Final Annual Report will be coordinated by Todd Groundwater and the Subbasin Plan Manager for submittal of the report prior to the deadline of April 1, 2024.

The draft report review period will be to address remaining data deficiencies, incorporate comments, and review the report for compliance with Annual Report regulations. Todd Groundwater will respond to comments and coordinate document production during this period. The final report will be prepared as a PDF document that will be uploaded to the DWR SGMA portal and distributed to the Subbasin GSAs.

The DWR Water Budget Templates that will be uploaded separately to DWR along with this Annual Report. Each of the main budget data types will be summarized in the Annual Report along with a brief data description using a similar format as was used for the previous annual reports.

Task 4: Coordination, Communication and Meetings

As indicated above, there will be a need for communication with Subbasin GSAs to obtain comparable data across the entire Subbasin for inclusion in the WY2023 Annual Report. To expedite the process, Todd Groundwater will coordinate with the Subbasin Plan Manager for getting GSAs to update the DMS with their water budget data and GSP Implementation Progress summaries by the January 19, 2024 target date.

Communications may include individual calls/emails with Subbasin agencies, conference calls during periodic meetings of GSA managers, and video conference meetings to present progress to date and

discuss outstanding items or issues. In particular, any questions or contacts with DWR regarding clarifications of Annual Report requirements will be coordinated through the Subbasin Plan Manager.

For budget and planning purposes, two Teams Meeting updates on the Annual Report are assumed as part of this scope. Because of the large number of attendees, the Subbasin Managers Meetings – typically held on Friday mornings – will be used as a forum for data requests, discussion, and comments regarding the Annual Report preparation process.

4 BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

To better facilitate preparation of the WY2023 Annual Report, our work on the Annual Report data requests will begin upon receipt of a notice to proceed. The Todd Groundwater team will include staff members who worked on previous GSP annual reports and are all familiar with the Kern County Subbasin and GSP data in order to meet the regulatory submittal date of April 1, 2024.

Execution of the scope of work described herein is estimated to cost \$71,910. A budget summary by task is provided in Table 1. This cost estimate is considered a not-to-exceed estimate and Todd Groundwater will not exceed this cost without written authorization from the Subbasin GSAs. In addition, work will be conducted on a time and materials basis and only the costs expended will be invoiced. The budget has been lowered this year in consideration of the overlap with Basin Study tasks, but also covers time needed to address items from the new DWR Guidance document.

Please let us know if you have questions regarding this proposal. For the WY2023 Annual Report, time is of the essence, and we stand ready to move the effort forward as soon as possible.

TABLE 1 – Budget Summary to Complete the WY2023 Annual Report

TASKS	ESTIMATED COST
Task 1: Update Groundwater Conditions and Water Budgets	\$16,200
Task 2: Evaluate of GSP Implementation Progress	\$34,480
Task 3: Prepare Administrative Draft, Draft, and Final Annual Report	\$16,890
Task 4: Coordination, Communication and Meetings	\$4,340
TOTAL	\$71,910

5 AUTHORIZATION

Consistent with the terms defined in Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing Agreement for Revising Groundwater Sustainability Plans dated [Date], this Task Order is authorized by the signatures below. The date of execution is _____.

This scope-of-work is authorized by the undersigned:

- By: _____ Jeevan Muhar, General Manager
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District jmuhar@aewsd.org
- By: _____ Tim Ashlock, General Manager
Buena Vista WSD GSA tim@bvh2O.com
- By: _____ David Halopoff, Assistant General Manager
Cawelo Water District dhalopoff@cawelowd.org
- By: _____ Daniel Maldonado, Assistant Water Resources Director
City of Bakersfield drmaldonado@bakersfieldcity.us
- By: _____ Taylor Blakslee, Project Manager
Eastside Water Management Area tblakslee@hgcpm.com
- By: _____ Dominic Sween, General Manager
Henry Miller GSA dsween@igboswell.com
- By: _____ Dave Beard, Manager
Improvement District No. 4 Dbeard@kcwa.com
- By: _____ Steven Teglia, General Manager
Kern Delta Water District steven@kerndelta.org
- By: _____ Vanessa Yap, Staff Engineer
Kern-Tulare Water District vanessa@kern-tulare.com
- By: _____ Brian Grant
Olcese GSA bgrant@nflc.net
- By: _____ David Hampton, General Manager
North Kern Water Storage District dhampton@northkernwsd.com

By: _____ Tom McCarthy, General Manager
Pioneer GSA tmccarthy@kcwa.com

By: _____ Dan Bartel, Engineer-Manager
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District dbartel@rrbwsd.com

By: _____ Jason Gianquinto, General Manager
Semitropic Water Storage District jgianquinto@semitropic.com

By: _____ Kris Lawrence, General Manager
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District klawrence@swid.org

By: _____ Kris Lawrence, General Manager
7th Standard Annex klawrence@swid.org

By: _____ Roland Gross, General Manager/Secretary
Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District roland@ssjmud.org

By: _____ Anjelica Martin, Board of Directors Secretary
Tejon Ranch Company amartin@tejonranch.com

By: _____ Greg Hammett, General Manager
West Kern Water Storage District ghammett@wkwd.org

By: _____ Mark Gilkey, General Manager
Westside Water Authority mgilkey@westsidewa.org

By: _____ Sheridan Nicholas, Engineer-Manager
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District snicholas@wrmwsd.com

November 30, 2023

Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

Kristin Pittack
Kern Subbasin Plan Manager
via email: kpittack@rinconconsultants.com

TASK ORDER FOR KERN SUBBASIN DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DMS)

GEI developed a Kern Subbasin Data Management System (DMS) specifically for SGMA monitoring and reporting. The DMS is currently hosted on GEI's servers. Maintenance and technical support are provided by GEI's Information Management team and local Project Manager. This Task Order is to provide a Scope of Services, and estimated budget for annual hosting, technical support services, and hosting a user's workshop.

ANNUAL HOSTING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Task 1. Hosting

GEI will continue hosting the Kern DMS on a secure, dedicated server, which includes routine server maintenance and assistance with unexpected bug fixes. Hosting fee is \$100 per month.

Deliverables

- Hosting and server maintenance from January 1 through December 31, 2024.

Task 2. Technical Support

Technical support will be billed based on the actual labor effort, with a minimum of 15-minute intervals, and work will be performed on an as-requested basis. GEI has a team of DMS Project Managers (PM) available to support users through dmshelp@geiconsultants.com, or direct communication to your PM Stephanie Hearn, in addition to programmers who support the PMs when necessary. In addition to user support, minor programming efforts such as map updates, fixing bugs or tweaking functionality may also be performed in this task. Recommended budget for technical support from December 2023 through December 31, 2024 is \$20,000.

Deliverables

- As-needed support for data entry, clean-up, data export, and reporting to DWR.

Task 3. Annual Report Data Imports/Exports to Assist Todd Groundwater

GEI assists Todd Groundwater and the Subbasin with gathering data from public databases and/or providing reminders to agencies to ensure all data is compiled in time for running data reports. Assistance is provided for gathering the necessary data, ensuring data is accurately entered into the DMS, and assisting with data exports. Support that has been provided in previous years includes:

- Municipal surface water supplies for Cal Water, City of Bakersfield, East Niles CSD, and Oildale Mutual WC.
- Water use data from cities who do not report water usage to the State Water Board's Conservation Portal (Buttonwillow, Lost Hills, McFarland).
- Obtain wastewater data from North of the River Sanitation District, City of Wasco, and City of

Delano. Download wastewater data for other communities from the Regional Water Board's database of volumetric wastewater and recycled water.

Additional support is provided for the Section 7 narratives into a contiguous file, performing QAQC review of conservation data (municipal water use), extracting groundwater pumping data, and assisting with reconciling data or performing QAQC as requested by Todd Groundwater. Support with the annual report data is provided by Stephanie Hearn (Project Manager), Cynthia Page (Assistant Project Manager), and Charlie Lay (programmer).

Deliverables

- Data management support, as-requested assistance to Todd Groundwater.
- Annual Report Sections: Section 7 narratives and DWR Water Use Reports.

DMS WORKSHOP

A workshop will be hosted on December 19, 2023 to provide users with a review of the various modules and available functionality. Since the water transactions module is the newest tool, most of the workshop will be focused on teaching users the programming logic, reviewing the formulas for data entry, and providing onsite support to users who would like to work on entering their Water Year 2023 transactions.

GEI is budgeting for Stephanie Hearn and Cynthia Page to host the workshop with an estimated 3.5 hours of overview and at least 2 hours for onsite support to users. A tentative format for the workshop is overview of DMS functions including explanations of how data is used, detailed overview of the water transactions module, and independent data entry time with technical support available.

Participation is open to as many agency staff as needed. An agenda with scheduled timeframes for module reviews will be provided in advance to allow users to select the appropriate time for their participation. In person is recommended for routine users but virtual participation will also be available. Beverages, snacks, and lunch will be provided to in-person participants.

SCHEDULE

Work described in this Task Order will begin upon authorization and will continue through December 31, 2024. The 2024 hosting fee is based on a calendar year from January 1 through December 31, 2024. Technical support will be provided on an as-needed basis. Annual report assistance will be coordinated with Todd Groundwater.

BUDGET

Based on proposed Scope of Work, GEI suggests authorizing a budget of \$46,200, distributed to each subtask summarized in Table 1. All work will be performed on a not-to-exceed, time and materials basis.


Table 1. Budget Summary by Task

Task	Project Description	Total
1	2024 Hosting fee	1,200
2	Technical Support	20,000
3	Annual Report Assistance	15,000
4	DMS Workshop with Annual Report Data Entry Session	10,000
Project Total		\$46,200

GEI AUTHORIZATION


The identified fiscal agent for this Task Order is Buena Vista Water Storage District. Work will be performed consistent with the Professional Services Agreement, exhibit A, dated July 13, 2012. The Scope of Work was developed and is authorized by signatures below. All work will be billed under new GEI project number. Labor effort will be tracked and invoiced on a monthly basis.

Signed by:
 GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.

By: 
 Stephanie Hearn, Project Manager

Date: November 30, 2023

Signed by:
 GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.

By: 
 Mike Cornelius, Principal in Charge

Date: November 30, 2023

AUTHORIZATION

Consistent with the terms defined in Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing Agreement for Revising Groundwater Sustainability Plans dated [Date], this Task Order is authorized by the signatures below. The date of execution is _____.

Authorized by:

By: _____ Jeevan Muhar, General Manager
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District jmuhar@aebsd.org

By: _____ Tim Ashlock, General Manager
Buena Vista WSD GSA tim@bvhd20.com

_____ David Halopoff, Assistant General Manager
Cawelo Water District dhalopoff@cawelowd.org

By: _____ City of Bakersfield	Daniel Maldonado, Assistant Water Resources Director drmaldonado@bakersfieldcity.us
By: _____ Eastside Water Management Area	Taylor Blakslee, Project Manager tblakslee@hgcpm.com
By: _____ Henry Miller GSA	Dominic Sween, General Manager dsween@jgboswell.com
By: _____ Improvement District No. 4	Dave Beard, Manager Dbeard@kcwa.com
_____ Kern Delta Water District	Steven Teglia, General Manager steven@kerndelta.org
By: _____ Kern-Tulare Water District	Vanessa Yap, Staff Engineer vanessa@kern-tulare.com
By: _____ Olcese GSA	Brian Grant bgrant@nflc.net
By: _____ North Kern Water Storage District	David Hampton, General Manager dhampton@northkernwsd.com
By: _____ Pioneer GSA	Tom McCarthy, General Manager tmccarthy@kcwa.com
By: _____ Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District	Dan Bartel, Engineer-Manager dbartel@rrbwsd.com
By: _____ Semitropic Water Storage District	Jason Gianquinto, General Manager jgianquinto@semitropic.com
By: _____ Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District	Kris Lawrence, General Manager klawrence@swid.org

By: _____ Kris Lawrence, General Manager
7th Standard Annex klawrence@swid.org

By: _____ Roland Gross, General Manager/Secretary
Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District roland@ssjmud.org

By: _____ Angelica Martin, Board of Directors Secretary
Tejon Ranch Company amartin@tejonranch.com

By: _____ Greg Hammett, General Manager
West Kern Water Storage District ghammett@wkwd.org

By: _____ Mark Gilkey, General Manager
Westside Water Authority mgilkey@westsidewa.org

By: _____ Sheridan Nicholas, Engineer-Manager
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District snicholas@wrmwdsd.com