

Board Meeting



January 2026

AGENDA
NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING

33380 Cawelo Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 7:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER
PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Board Meeting Minutes
 - A. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
2. Consent Calendar

(The Board will consider various non-controversial routine items, issues and reports relating to matters of interest to the District. Any Board member or member of the public may request that any or all items be considered and acted upon independently.)

 - A. District Groundwater Levels
 - B. District Exchange Balances
 - C. Operations Report
 - D. Approve Standard Form License Agreement, Spectrum Pacific West LLC
3. General Informational Items
 - A. Kern River Watermaster Report
 - B. Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update*
4. Financial Matters
 - A. Approve Treasurer's Report
 1. NKWSD
 2. RRID
 - B. Monthly Financial Statements
 - C. Water Sales
 - D. Accounts Receivable
 - E. Approve Accounts Payable
5. Consulting District Engineer
 - A. Project Summary
 - B. Status of Grants*
 - C. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program/CV-Salts*
6. Budget and Personnel Committee*
7. Engineering Committee
 - A. Consider Task Order No. 26-03 for Calloway Lining Bid-Phase Support , GEI
 - B. Consider Taks Order No. 26-04 for Engineering Support for High Speed Rail CP-4 Project, GEI
 - C. Consider Task Order No. 26-05 for Grant Application Services, GEI

8. Groundwater Committee
 - A. Meeting of the North Kern Groundwater Sustainability Agency and SGMA Update
 1. GSP Implementation Update
 2. Consider Proposals for 2026 Kern Subbasin GSP Consultant Tasks
 3. Consider Proposal for Groundwater Modeling Support, INTERA
9. Produced Water Ad Hoc Committee*
10. Negotiating Committee*
11. Counsel of District*
12. Rosedale Ranch Improvement District*
13. General Manager's Report*
 - A. Water Association Kern County, Water Summit, March 5, 2026

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Closed Session Matters:
 - A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION
(Govt. Code Section 54956.9(a) and (d)(1))
 - (i) North Kern Water Storage District v. City of Bakersfield
(VCSC #56-2011-00408712-CU-CO-VTA)
 - (ii) State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearing Office
Adjudicative Hearing on Pending Applications 31673, 31674, 31675, 31676,
31677, and 31819
 - (iii) California High-Speed Rail Authority v. North Kern Water Storage District
(BCV-25-102876)
 - (iv) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates
(BCV-24-101361)
 - (vi) Bring Back the Kern et al. v. City of Bakersfield (Defendant/Respondent) and
Buena Vista Water Storage District et al. (Real Parties in Interest)
(BCV-22-1030220); 5th District Court of Appeal (F087487); CA Supreme
Court (S290840)
 - B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section
54956.9: two cases
 - C. PERSONNEL MATTERS
(Govt. Code Section 54957)
 - D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
(Govt. Code Section 54956.8) – use of District and landowner facilities for
various potential water management programs; negotiator, David Hampton
15. Adjournment

*Oral report to be provided at the meeting.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 1A

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2025

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on December 16, 2025.

President Andrew declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Kevin Andrew, Joel Ackerknecht, Robert Holtermann and Monte Mitchell. Others present: David Hampton (General Manager), Ram Venkatesan (Deputy General Manager), Marinelle Duarosan (Controller), Heather Williams (Operations Superintendent) and Christy Castaneda (Administrative Assistant) of North Kern Water Storage District, Scott Kuney, Mark Bateman and Alan Doud of Young Wooldridge, Guests present: Stephanie Hearn, Art Chianello, Grace Martin, and John Gaugel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:01 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

(25-124) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from November 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

Consent Calendar –

Consent Calendar included the following:

- A. District Groundwater Levels
- B. PG&E Monthly Analysis
- C. District Exchange Balances
- D. Operations Report
- E. Approve 2026 District Memberships and Support for Organization
- F. Approve Task Order 26-01 for Providing General Engineering Tasks Support, GEI
- G. Approve Task Order 26-02 for Providing SGMA Implementation Support, GEI

(25-125) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Calendar.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

General Informational Items –

Watermaster Chianello reviewed a presentation from Jenny Fromm with the US Army Corps of Engineers. This presentation was a brief review of responsibilities and accomplishments of the water management section and the newly formed water data section. The presentation discussed Sacramento District Projects, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, Water Management Section, Reservoir Operator Activities, Water Data Activities, Water Control Data, and the Water Control Manual Updates.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update – No report at this time.

Financial Matters –

(25-126) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(RR25-127) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

The Financial Statements, Summary of Water Sales and the Accounts Receivable reports for the month of November were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(25-128) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(RR25-129) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of November as noted.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

Consulting District Engineer – Mrs. Hearn informed the board she has stepped down from her role as Branch Manager but will remain with GEI. She introduced Grace Martin as the new branch manager. Ms. Martin provided an update on the following:

Status of Grants – Most activity is related to transitioning between grant closings and obtaining new grant agreements. Ms. Martin indicated GEI Consultants are still waiting for a response from the Bureau of Reclamation on the Calloway Canal Lining Case Street to Arrow Street grant application, which was submitted in the Fall of 2024. GEI is also monitoring Prop 4 grant programs and DWR's Watershed Resilience Program, specifically for how it impacts IRWMP and what new grant program requirements will be mandated.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

General Manager Hampton presented the 2026 Budget and discussed an overview of the key Budget assumptions. He stated that Staff met with the Finance Committee on December 4th to review and discuss the details contained in the Budget figures.

(25-130) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve the 2026 North Kern Water Storage District and Rosedale Ranch Improvement District Budgets and direct staff to closely track Kern River watershed precipitation through the winter/spring and make recommendations to the Board when available to adjust water tolls as necessary to match the District's costs and revenues with anticipated River supplies.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(25-131) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to adopt the Publicly Available Pay Schedule as presented on Exhibit A, effective for year 2026.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

Engineering Committee –

Deputy General Manager Venkatesan presented the 2026 Landowner Well Water Transportation Agreement highlighting the main points contained in the Agreement and the new changes, specifically under Item #12. All other provisions remained the same as in prior agreements.

(25-132) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve the 2026 Landowner Well Water Transportation Agreement as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(25-133) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to “Authorize staff to execute task order 25-10 with GEI Consultants to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) support services for a budget amount not to exceed \$38,000 for the 2024 WaterSMART Drought Response Program grant award.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(25-134) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to approve the renewal of the Consultant Services Agreement with GEI Consultants with changes as presented and to eliminate the \$50,000 reference under the Limitation of Liability section.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that the Kern Subbasin received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board officially returning the Kern County Subbasin to Department of Water Resources oversight. The Basin is in the process of scheduling meetings between subbasin representatives and DWR to discuss the transition and updates to the plan. He also stated that the group finalized a letter to the Friant Water Authority to re-engage the subsidence issue at the Friant Kern Canal. In addition, three proposed service agreements were presented:

(25-135) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to approve the Intera proposal for the Kern County Subbasin Technical Coordinator for 2026, with North Kern’s cost share not-to-exceed \$10,240.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(25-136) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to approve MLJ Environmental’s two-year proposal for well mitigation program consultant assistance, with North Kern’s cost share not-to-exceed \$2,000.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(25-137) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to approve MLJ Environmental’s proposal for the Kern County Subbasin Water Quality Implementation Services, with North Kern’s cost share not-to-exceed \$700.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

Produced Water Ad Hoc Committee – No report at this time.

Negotiating Committee – No report at this time.

Counsel of District – No report at this time.

Rosedale Ranch –

(25-138) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to “Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 25-09 with GEI Consultants to provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) support services for the Affentranger Groundwater Recharge and Banking Project for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for a budget amount not to exceed \$62,100. (Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

(25-139) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to Authorize the General Manager to execute the Assignment Agreement to assign the Canal Right of Way Exchange Agreement currently with V Lions Holdings, LLC to Palmetto Estates LLC
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: Glende, Abstain: None)

General Manager’s Report – No report at this time.

The President publicly stated that the legal authorities for holding Closed Session at today’s Board Meeting are the following sections of the California Government Code:

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION
(Govt. Code Section 54956.9(a) and (d)(1))
 - (i) North Kern Water Storage District v. City of Bakersfield
(VCSC #56-2011-00408712-CU-CO-VTA)
 - (ii) State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearing Office
Adjudicative Hearing on Pending Applications 31673, 31674, 31675, 31676, 31677, and 31819
 - (iii) California High-Speed Rail Authority v. North Kern Water Storage District
(BCV-25-102876)
 - (iv) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates
(BCV-24-101361)
 - (v) Bring Back the Kern et al. v. City of Bakersfield (Defendant/Respondent) and Buena Vista Water Storage District et al. (Real Parties in Interest)
(BCV-22-1030220)
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: two case
- C. PERSONNEL MATTERS
(Govt. Code Section 54957)
- D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
(Govt. Code Section 54956.8) – use of District and landowner facilities for various potential water management programs; negotiator, David Hampton

The above legal grounds were determined to exist based on advice of counsel, and discussion of such matters in an Open Session would cause prejudice to the District. The Board went into Closed Session at 8:40 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hampton, General Manager

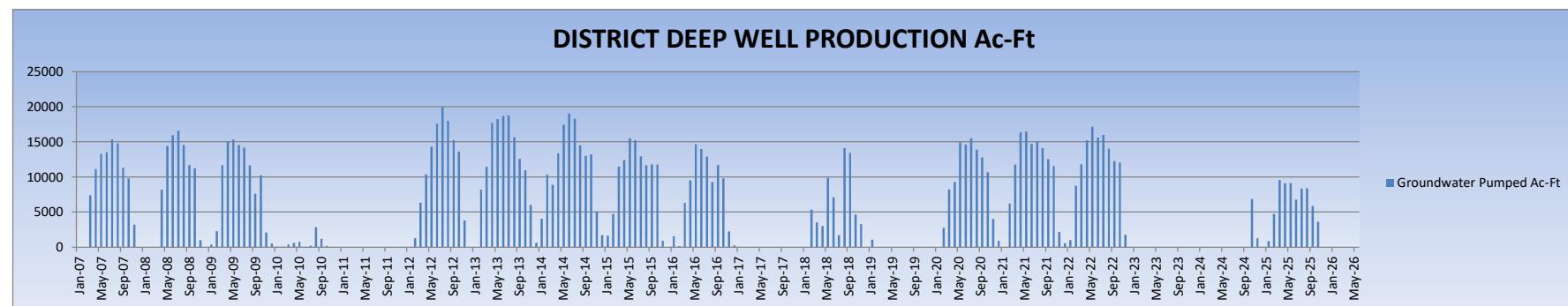
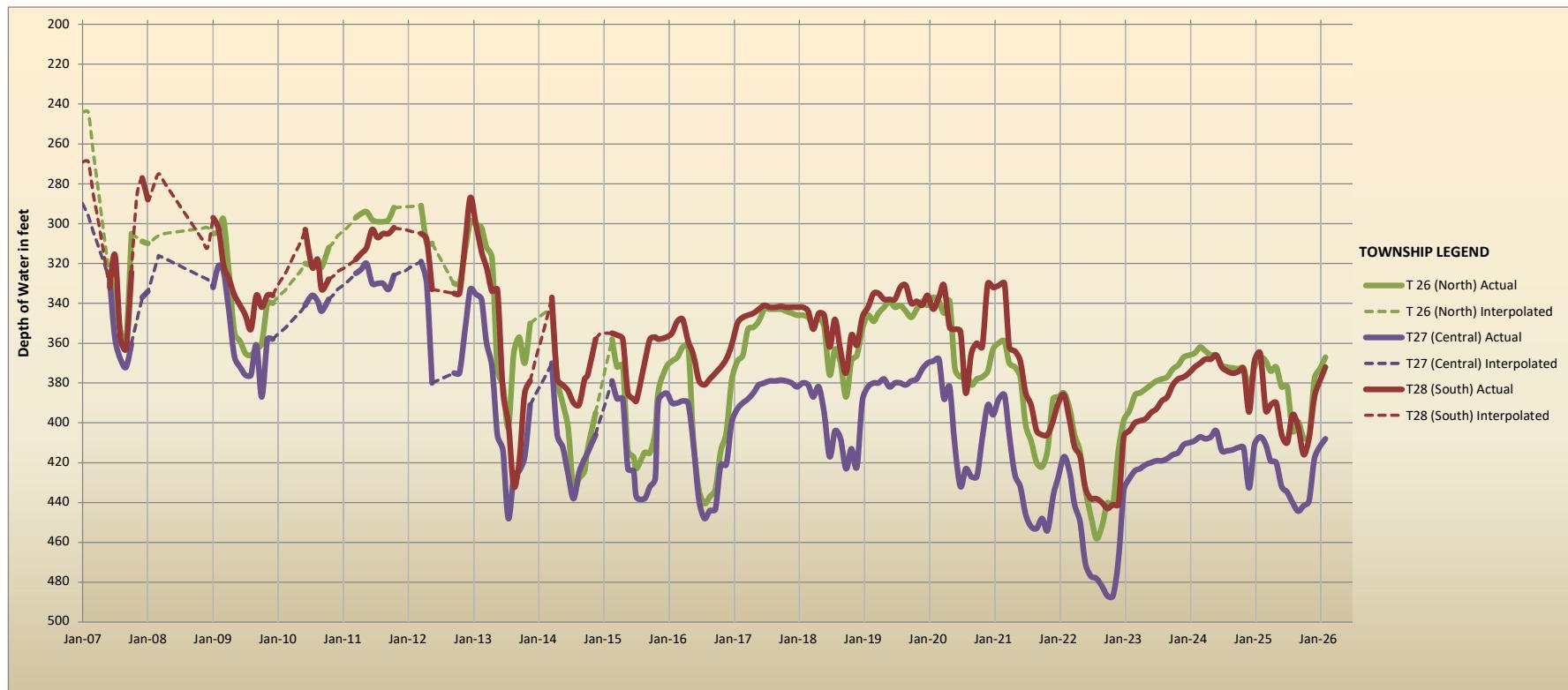
Approved by Board
January 20, 2025

Kevin Andrew, President

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 2A

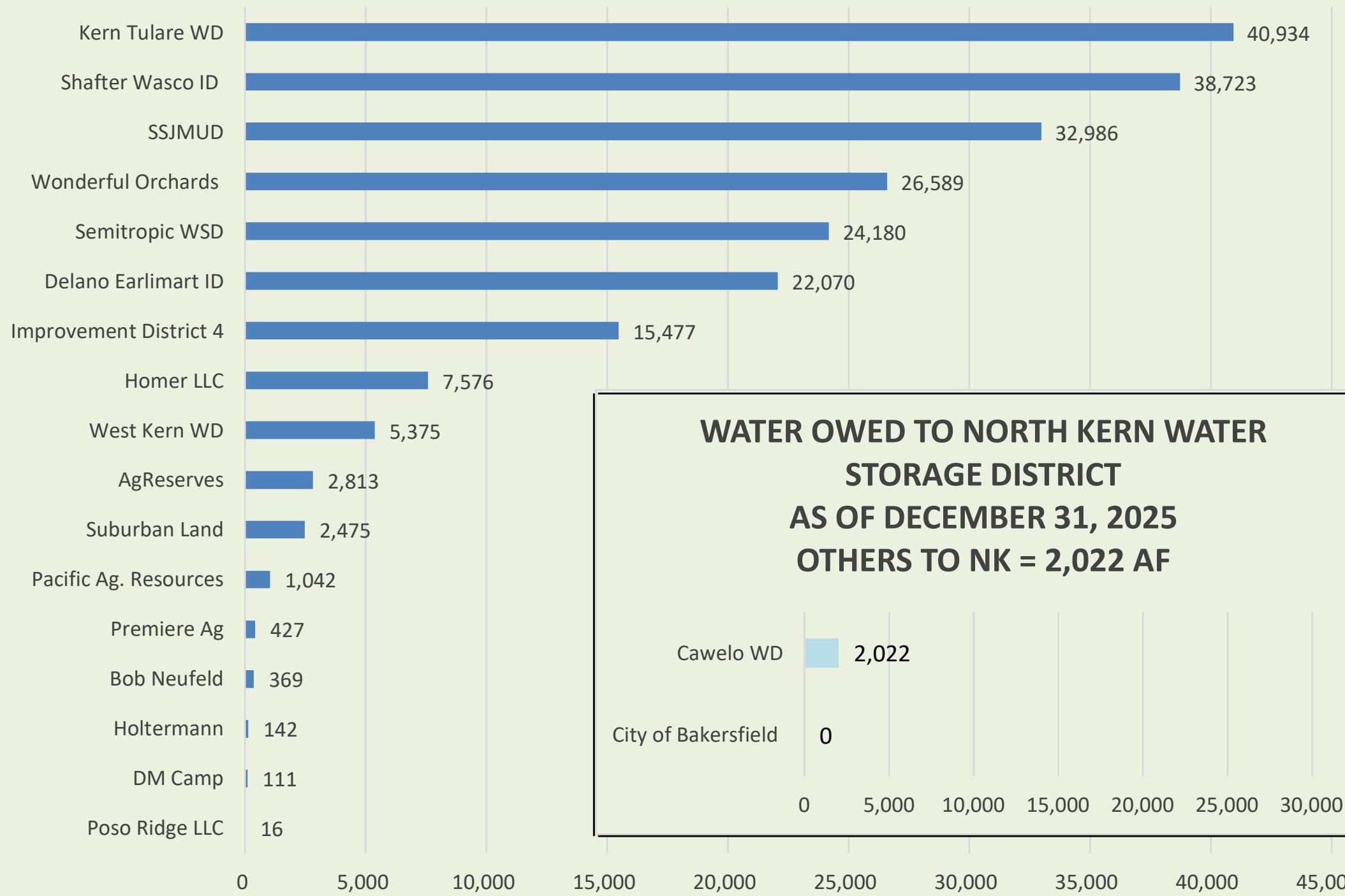
NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
AVERAGE MONTHLY GROUNDWATER LEVELS BY TOWNSHIP



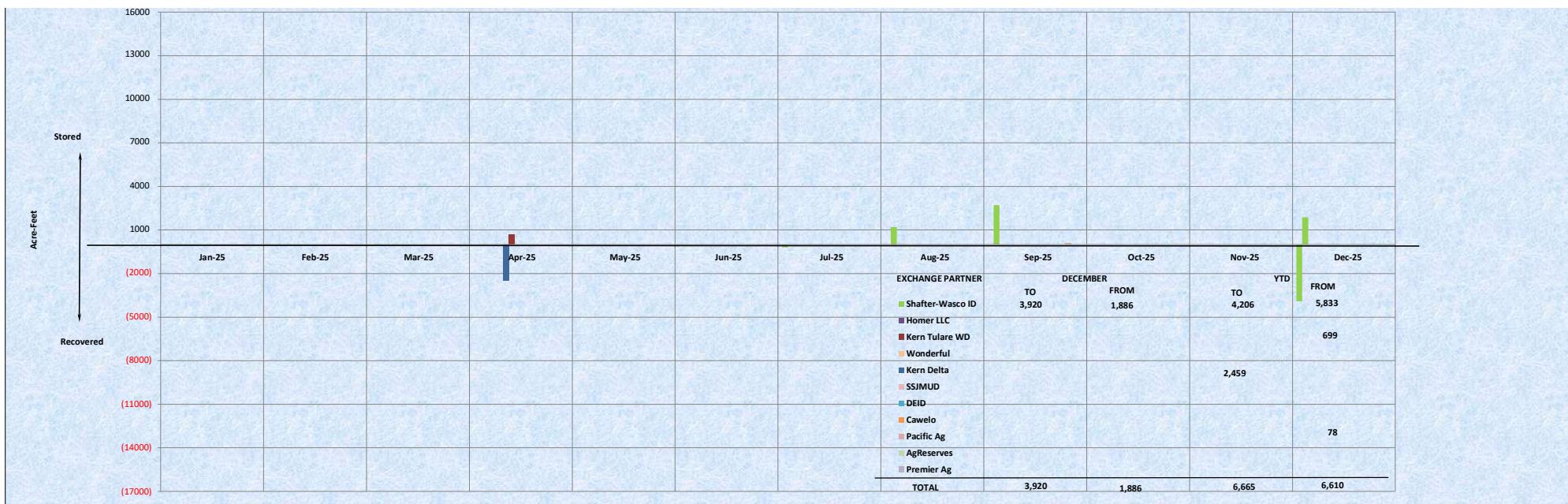
**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 2B

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
GROUNDWATER BALANCE AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2025
NK TO OTHERS = 223,188 AF**



NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
MONTHLY EXCHANGE QUANTITIES FOR 2025
(QUANTITIES IN AF)
(INCLUDES LEAVE BEHIND)



**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 2C



January 16, 2026

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Heather Williams

RE: Operations Report

Operations

1. Lake Isabella storage is currently 206,263 AF. Today's estimated natural flow is 831 CFS and the regulated outflow is 860 CFS. The district's share of storage is estimated to be 67,000 AF and receiving an average of 350 CFS/day of combined Kern River entitlement and Kern Delta WD release water.
2. In December, an estimated 15,800 AF of Kern River water was diverted into the Beardsley Head. Class 1 deliveries totaled 128 AF and Class 2 deliveries totaled 15 AF. Kern River recharge for the month was 14,786 AF.
3. On December 18th, Hills Valley ID began diverting 70 CFS/day to SWID from the CVC, adding to SWID's long term exchange balance within the district. A total of 1,886 AF was delivered for the month. Flows continued into January and ended on the 15th.
4. CRC produced water continues to be diverted to Rosedale Spreading. Daily flows are averaging 12.2 CFS. Califia continues with 1 CFS into the Lerdo.
5. The annual District maintenance shutdown will be ending on January 25th.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 2D



Administration: P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-26
fax: (661) 393-6884

Water Orders
Operations: 33380 Cawelo Ave
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-33
www.northkernws

January 12, 2026

TO: ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
Directors Ackerknecht and Mitchell, Alternate Andrew

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: Approve Issuance of Standard Form District License Agreement to Spectrum Pacific West, LLC

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“Authorize the execution of a standard form District license agreement to Spectrum Pacific West LLC for constructing, operating, and maintaining a fiber optic line across the Calloway Canal at Rosedale Highway.”

DISCUSSION:

Spectrum Pacific West LLC (“Spectrum”) has requested approval to construct, operate, and maintain a fiber optic line across the Calloway Canal at Rosedale Highway (Via bridge attachment) as shown on Exhibit “A”. Spectrum’s engineer has submitted construction drawings, legal description, and the certificate of insurance, which District staff have reviewed and find acceptable. Staff recommends executing a standard form District license agreement (Exhibit “B”) with Spectrum, subject to legal counsel’s approval.

Attachments:

Exhibit “A” – Proposed Project Location
Exhibit “B” – License Agreement

Exhibit A

Date: May 2, 2024

RE: 4913558 | CANAL | 7777 Rosedale Highway, Bakersfield

To North Kern Water Storage District,

Spectrum Pacific West, LLC is seeking to cross Calloway Canal via bridge attachment. Spectrum is proposing to place (1) 4" HDG sleeve equipped with (2) 2" conduits via Atkore Unistrut P1000THG deemed suitable by Structural Engineer. Spectrum is looking to provide fiber services to address 7777 Rosedale Hwy. Please see image below for quick overview. Refer to Plan set of the design & structural plans for the attachment.



Please advise if anything else is needed.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lindsay

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Lindsay".

LICENSE AGREEMENT

THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT, dated _____ ("Effective Date"), between **North Kern Water Storage District**, a water storage district duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, hereinafter called "District, and **Spectrum Pacific West, LLC**, a Delaware limited liability company hereinafter called "Licensee".

WITNESSETH THAT:

1. Description of premises. District, as the owner of that certain canal known as the Calloway Canal, and as the owner of an easement and right of way therefore, hereby gives Licensee a nonexclusive license ("License"), terminable as hereinafter provided, to use for the purpose and subject to the covenants, conditions and provisions hereinafter set forth, to each and all of which the parties hereby mutually agree, the portion or portions of said easement and right of way, hereinafter called the "Premises", situated in Kern County, California, as described as follows:

Section ____, Township ____ South, Range ____ East, MDB&M, the centerline and facility boundary of which are particularly described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof.

2. Use of Premises. Licensee may use the Premises for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining communications wires, equipment and facilities hereinafter called the "Facility", and for no other purpose or purposes whatever. District reserves the right to use the Premises for all purposes incidental to the operation, maintenance and improvement of the canals or ditches and such other purposes which do not preclude or interfere with such use of the Premises by Licensee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, District reserves the right to lay, construct and install pipelines, roads, ditches, fences, pole lines and other facilities in, upon, across, or along the Premises.

3. No Warranty of Title--License Subject to Existing Rights of Others. District makes no warranty of title whatever. The rights of Licensee hereunder are subject to all existing rights of others in the Premises whether of record or not.

4. Termination--Term. This Agreement shall continue in effect until the earlier of (i) 20 years following the Effective Date, whereupon this Agreement shall terminate automatically unless renewed by written agreement signed by the District, or (ii) until terminated by District as provided for under paragraph 11. Licensee may, at any time and from time to time by delivering a quitclaim deed to District, terminate this

Agreement as to all of the premises, and this Agreement shall automatically terminate if Licensee shall not use or maintain its facilities for a period of **two (2) years**.

5. Access. Licensee shall be entitled to access to and from the Premises as may be necessary, provided such access does not interfere with any of the rights of the District.

6. Installation and Maintenance of Facility. The Facility shall be used and maintained at such time and in such manner as approved by District's Manager, and under no circumstances shall Licensee interfere in any way with District's canal or ditch or the operation, maintenance or improvement thereof. If the Facility is a pipeline or a pole line, such pipeline or pole line shall be constructed, installed and maintained at depths or elevations which will not interfere with the operation and maintenance, improvement, widening, deepening or enlarging of the canal or ditch by District. Trenches and other excavations made by Licensee upon the easement and right of way at any time shall be promptly backfilled and the contour of the canal or ditch restored to a condition satisfactory to said Manager. Licensee shall, upon request, furnish District with a map or maps showing the exact location of its Facility and appurtenances upon the Premises. Licensee shall at all times maintain its Facility in a safe and sound condition of repair and in conformity with any and all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, requirements and orders of the nations, state, county or municipal governments.

7. Insurance. Licensee, at its expense, shall carry public liability insurance with liability limits of not less than **\$5,000,000** for the injury or death of one person and **\$10,000,000** for the injury or death of more than one person in any one accident, and property damage liability insurance in the amount of not less than **\$5,000,000**. All such insurance shall be carried with insurance companies satisfactory to District, and shall cover not only liability of Licensee for bodily injury to or death of persons and property damage, but also such liability which has been assumed by Licensee under the indemnity provisions of this License. Licensee shall forthwith procure and cause to be furnished to District, certificates from the insurance carriers stating that the insurance is in full force and effect, that the premiums have been paid thereon and that the insurance carrier will give District at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of any cancellation of the terms of such insurance.

8. Indemnification. (1) Licensee shall use the Premises at its own risk. (2) In this connection Licensee shall, at its sole cost and expense, comply with all laws, rules, ordinances and regulations of all governing bodies having jurisdiction over the work and uses which are the subject of this License including, without limitation, any applicable safety orders and obtain all necessary permits and licenses therefore and shall at all times preserve and protect the Facility installed and the work performed pursuant hereto and assume full responsibility for the condition thereof. If Licensee shall at any time damage or destroy District's canal or ditch or any other improvement or personal property on the Premises, it shall promptly pay to the owner thereof the full amount of damage thereto. District shall not be liable for any injury or death of any

person or persons or damage to or destruction of any property arising out of or in connection with, either in whole or in part and whether directly or indirectly, the existence or use of Licensee's Facility or any operations by or on behalf of Licensee hereunder. (3) Licensee shall assume the defense of and indemnify and save harmless District, its officers, servants, agents and employees from any and all loss, damage, liability, claims or causes of action of every nature whatsoever for damage to or destruction of property, including the property of said indemnities, or for injury to or death of persons, including Licensee's employees or agents, in any manner, including that alleged to have been caused by the negligence of the indemnities or any of them, arising out of or incident to the use or uses herein authorized; provided, however, that Licensee shall have no such obligation with respect to such of the foregoing as are actually caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnities or any of them. In particular and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the parties recognize that District cannot undertake to make known the existence of any buried facility to persons entering upon the Premises, and Licensee waives any claim against District for damages to such buried facility arising out of District's failure to make known the existence of such buried facility to person or persons causing such damage, even though such person or persons may have entered upon the Premises pursuant to express authority from District, and Licensee further agrees that District shall be entitled to the benefit of the foregoing indemnification provisions notwithstanding any failure, negligent or otherwise, of District to make known the presence of any buried facility. Licensee shall keep the Premises free from any lien arising out of Licensee's holding of this License or its operations hereunder. (4) Licensee shall at its sole cost and expense, comply with all laws, rules, ordinances and regulations regarding the removal, restoration and clean-up of adjacent property, and disposal of any and all portions of Licensee's facilities currently existing within the District's right-of-way and which is to be abandoned and replaced with the herein licensed Facilities. Licensee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless District, its officers, servants, agents and employees, from any and all loss, damage, injury, liability, claim or cause of action of every nature whatsoever arising from the existence, operation, maintenance and removal of any and all portions of Licensee's facilities currently existing within the District's right-of-way.

9. Taxes. Licensee shall pay when due all taxes and assessments levied or assessed against or referable to it Facilities or its right hereunder, and Licensee shall reimburse District for any sums paid by District to protect its title from the lien of any such tax or assessment.

10. Quitclaim and Restoration of the Premises. In the event this Agreement shall terminate in any manner as to all or any part of the Premises, such termination shall not relieve Licensee from any obligation or liability theretofore accrued hereunder, nor prejudice or in any way affect the right of District to enforce any right or remedy it may have had before such termination. Upon any such termination Licensee shall promptly execute, acknowledge and deliver to District a good and sufficient quitclaim deed of its rights hereunder in and to the land to which such termination applies and Licensee shall, within thirty (30) days remove the Facility from the Premises and restore them to a contour and condition satisfactory to District. If Licensee shall fail within such

period to remove its Facility and restore the Premises, then the Facility and appurtenances shall be and become the property of District absolutely, and District, at its option, may leave the same in its location or remove the same and restore the ground for the account of Licensee and Licensee agrees to reimburse District for the reasonable cost thereof upon demand.

11. Default by Licensee. Licensee agrees that it will keep, perform and observe all the covenants, conditions and provisions of this License on its part to be kept, performed and observed. In addition to any other remedies available to District, in the event Licensee shall fail to keep, perform and observe any covenant, condition or provision of this License, and such failure shall continue for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice thereof given by District to Licensee, then District may at its option by further written notice to Licensee, terminate this **Agreement** and all rights and interest of Licensee hereunder. In the event of default by Licensee, Licensee shall pay upon demand all reasonable costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees in a reasonable amount) incurred by District to enforce any of the covenants, conditions and provisions of this License, or to dispossess Licensee, irrespective of whether or not court action shall be brought. All amounts of money payable by Licensee to District hereunder, if not paid when due, shall bear interest from due date until paid at the rate of eight per cent (8%) per annum, compounded semiannually.

12. Paragraph Heading--No Waiver--Notices. The use of paragraph headings in this License is solely for convenience, and they shall be wholly disregarded in the construction of this License. The waiver by District of any breach by Licensee of any provision of this License shall not be or be deemed to be a waiver of such provision or a waiver of any other or prior or subsequent breach thereof, or a waiver of any breach of any other provision of this License. Any notice or demand by either party to the other in connection with this License shall be deemed to be fully given or made when written and deposited in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, registered or certified and postage prepaid, and addressed to the party to whom given at the address specified opposite its signature to this agreement. Either party may change its address by giving the other party written notice of its new address as herein provided.

13. Assignments. This agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of the respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns of the parties hereto; provided, however, that Licensee shall not assign or otherwise transfer this **Agreement** or any of Licensee's rights hereunder, either voluntarily or involuntarily or by operation of law, without the prior written consent of District, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, and any assignment or other transfer of attempted assignment or other transfer contrary to the provisions hereof shall be absolutely null and void and of no effect whatever. In the event of any such assignment or other transfer or attempted assignment or other transfer contrary to the provisions hereof, District may terminate this license at once by giving written notice to Licensee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may, without consent of the other party, assign or transfer this License, or its rights or obligations under this License, to (a) any affiliate of such party; (b) any successor entity resulting through acquisition, merger, reorganization or

otherwise; or (c) any entity which acquires all, or substantially all, of the assets or voting stock of such party.

14. District Cost Reimbursement. Licensee agrees to reimburse District for all reasonable and necessary engineering, staff and construction expenses incurred by District, including those incurred prior to the execution of this License, in regard to the preparation of this License and District's performance under provisions of this License, incurred by District pursuant to this License subject to Licensee's approval, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

15. Representations. Each party hereto represents that (a) it has the full right and authority to enter into, execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this License, and this License does not violate, conflict with, or otherwise constitute a breach of any agreement or arrangement to which it is a party or by which it is bound; (b) this License constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation enforceable against it in accordance with its terms, subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, creditors' rights and general equitable principles; and (c) at the time of execution, this License does not violate any applicable existing state or federal law.

16. Special Provisions and Exhibits. The following special provisions and exhibits if any, have been attached to this Agreement prior to its execution and are hereby made a part of this Agreement:

Exhibit A - Legal Description and Drawing of Facility
Exhibit B - Certificate of Insurance

A consideration of \$____ payable to North Kern Water Storage District is to accompany the properly executed License to cover costs and legal fees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this instrument the day and year hereinabove written.

NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

By _____
President

Address:
P. O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 93380-1435

and By _____
Secretary

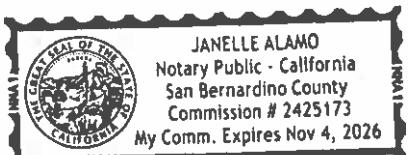
SPECTRUM PACIFIC WEST, LLC

Address:
Charter Communications
9335 Prototype Drive
Reno, NV 89521

By: Charter Communications, Inc., Its Manager
By _____
Jon Soseman
Area Vice President, Field Operations

(SEAL)

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE NOTARIZED. LICENSEE RECORDING REQUIRED AT EXPENSE OF APPLICANT.



(See attached)

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT**CIVIL CODE § 1189**

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California)

County of Riverside)On December 23, 2025 before me, Janelle Alamo (Notary Public)

Date

Here Insert Name and Title of the Officer

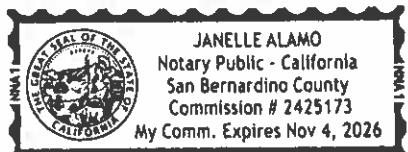
personally appeared Jon Soseman

Name(s) of Signer(s)

who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s), on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature Janelle Alamo

Signature of Notary Public

Place Notary Seal Above

OPTIONAL

Though this section is optional, completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached DocumentTitle or Type of Document: License AgreementDocument Date: December 23, 2025 Number of Pages: 7

Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

Capacity(ies) Claimed by Signer(s)Signer's Name: Jon Soseman

Corporate Officer — Title(s): _____
 Partner — Limited General
 Individual Attorney in Fact
 Trustee Guardian or Conservator
 Other: Orca Vice President

Signer Is Representing: _____

Signer's Name: _____

Corporate Officer — Title(s): _____
 Partner — Limited General
 Individual Attorney in Fact
 Trustee Guardian or Conservator
 Other: _____

Signer Is Representing: _____

Easement Description

Exhibit A

Those portions of Rosedale Highway located in the Northwest quarter of Section 28, Township 29 South, Range 27 East as shown on the map recorded in Book 19 of Record of Surveys, at Page 90, in the Office of the County Recorder, County of Kern, State of California being 15 foot wide easement, the southerly line being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of said Section 28, said point being described as "Calif. Div. Hwys. C.M. W/B.C. in L.H. as shown on said Record of Survey.

Thence South 89° 08' 16" East along the northerly line of said Section 28, a distance of 1324.85 feet to the 1/16 corner of said Section 28 as shown on said Record of Survey;

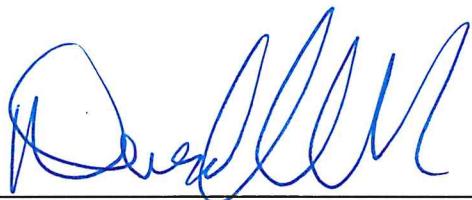
Thence South 00° 50' 55" West, a distance of 30.00 feet to a point on the southerly right of way line of said Rosedale Highway as shown on said Record of Survey.

Thence North 89° 08' 16" West along said southerly right of way, a distance of 140.00 to the True Point of Beginning;

1. Thence continuing North 89° 08' 16" West along said southerly right of way, a distance of 130.00 feet.

Said parcel of land shown on Exhibit B, attached and a part hereof.

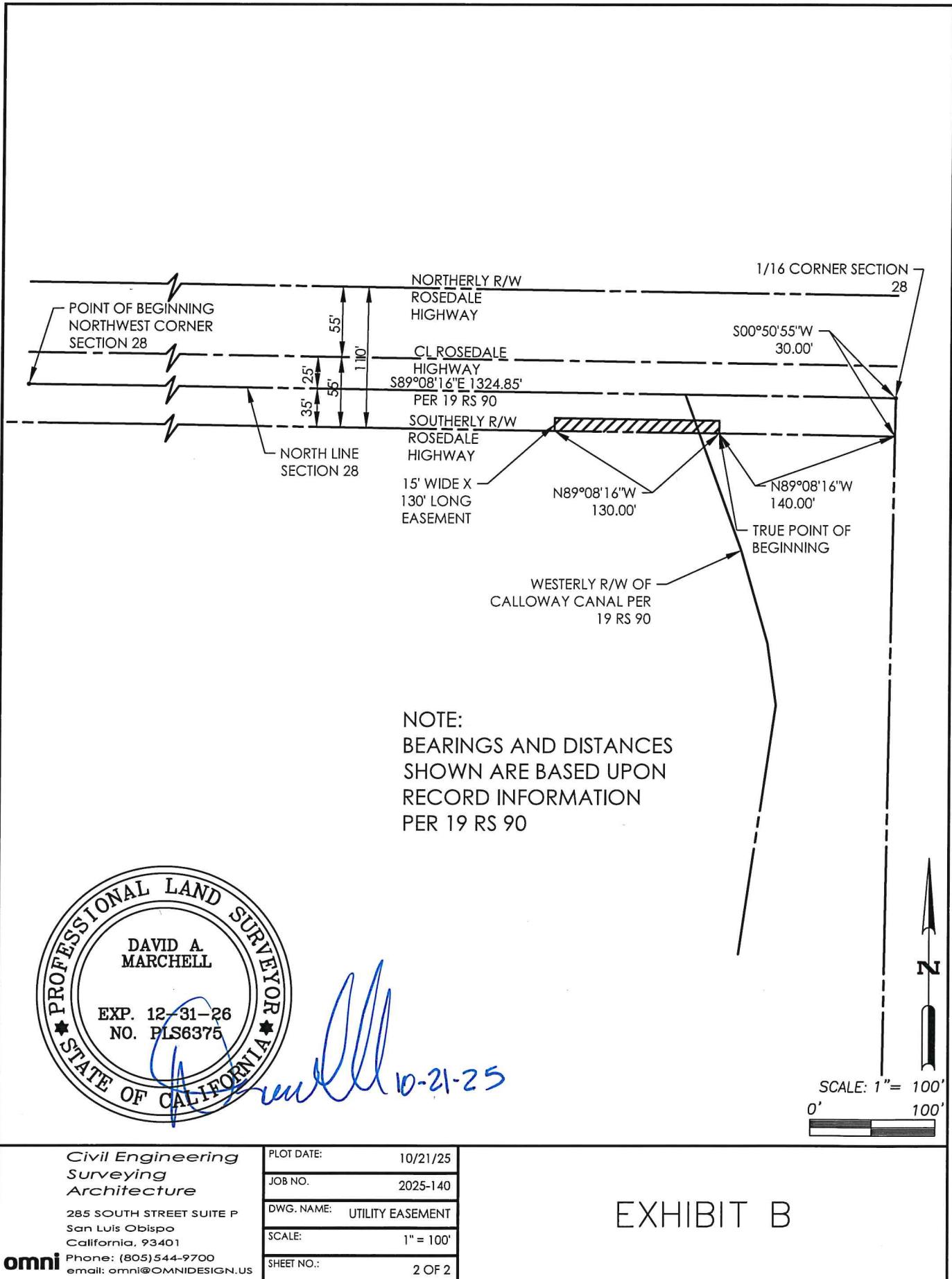
End of description



10-21-25

David Marchell, PLS 6375





**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 3A

KERN RIVER WATERMASTER

achianello@krwatermaster.org

To: Kern River Interests

January 8, 2026

From: Art Chianello
Kern River Watermaster

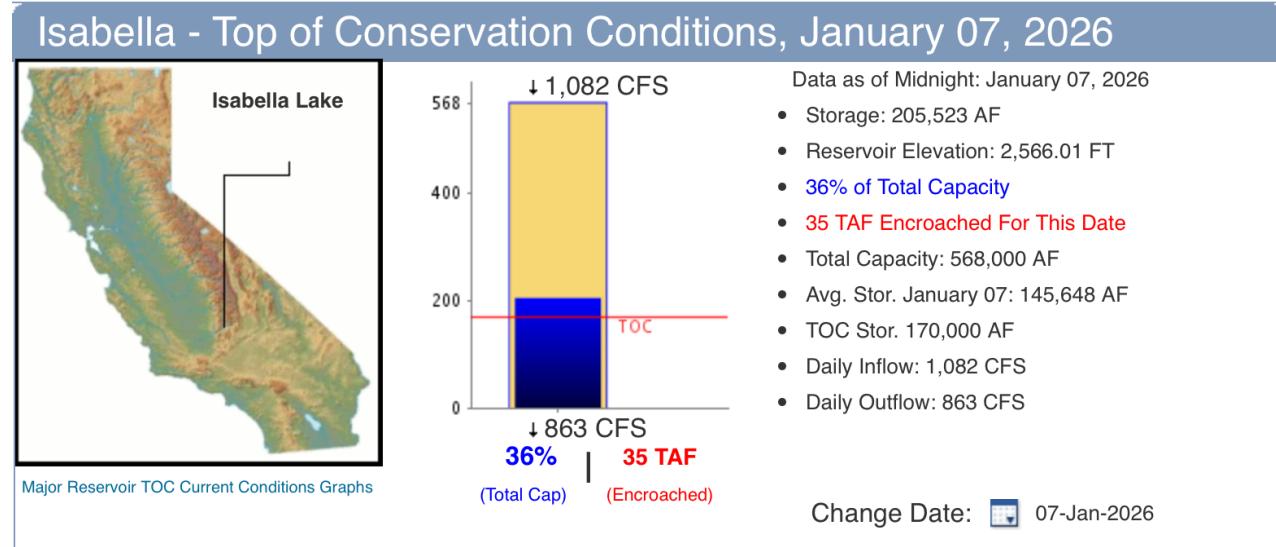
RE: Report of Recent Activities

Tulare Basin Precipitation - The southern third of the Central Valley is represented by CDEC's Tulare Basin 6-Station Index. As of January 8th, the accumulated year-to-date precipitation for Water Year 2026 is 148% of average.

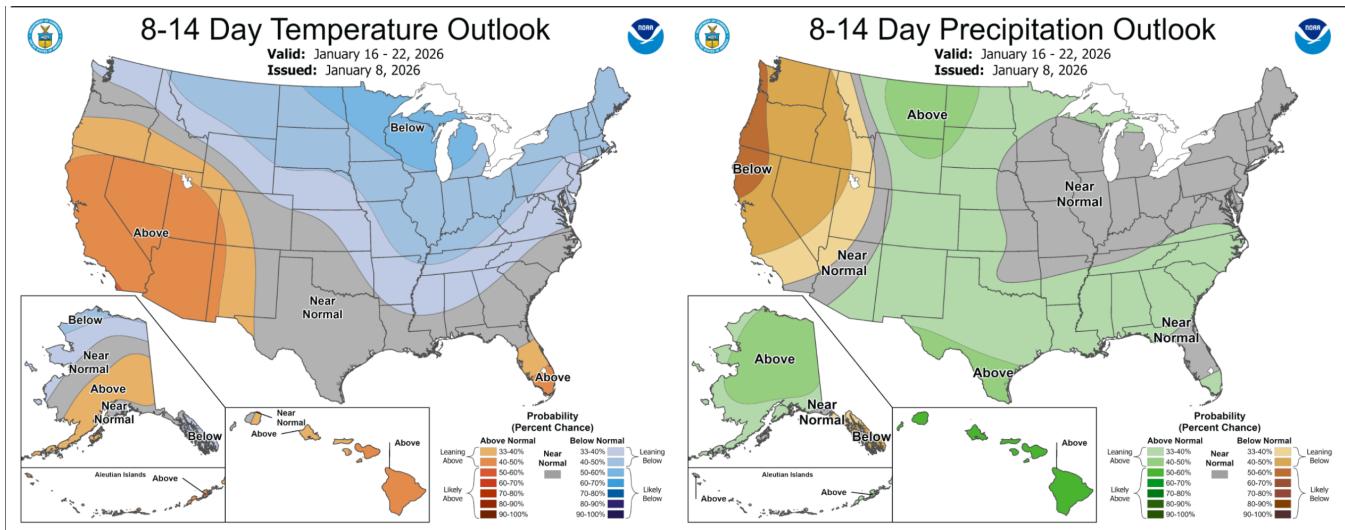
Early April-July Forecast - The CNRFC January 8th April-July forecast for the Kern is 91% of average.

Kern River Watershed Runoff - The Kern River's inflows into Isabella in percent of average for Water Year 2026 are, October 140%, November 143%, and December 119%.

Isabella Reservoir Storage - The storage at midnight on January 7th was 205,523 ac-ft. The average storage for this date is 145,648 ac-ft.



Short Term Forecast - The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center for January 16-22, 2026 shows above-normal probability for temperature and below-normal probability for precipitation.



Army Corps Communications and Coordination - I continue to provide weekly reservoir storage operations updates to the Corps. Additional coordination occurred prior to the December 24-26 storm. An updated reservoir routing was provided to the Corps on January 5, 2026.

Record Keeping - I continue to coordinate with Central Records and review daily and monthly reports.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 5A

**Monthly Consulting Engineers' Report for
North Kern Water Storage District**



Summary of Project Activity in December 2025

1. Budgets
2. Active Projects
3. Pending and Closed Projects
4. Grants

Submitted by

GEI Consultants, Inc.
5001 California Avenue, Suite 120
Bakersfield, CA 93309
T: 661-327-7601

Summary of Project Activity in December 2025

North Kern Water Storage District

1. Budgets

Project	Project #	Incurred as of 12/31/2025	Budget	Percent Utilized	Budget Projection
General Services 2025	2500362	\$49,739	\$50,000	124%	100%
SGMA Implementation Support 2025	2500370	\$10,000	\$10,000	160%	100%
2022 DRP Design and Bidding	2503604	\$88,595	\$175,000	51%	100%
High Speed Rail	1605740	\$295,702	\$299,324	99% A Task Order has been submitted for consideration.	100%
WDI Phase 3 and Canal Lining	2004274	\$301,074	\$327,300	92%	100%
Calloway Canal Lining 7 th Standard – 8-1 Backup Weir	2301760	\$5,125	\$25,000	20% A Task Order has been submitted for the next phase of work.	100%
Well Siting for Groundwater Banking	2200344	\$195,693	\$278,400	70%	90%
CM and Well Improvements for Long Term TCP	2104244	\$770,649	\$774,740	99%	100%
Landowner Groundwater Banking Program	2300158	\$25,046	\$56,050	45%	100%
2020 Return Capacity Improvements	2101445	\$13,894	\$38,500	36%	100%
Construction Management Services for the 2018 and 2020 Return Capacity Project (NK 622-623)	2403400	\$242,350	\$250,565	97%	100%
2022 Return Capacity Improvements	2301770	\$10,260	\$25,000	41%	100%

Summary of Project Activity in December 2025

North Kern Water Storage District

Project	Project #	Incurred as of 12/31/2025	Budget	Percent Utilized	Budget Projection
North Kern Grant Applications	2303704	\$54,847	\$50,000	110%	110% Project is overbudget due to extensive scope modification for Partnership Project that was also done under this project number. Project is expected to be approximately \$5,000 over budget
Grant Applications 2024 (FY25)	2406611	\$24,413	\$40,000	61%	100%
RRID Reclamation Grant Applications FY 25	2406609	\$7,210	\$20,000	36%	50%
Young Wooldridge Program Support	2305891	\$106,256	\$247,524	43%	100%
Partnership Project Grant Administration	2501449	\$2,122	\$35,000	6%	100%
Calloway Canal Lining: CVC Intertie to Kern River	2501451	\$18,137	\$123,834	15%	100%
2025 AWMP Update	2505251	\$32,938	\$45,000	73%	100%

2. Active Projects

General Services 2025 (GEI Project No. 2500362)

December activity focused on supporting the district with reconciling costs for sections of the Calloway Canal Lining project, as well as other routine tasks such as preparing board reports, participating in meetings, and general mapping efforts. Most of the labor effort was invoiced to the 2026 project number.

Upcoming Deliverables: none.

Active Task Order No.: 25-01

Budget Status: \$49,739 expended of \$50,000 budget (100%)

Budget Forecast: A Task Order is submitted to cover expenses through the end of 2026.

SGMA Implementation Support 2025 (GEI Project No. 2500370)

No significant effort in December.

Upcoming Deliverables: Assistance with reconciling well inventory records and drafting a progress report for the November board package.

Active Task Order No.: 25-02

Budget Status: \$10,000 expended of \$10,000 budget (160%)

Budget Forecast: A Task Order is submitted to cover expenses through the end of 2026.

Ag Water Management Plan Update (GEI Project No. 2505251)

Activity as of December includes updated all sections including the water budget after receiving data from Todd that is consistent with the GSP water balance. Sent draft plan to district for review.

Upcoming Deliverables: Incorporate demand information and submit draft to District for review.

Active Task Order No.: 25-06

Budget Status: \$32,938 expended of \$45,000 budget (73%)

Budget Forecast: It is expected the authorized work will be completed within budget.

High Speed Rail (GEI Project No. 1605740)

Activity in December included preparation of documentation of outstanding reimbursement requests.

Upcoming Deliverables: Finalize outstanding reimbursement request package; prepare and submit invoice package 88; prepare Rate Increase letter.

Active Task Order No.: 23-09 Addendum 1 (Add-on to 20-07, 19-07, 18-09, and 02-2017)

Budget Status: \$295,702 expended of \$299,324 budget (100%)

Budget Forecast: A task order for preparing 2026 reimbursement request packages was submitted to the District in January.

WDI Phase 3 and Canal Lining (R19AP00140 and R20AP00064) (GEI Project 2004274)

Activities related to Grant Administration and Reporting:

- The project completion report for the DWR grant for canal lining was finalized and submitted.

Activities related to WDI Contract Management:

- The District and GEI met with Reclamation staff regarding remaining WDI scope.

Upcoming Deliverables: Prepare scope modification request for 2019 Reclamation grant; prepare project completion report for 2020 Reclamation grant.

Active Task Order No.: 21-03, 21-08, 24-05, 24-08

Budget Status: \$301,074 expended of \$327,300 budget (92%)

Budget Forecast: The project is expected to be completed within the authorized budget.

Calloway Canal Lining 7th Standard – 8-1 Backup Weir (GEI Project No. 2301760)

No significant activity in December.

Upcoming Deliverables: None at this time.

Active Task Order No.: 23-06

Budget Status: \$5,125 expended of \$25,000 budget (20%)

Budget Forecast: A Task Order was submitted for contracting and construction administration support.

Calloway Canal Lining: CVC Intertie to Kern River (GEI Project No. 2501451)

CVC Intertie to Fruitvale Avenue

No activity in December.

Fruitvale Avenue to Case Street

GEI continued to coordinate with staff (Reclamation and District) and conduct project management activities.

Case Street to Arrow Street

No activity in December.

Arrow Street to Kern River

No activity in December.

Upcoming Deliverables: Submit NEPA documentation to Reclamation.

Active Task Order No.: 23-08

Budget Status: \$18,137 expended of \$123,834 budget (15%)

Budget Forecast: This phase of work is expected to be completed within the authorized budget. A Task Order will be submitted for consideration in the future for contracting and construction management support.

Well Siting for Groundwater Banking (GEI Project No. 2200344)

No activity during the month of December. Project will be closed.

Upcoming Deliverables: Final Well Siting Study.

Active Task Order No.: 22-03

Budget Status: \$195,693 expended of \$278,400 budget (70%)

Budget Forecast: 90%

CM and Well Improvements for Long Term TCP (GEI Project No. 2104244)

Closeout documents were completed and submitted from SCI. GEI is working on final close-out and document retention.

Upcoming Deliverables:

Active Task Order No.: 21-11

Budget Status: \$770,649 expended of \$774,740 budget (99%)

Budget Forecast: Work is complete, project close-out documentation and reports are pending.

Landowner Groundwater Banking Project (GEI Project No. 2300158)

No activity during the month of December.

Upcoming Deliverables: CEQA Checklist, Cultural Resources Memo, and Biological Resources Memo.

Active Task Order No.: 22-13

Budget Status: \$25,046 expended of \$56,050 budget (45%)

Budget Forecast: This project is expected to be completed within the authorized budget.

2020 Return Capacity Improvements Grant Administration (GEI Project No. 2101445)

No activity in December.

Upcoming Deliverables: Final grant report.

Active Task Order No.: 21-06

Budget Status: \$13,894 expended of \$38,500 budget (36%)

Budget Forecast: This project is expected to be completed within the authorized budget.

2018 and 2020 Return Capacity Project Construction Management (NK 622-623) (GEI Project No. 2403400)

Activity in December was related to working to resolve flowmeter issue and project closeout.

Upcoming Deliverables: Project closeout.

Active Task Order No.: 24-04

Budget Status: \$242,350 expended of \$250,565 budget (97%)

Budget Forecast: PM is working on balancing the budget between related projects to correct the overage.

2022 Return Capacity Improvements Grant Administration (GEI Project No. 2301770)

No significant activity in December.

Upcoming Deliverables: None.

Active Task Order No.: 23-07

Budget Status: \$10,260 expenditure of \$25,000 budget (41%)

Budget Forecast: This project is expected to be completed within the authorized budget.

2022 Return Capacity Improvements Design and Bidding (GEI Project No. 2503604)

Activity in December included sending the 90% design plans to the district for review.

Upcoming Deliverables: 90% plans and specifications

Active Task Order No.: 25-05

Budget Status: \$88,595 expended of \$175,000 budget (51%)

Budget Forecast: This phase of work is expected to be completed within the authorized budget. A Task Order will be submitted for consideration in the future for construction management support.

Partnership Project Grant Administration (GEI Project No. 2501449)

Activity in December included preparing documentation for Reclamation related to NEPA.

Upcoming Deliverables: NEPA documentation.

Active Task Order No.: 25-03

Budget Status: \$2,122 expended of \$35,000 budget (6%)

Budget Forecast: This phase of work is expected to be completed within the authorized budget. A Task Order will be submitted for consideration in the future for design, contracting, and construction management support.

NKWSD Reclamation Grant Applications for FY25 (GEI Project No. 2406611)

No activity in December. This project will be closed.

In November 2024, an application for lining approximately one mile of the Calloway Canal from Case Street to Arrow Street was submitted for Reclamation's Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) program. The budget was \$10,078,500 (\$5,000,000 federal share request and \$5,078,500 District share). Reclamation has not announced funding selections for the WEEG program yet.

Upcoming Deliverables: None at this time.

Active Task Order No.: 24-07

Budget Status: \$24,413 expended of \$40,000 budget (61%)

Budget Forecast: This project is expected to be completed within the authorized budget.

3. Closed Projects

2018 Return Capacity Improvements Grant Administration (GEI Project No. 1804180, 2202819)

This project is complete and will be closed.

Upcoming Deliverables: None.

Active Task Order No.: 18-12, 22-10

Budget Status 1804180: \$63,818 expended of \$70,000 budget (91%)

Budget Status 2202819: \$297,975 expended of \$303,308 budget (98%)

Budget Forecast: These projects are expected to be completed within the authorized budget.

4. Grants

Pending Applications				
Program	Project	Scope	Requested Funding	Comments
WEEG	Calloway Canal Lining	Line approximately one mile of the Calloway Canal from approximately Case Street to Arrow Street	\$5,000,000 federal share request (\$5,078,500 District share. Total budget \$10,078,500.)	Application submitted November 13, 2024.

Pending Agreements					
Program	Project	Scope	Awarded Funding	Estimated District Cost	Comments

Pending Close-Out			
Project	Agreement #	Scope	Comments
Calloway Canal Lining and WDI Phase 3 (6,041 LF canal lining, WDI 30 wells and 15 RTUs)	R19AP00140	2,200 LF Calloway Canal lining, WDI 23 Wells, 15 RTUs	Reclamation grants will be closed after WDI scope is resolved. DWR grant will be closed in spring 2026.
	R20AP00064	3,841 LF Calloway Canal lining, WDI 7 wells	
	4600013880	1,370 LF Calloway Canal lining	

Summary of Project Activity in December 2025

North Kern Water Storage District

Active Agreements					
Project	Agreement #	Scope	Funding	Estimated District Cost	Agreement Completion Date
2020 Return Capacity Improvements	R20AP00114	Connect 2 existing wells to FKC; Drill, equip, and connect 2 replacement wells	\$735,000	TBD.	December 2025
Calloway Canal Lining: 7 th Standard to 8-1 Backup Weir	R22AP00032	6,744 linear feet concrete lining	\$2,000,000	TBD. Project is in preliminary stages.	December 2025
2022 Return Capacity Improvements	R22AP00412	3 replacement wells	\$2,000,000	TBD. Project is in preliminary stages.	December 2025
Calloway Canal Lining: Fruitvale Avenue to CVC Intertie	R22AP00515	5,280 linear feet concrete lining	\$2,000,000	TBD. Project is in preliminary stages.	September 2027
Partnership Project 1	R25AP00233	Drill 1 well and construct conveyance and discharge to FKC	\$4,000,000	\$4,200,000	December 2027
Partnership Project 2 (Kern-Tulare Water District)	R25AP00262	Drill 1 well and associated pipeline to deliver water to FKC	\$2,000,000	\$3,600,000	May 2028
Calloway Canal Lining: Fruitvale Avenue to Case Street	R24AP00262	linear feet concrete lining	\$4,886,505	\$4,887,000	May 2028

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 7A



Administration: P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-26
fax: (661) 393-6884

Water Orders
Operations: 33380 Cawelo Ave
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-33
www.north kernws

January 12, 2026

TO: ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
Directors Ackerknecht and Mitchell, Alternate Andrew

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: Approve Tasks Order with GEI Consultants for Bid Phase Support for Concrete Lining the Calloway Canal

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-03 with GEI Consultants to provide bid-phase support for the Calloway Canal lining project from 7th Standard Road to 8-1 back-up weir for a budget amount not to exceed \$50,000.”

DISCUSSION:

Over the past several years, the District completed 4.5 miles of lining the Calloway Canal from the CVC Intertie Canal to 7th Standard Road, and the estimated water savings are about 10,000 AF/year. Concrete lining the Calloway Canal from 7th Standard Road to the 8-1 back-up weir is a continuation of the previously completed lining project from the CVC Intertie Canal to 7th Standard Road.

At the August 19, 2025, Board meeting, the Board authorized Zeiders Consulting to provide design services for the Calloway Canal lining project from 7th Standard Road to the 8-1 backup weir.

Staff requested a task order (Exhibit “A”) from GEI Consultants (“GEI”) to provide bid support for the project.

Staff recommends Board approval for the General Manager to execute task order 26-03 with GEI Consultants to provide bid-phase support for the Calloway Canal lining project from 7th Standard Road to the 8-1 back-up weir, for a budget amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Attachments:

Exhibit “A” – Task Order 26-03 from GEI Consultants.



January 9, 2026

Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

Ram Venkatesan
Deputy General Manager
North Kern Water Storage District
33380 Cawelo Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK
FOR
TASK ORDER 26-03
CALLOWAY CANAL LINING: 7TH STANDARD TO 8-1 BACKUP WEIR
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING AND ADMINISTRATION

This Task Order defines a Scope of Services, Schedule, and Budget for work to be completed by GEI Consultants, Inc., (GEI) for North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD, North Kern, District) per the terms and conditions of the Professional Services Agreement dated December 19, 2025, except as amended herein.

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, North Kern was awarded a \$2,000,000 grant (R22AP00032) from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the *Calloway Canal Lining from 7th Standard to 8-1 Backup Weir Project* (Project). The scope of the Project is to line 6,744 linear feet of the Calloway Canal from 7th Standard Road to the 8-1 backup weir. The scope of services for this task order is construction contracting and administration. Environmental documentation in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is complete. Grant administration for the Project is covered under Task Order 23-06. Design of the Project is being completed by the engineer of record (EOR) Zeiders Consulting, Inc. (Zeiders). Per the terms of this grant agreement, only construction costs are reimbursable.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1. Construction Contracting

GEI will assist the EOR with the following tasks.

- Draft front-end specifications.
- Prepare Issued for Bid specifications and plans package with technical specifications and plans provided by EOR.
- Distribute Issued for Bid package to bidders and maintain planholders list.
- Track pre-bid Requests for Information.
- Draft and distribute addenda.

- Draft agenda for and attend pre-bid conference and site visit.
- Draft agenda for and attend bid opening.
- Draft bid abstract.
- Draft bid checklist for apparent low bid.
- Draft Notice of Award.
- Draft Notice to Proceed.

Assumptions:

- All technical, engineering, and construction decisions and inspection/observation services, including but not limited to professional engineer's stamp of Issued for Bid package, review of and responses to pre-bid RFIs, and review of addenda will be provided by and the responsibility of the EOR.
- EOR will provide information for the front-end specifications as needed.
- EOR will provide technical specifications and plans in entirety, and as needed, appendices, for Issued for Bid package.
- The Project will be advertised for bids for four weeks.
- There will be a maximum of three addenda to the Issued for Bid package.
- Review of contractor insurance and bonds will be provided by District or District's representative.

Deliverables:

- Issued for Bid package.
- Distribution of Addenda to Issued for Bid package.
- Notice of Award.
- Notice to Proceed.

Task 2. Construction Administration

GEI will perform the following tasks.

- Conduct a pre-construction biological survey in accordance with environmental documentation.
- Prepare and conduct Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training recording. Provide an attendance sheet for WEAP training.
- Draft agenda for and attend pre-construction meeting with contractor, EOR, and District, and draft meeting minutes.
- Attend weekly construction meetings and prepare a list of action items discussed for EOR review.
- Assist EOR with preparation of monthly reports for Board meetings.
- Assist EOR with tracking of submittal and RFI responses.
- Assist EOR with progress payment tracking.
- Assist EOR with preparation of change orders.
- Assist EOR with contract close out.

Assumptions:

- All technical, engineering, and construction decisions and inspection/observation services, including but not limited to stamping of documents with professional engineer's stamp, review of change orders, and review of application payments will be provided by and the responsibility of the EOR.
- No additional monitoring will be needed following the pre-construction biological survey.
- WEAP training will be conducted virtually and recorded for future use on the recharge basin component of the Project. The Contractor will be responsible for ensuring all workers have completed the WEAP training and will maintain a list of attendees.
- An Issued for Construction specifications package will not be issued.
- Construction will occur for a duration of six months.
- There will be a maximum of two change orders to the construction contract.
- Weekly construction meetings will be held in person at the Project site.
- The EOR will prepare agendas for the weekly construction meetings.
- Surveying, materials testing, and quality assurance testing are not provided by GEI.

Deliverables:

- WEAP training (electronic) and attendance sheet.
- Distribution of list of action items discussed at weekly construction meetings.
- Distribution of EOR's change orders, as needed.
- Distribution of EOR's progress payment recommendations.

SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that the Project will be advertised for bids in the spring of 2026 with construction commencing in mid-2026 and completing by early 2027. It is assumed that the project will be advertised for bids for a period of four weeks and construction will occur for a duration of six months.

BUDGET

Billing for all work completed under this Task Order will be in accordance with the terms of the Professional Services Agreement, with labor billed at 3.05 times labor rate, and expenses billed at five percent above cost. Based on the Scope of Work previously described, we suggest authorizing a **\$50,000** budget. The budget by task shall not be exceeded without written authorization from the District.

AUTHORIZATION

Task Order No. 26-03 is authorized and made an attachment to the above-identified Professional Services Agreement through the signatures below.

Authorized by:

NORTH KERN WATER
STORAGE DISTRICT

Accepted by:

GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.

By: _____

By: Grace Martin

Title: _____

Title: Grace Martin, Project Manager

Date: _____

Date: January 9, 2026

By: Sam Schaefer

Title: Sam Schaefer, Engineer

Date: January 9, 2026

ACCOUNTING CODES

All work will be billed under new tasks under GEI project number 2301760.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 7B



Administration: P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-26
fax: (661) 393-6884

Water Orders
Operations: 33380 Cawelo Ave
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-33
www.northkernws

January 12, 2026

TO: ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
Directors Ackerknecht and Mitchell, Alternate Andrew

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: Approve Task Order with GEI Consultants for Engineering Support for the High-Speed Rail CP-4 Project

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-04 with GEI Consultants for providing administrative support for the High-Speed Rail CP-4 Project for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$18,000.”

DISCUSSION:

GEI Consultants (“GEI”) provides administrative support to District staff on matters related to invoicing and reporting of construction-related activities associated with the relocation of District facilities that are necessary to accommodate the High-Speed Rail (“HSR”) project. GEI was providing the necessary engineering support in accordance with the previously approved Task Order. Since the budget authorized on the prior task order has been exhausted, staff requested a new task order from GEI (Exhibit “A”) to replenish the budget so they can continue to provide the necessary support. Costs expended by GEI for providing the support will be fully reimbursed by the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Staff recommends Board approval for the General Manager to execute task order 26-04 with GEI Consultants for providing administrative support for the High-Speed Rail CP-4 Project for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$18,000.

Attachments:

Exhibit “A” – Task Order 26-04 from GEI Consultants



January 9, 2026

Consulting Engineers and Scientists
 Ram Venkatesan
 Deputy General Manager
 North Kern Water Storage District
 33380 Cawelo Avenue
 Bakersfield, CA 93308

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK
FOR
TASK ORDER 26-04 – CALIFORNIA RAIL BUILDERS HIGH-SPEED RAIL
REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

This Task Order defines a Scope of Services, Schedule, and Budget for work to be completed by GEI Consultants, Inc., (GEI) for North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD, North Kern, District) per the terms and conditions of the Professional Services Agreement dated December 19, 2025, except as amended herein.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work covered under this Task Order is to prepare reimbursement requests for costs to be reimbursed by California Rail Builders (CRB) under High-Speed Rail contract number 13-11. Tasks include the following.

- Coordination with the District for invoices to include in reimbursement requests.
- Preparation of reimbursement request packages including preparing tables itemizing and summarizing invoices, packaging invoices, and preparing cover letters and Waiver and Release forms.
- Preparation of a letter to CRB presenting billing rate increases for District staff, consultants, and legal counsel.
- Project management.

Assumptions:

- One reimbursement request will be prepared per month for the duration of 2026.
- No engineering or construction coordination work is included in this Scope of Work.
- There will be no revisions to reimbursement packages.

Deliverables:

- Reimbursement request packages. It is assumed that 12 packages will be prepared, but, as appropriate and as coordinated with District staff, packages may be combined if invoices are minimal in a given month.
- Rate Increase notification.

SCHEDULE

The schedule for this Scope of Work is January – December 2026. Reimbursement request packages will be prepared following payment and approval of invoices at the District's Board meeting. Assuming 2026 rates are readily available from the District and the District's consultants and legal counsel, the Rate Increase notification will be submitted in January 2026.

BUDGET

Billing for all work completed under this Task Order will be in accordance with the terms of the Professional Services Agreement, with labor billed at GEI's 2026 Standard Rates, and expenses billed at five percent above cost. Based on the Scope of Work previously described, we suggest authorizing a **\$18,000** budget. The budget shall not be exceeded without written authorization from the District.

AUTHORIZATION

Task Order No. 26-04 is authorized and made an attachment to the above-identified Professional Services Agreement through the signatures below.

Authorized by:

NORTH KERN WATER
STORAGE DISTRICT

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Accepted by:

GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.

By: A. K. Dauttaren _____

Title: Krishna Amirineni, Project Manager _____

Date: January 9, 2026 _____

By: Grace Martin _____

Title: Grace Martin, Branch Manager _____

Date: January 9, 2026 _____

ACCOUNTING CODES

All work will be billed under new tasks under GEI project number 1605740.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 7C



Administration: P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-26
fax: (661) 393-6884

Water Orders
Operations: 33380 Cawelo Ave
Bakersfield, CA 933
office: (661) 393-33
www.northkernws

January 12, 2026

TO: ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
Directors Ackerknecht and Mitchell, Alternate Andrew

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: Grant Application Services

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-05 with GEI Consultants to prepare grant applications with the Bureau of Reclamation to construct groundwater extraction wells and continue concrete lining of the Calloway Canal for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$48,000.”

DISCUSSION:

The Bureau of Reclamation (“Bureau”) is planning to request grant applications for the 2026 WaterSMART Drought Response program and the Water and Efficiency Grants program. Staff will review the proposal guidelines once they are released, but based on the previous guidelines, projects such as the concrete lining of the Calloway Canal and the construction of groundwater extraction wells and associated facilities qualify for grant funding. The funding opportunity is expected to be released mid-year.

Exhibit “A” is a task order from GEI Consultants (“GEI”) to prepare the grant applications and provide necessary support for the existing grants for a budget amount not-to-exceed 48,000.

Staff recommends Board approval for the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-05 with GEI Consultants to prepare grant applications with the Bureau of Reclamation to construct groundwater extraction wells and continue the concrete lining of the Calloway Canal for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$48,000.”

Attachments:

Exhibit “A” –Task Order 26-05 from GEI Consultants



January 9, 2026

Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

Ram Venkatesan
Deputy General Manager
North Kern Water Storage District
33380 Cawelo Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK
FOR
TASK ORDER 26-05 – 2026 GRANT APPLICATIONS

This Task Order defines a Scope of Services, Schedule, and Budget for work to be completed by GEI Consultants, Inc., (GEI) for North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD, North Kern, District) per the terms and conditions of the Professional Services Agreement dated December 19, 2025, except as amended herein.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1. Calloway Canal Lining Pre-Award

In November 2024, NKWSD applied to the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) program for funding one mile of Calloway Canal Lining between Case Street and Arrow Street. At this time, funding selections have not been announced. The Scope of Work under this task is responses to Reclamation if the project is selected for funding. It is anticipated that tasks will include drafting Reclamation's Pre-Award System Survey (PASS), reviewing the scope of work and budget, updating the schedule, and attending meetings with Reclamation.

Assumptions:

- The scope of the project will not be modified.
- The quantifiable benefits of the project will not be modified.

Deliverables:

- Updated schedule.
- Reviewed scope of work.
- PASS document.

Task 2. Drought Response Program Application

At this time, it is anticipated that in 2026 Reclamation will release a funding opportunity for the Drought Response Program (DRP). GEI will prepare an application for a Return Capacity Improvements project or a project of similar complexity. Major application components are anticipated to include a project description, calculation of quantifiable project benefits, project schedule, and project budget. The Federal

funding request is expected to be approximately \$2,000,000. GEI will respond to Reclamation's request for information following submittal of the application and during the pre-award phase.

Assumptions:

- The scope of the project will be drilling approximately two replacement wells and constructing associated conveyance.

Deliverables:

- Completed DRP application.
- Responses to Reclamation in pre-award phase.

Task 3. WEEG Program Application

At this time, it is anticipated that in 2026 Reclamation will release a funding opportunity for the WEEG program. GEI will prepare an application for a Calloway Canal Lining project or a project of similar complexity. Major application components are anticipated to include a project description, calculation of quantifiable project benefits, project schedule, and project budget. The Federal funding request is expected to be approximately \$2,000,000. GEI will respond to Reclamation's request for information following submittal of the application and during the pre-award phase.

Assumptions:

- The scope of the project will be concrete lining approximately one mile of the Calloway Canal.
- GEI will coordinate with the District and design engineer on project details and construction budgets.

Deliverables:

- Completed WEEG application.
- Responses to Reclamation in pre-award phase.

Task 4. Proposition 4 Grant Funding Opportunities

In November 2024, California voters approved Proposition 4, the *Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024* (Prop 4), a \$10 billion bond including dollars for competitive grant funding. Currently, Prop 4 is advancing through the legislative process with departments and agencies developing guidelines for grant applications. The Scope of Work under this task is to monitor grant opportunities available under Prop 4 and work with the District to brainstorm projects to apply for funding for as more information about funding opportunities become available.

Assumptions:

- In 2026, Prop 4 grant guidelines will be released either for solicitation or public comment, or the Legislative Analyst's Office, DWR, or similar entities will release updated information on available funding and programs.
- This scope of work under this task does not include developing a grant application.

Deliverables:

- Updates to the District on Prop 4 funding opportunities.

SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that the Project will be advertised for bids in the spring of 2026 with construction commencing in mid-2026 and completing by early 2027. It is assumed that the project will be advertised for bids for a period of four weeks and construction will occur for a duration of six months.

BUDGET

Billing for all work completed under this Task Order will be in accordance with the terms of the Professional Services Agreement, with labor billed at 3.05 times labor rate, and expenses billed at five percent above cost. Based on the Scope of Work previously described, we suggest authorizing a **\$48,000** budget. The budget shall not be exceeded without written authorization from the District.

Table 1. Budget by Task

Task	Budget
Task 1. Calloway Canal Lining Pre-Award	\$5,000
Task 2. Drought Response Program Application	\$20,000
Task 3. WEEG Program Application	\$20,000
Task 4. Proposition 4 Grant Funding Opportunities	\$3,000
Total	\$48,000

AUTHORIZATION

Task Order No. 26-05 is authorized and made an attachment to the above-identified Professional Services Agreement through the signatures below.

Authorized by:

NORTH KERN WATER
STORAGE DISTRICT

Accepted by:

GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.

By: _____

By: Grace Martin

Title: _____

Title: Grace Martin, Project Manager

Date: _____

Date: January 9, 2026

By: Sam Schaefer

Title: Sam Schaefer, Engineer

Date: January 9, 2026

ACCOUNTING CODES

All work will be billed under a new GEI project number.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 8A1



January 14, 2026

TO: GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE
Directors Holtermann, Mitchell, and Alternate Glende

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: SGMA and GSP Implementation Update

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Below is a summary update on the Kern Subbasin SGMA related activities and implementation of the adopted 2025 GSPs:

- The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) issued a December 5, 2025 letter confirming the State Board has returned the Kern Subbasin to the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under SGMA.
- The Kern Subbasin has been working with DWR Staff regarding the transition and to schedule meetings to discuss the significantly updated Adopted 2025 GSPs. The latest GSPs will be uploaded to the DWR SGMA Portal which will trigger a new 75 day public comment period. Additionally, a presentation is being prepared to walk DWR through the key updates in the Adopted 2025 GSPs and that meeting will be scheduled in the near future. The Kern Subbasin consultants will be presenting that information.
- DWR will be conducting their own review of the GSPs and they've stated it could take up to 2 years.
- Subbasin GSAs continue to provide their respective annual data and information for the required Annual Report that is due April 1, 2026. Todd GW has historically provided that annual report service and is again leading that effort this year.
- The data gaps for the groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring networks have essentially all been resolved. There is no impact to North Kern regarding any necessary new monitoring well.
- The Kern Subbasin is currently reviewing and evaluating latest data regarding subsidence at the Aqueduct, Friant Kern Canal, and other Subbasin infrastructure. The evaluation includes multiple data sources that include continuous GPS and InSAR information and

their respective margins of error which can be greater than some annual MT limits and Interim Milestones.

- At the December 16, 2025 Board Meeting the Board approved year 2026 proposals for INTERA and EKI to be the Kern Subbasin technical leads, MLJ to provide oversight on the Well Mitigation Program implementation, and also MLJ to support the Water Quality Monitoring Program implementation. Additionally, the Subbasin GSAs will need to consider 2026 contracts for Subbasin Point-of-Contact, DMS and website support, groundwater model refinement, Exceedance Investigation management, and legal support for the Water Quality Monitoring Program.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 8A2



Administration: P.O. Box 81435
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Water Orders
Operations: 33380 Cawelo Avenue
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January 15, 2026

TO: GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE
Directors Holtermann and Mitchell, Alternate Glende

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: Technical Consultant Proposals for 2026 Kern Subbasin GSP Implementation Support

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“Approve the 2026 Kern Subbasin technical consultant proposals to support implementation of the Adopted 2025 GSPs, for a total of \$455,344 and authorize North Kern WSD GSA’s cost share not to exceed 6% of the total which is \$27,321.”

DISCUSSION:

The Kern Subbasin technical consultants continue to support the implementation of the Kern Subbasin Adopted 2025 GSPs and at the direction of the GSAs, various consultants have provided competitive proposals to continue that work through 2026. After review and discussion, the Kern Subbasin GSAs recommend approving the following proposals:

1. Rincon – Amendment 7 to Plan Manager Support Contract

The proposal to continue the Plan Manager and Point-of-Contact (POC) is attached and estimated cost is up to \$83,194 through December 31, 2026. NKWSD GSA’s estimated share of that cost is up to 6% or \$4,992.

2. GEI – Annual Support for DMS, Website, and Annual Report

GEI developed the DMS, manages the Kern Subbasin website, and provides support for the annual report. The attached proposal continues that support through December 31, 2026 at an estimated cost of \$47,550. NKWSD GSA’s estimated share of that cost is up to 6% or \$2,853.

3. Todd GW – 2026 Kern IWFM Review and Update

Todd GW is the consultant that developed the Kern Subbasin groundwater model to support the GSPs and annual reporting. The DWR SGMA grant that funded that work has ended and a final grant report was submitted to DWR in December of 2025, noting that additional

refinements to the model are still required. It is essential the Kern Subbasin GSAs have a model that can confidently support groundwater level projection and any regional attributions analysis used to project potential subsidence impacts. Todd GW has provided a draft scope of work and cost estimate that is attached. Interested GSAs will have their own specific technical consultants, at the GSA's own cost, participate and work with Todd GW to further refine the model. Todd GW's cost estimate is \$174,000 through to December 31, 2026. NKWSD GSA's estimated share of that cost is up to 6% or \$10,440.

4. Todd GW – Water Quality Exceedance Investigation and Technical Evaluation

To support the Adopted 2025 GSPs implementation the Subbasin GSAs solicited proposals to have a consistent basin wide approach to water quality monitoring, WQ data management, and data assessment. The Kern Subbasin recommends approving the attached Todd GW proposal for an estimated cost of \$150,600 through December 31, 2026. NKWSD GSA's estimated share of that cost is up to 6% or \$9,036.

Summary of 2026 Proposals and Costs:

Consultant	Task	Total Cost	NKWSD GSA Cost
Rincon	Plan Manager/POC	\$83,194	\$4,992
GEI	DMS, Website, Annual Report	\$47,550	\$2,853
Todd GW	Model Review and Update	\$174,000	\$10,440
Todd GW	WQ Exceedance Investigation	\$150,600	\$9,036
Total		\$455,344	\$27,321

The NKWSD GSA staff recommends approving the proposals in the total amount of \$455,344, and NKWSD GSA's cost share of up to \$27,321 total.

Attachments:

Proposals

Rincon Consultants, December 17, 2025
GEI Consultants, January 7, 2026
Todd Groundwater, December 18, 2025
Todd Groundwater, December 19, 2025



Rincon Consultants, Inc.

180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003
805-644-4455

December 17, 2025
Rincon Project No. 23-14981

Derek Yurosek, Coordination Committee Chair
Kern County Subbasin
P.O. Box 4119
Buttonwillow, California 93238
Via email: dyurosek@bolthouseproperties.com

Subject: Request for Amendment 7 to the Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager Support Contract Agreement Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Yurosek:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) is pleased to provide this request for amendment to the Kern County Subbasin Plan Manager Support contract. Amendment 7 would support continued professional services to the Kern County Subbasin (Kern Subbasin) for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance and implementation through December 31, 2026.

Background

On December 8, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) submitted a letter to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) returning the Kern Subbasin to DWR jurisdiction. To facilitate a successful transition from SWRCB to DWR, and provide support for well-managed oversight of 2025 GSPs implementation, continued professional services are anticipated.

Task 1 Meeting Support

Monthly Subbasin Meetings

Rincon will provide meeting support to the Kern Subbasin on a monthly basis by scheduling, coordinating, drafting, and distributing agendas, and note taking.

Bi-Monthly Managers' Meetings

Rincon will provide meeting support to the Kern Subbasin Managers on a weekly basis by scheduling, coordinating, drafting, and distributing agendas, and note taking.

Bi-Monthly Policy Chair Meetings

Rincon will schedule and attend 30-minute meetings on a bi-weekly basis with the Coordination Committee Chair to prepare agenda topics for upcoming Managers' and Subbasin meetings.

Additional Coordination and Meetings

Rincon will continue to serve as the PM/POC on behalf of the Kern Subbasin with DWR on an as needed basis. This scope of work includes correspondence via email and calls up to 2 hours per month, and attending up to four, 1-hour meetings with DWR. Rincon will also attend quarterly San Joaquin Valley Point-of Contact (SJV POC) calls with DWR for up to 1.5 hours each.

Deliverables

- Provide DWR email correspondence and give verbal reports on DWR communications at subsequent Kern Subbasin and Managers' meetings.
- Notes from DWR and SJV POC Quarterly Calls

Task 2 SGMA Portal and Data Management System Support

Rincon will provide SGMA Portal and Kern Subbasin Data Management System (DMS) support as described below. Rincon understands that updates to the SGMA Portal will need to be completed by January 15, 2026, in order for the SGMA Portal to reflect the most updated information prior to the start of the Spring 2026 Groundwater Level measurement period and to support DWR GSP review process. Rincon anticipates 50 hours to complete these tasks which include coordination with DWR and GSAs to execute as detailed below.

DWR Coordination

Rincon will coordinate with DWR to manage data between the DMS and DWR SGMA Portal for groundwater level changes, Groundwater Level Representative Monitoring Site (GWL-RMS) Measurable Objectives and Minimum Threshold (MOs/MTs) in the Kern Subbasin's Representative Monitoring Network (RMN). This will support Spring and Fall 2026 GWL-RMS reporting as required by DWR as outlined in the Coordination Agreement. This task includes up to six, 30-minute calls with DWR staff to coordinate data management needs and email correspondence to execute SGMA Portal changes with the GSAs.

Update Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria and Execute Representative Monitoring Network Changes

Rincon will update GWL-RMS MOs/MTs in the SGMA Portal and submit to DWR in alignment with RMN in the GSP, which includes adding and/or removing GWL-RMSs to be consistent with the GSP. Rincon will also support up to 10 GWL-RMS changes in the RMN on an as-needed basis initiated by GSAs. As part of this task, Rincon will complete data management, QA/QC, and upload to the SGMA Portal to support consistency with GSPs and coordinate with GSAs and DWR as needed. Additional time to coordinate with GSAs will be required as part of the QA/QC process on an individual basis to ensure that the appropriate list of GWL-RMSs are reflected in both the DMS and SGMA Portal. For new GWL-RMSs to be added in the SGMA Portal, Rincon will work with individual GSAs to collect required information to request new well site codes, which may also include historical GWL data.

Spring and Fall Groundwater Level Reporting

The Kern Subbasin is required to submit reporting for all GWL-RMSs in the RMN on a bi-annual basis as required by SGMA to DWR as outlined in the Coordination Agreement. Rincon will continue to provide support by coordinating with GSAs to ensure all GWL-RMSs are submitted in the Spring and Fall. For this task, Rincon will run a report in the DMS and QA/QC against the list of GWL-RMSs in the GSP. QA/QC will also include removal of duplicate entries and identify if any measurements were taken outside of the reporting period identified in the Coordination Agreement, and coordination time with individual GSAs as needed. Rincon will submit the GWL-RMS reports from the DMS to the SGMA Portal prior to the Spring deadline of July 1, 2026 and Fall deadline of January 1, 2027.

SGMA Portal GSP and Annual Report Support

Rincon will provide support to the GSAs by uploading all seven GSPs to the SGMA Portal in accordance with DWR standards. Rincon will also continue to provide support for the Kern Subbasin's Annual Report by providing QA/QC on the document prior to submittal and submit to DWR by the April 1, 2026 deadline. This task includes time to coordinate with DWR and Todd Groundwater, consultant leading the Annual Report preparation.

Deliverables

- Verbal updates and confirmation of DMS and SGMA Portal changes, and Spring/Fall Submittal to DWR, at subsequent Coordination Committee and Managers' meetings
- Email correspondence confirmation of SGMA Portal changes
- Draft and Final Spring and Fall 2026 GWL-RMS DMS Reports
- Email correspondence confirmation of Spring and Fall 2026 GWL-RMS report submittal to DWR
- Email correspondence confirmation of Final Annual Report

Assumptions

- GEI consultants provide technical management and support for the DMS.
- GWL-RMS data in the DMS and SGMA Portal is assumed to be accurate and maintained by the GSAs except as outlined in this scope of work for Rincon to provide support.
- Collecting GWL-RMS measurements at RMN sites and adding measurement data in the DMS is the responsibility of the GSAs.
- Rincon is not responsible for GWL-RMS measurement data that is not included in Spring and Fall Groundwater Level Reporting submitted to DWR if the following GSA responsibilities have not been met:
 - GWL-RMS measurement data was not collected or was collected outside of the reporting period(s) as identified in the Coordination Agreement.
 - Obtaining Kern Subbasin approval to add GWL-RMS measurement data collected outside of the reporting period(s) as identified in the Coordination Agreement.
 - GWL-RMS measurement data must be QA/QC'd by GSAs in the DMS following measurement data collection, which must occur following the end of the reporting period(s). GWL-RMS measurement data is not captured in reports run in the DMS if it has not been QA/QC'd by the GSAs.
- If more than 10 GWL-RMS RMN changes are requested in this contract period, Rincon may request a task order change and contract amendment to execute this additional work.
- GWL-RMS MOs/MTs are listed in the Kern Subbasin GSP which will be used to make changes in the SGMA Portal. Separate coordination with other consultants will not be needed.

Task 3 As Needed Task Support

Rincon will continue to provide as needed task support, as directed by the Coordination Committee, on a variety of tasks which may include but are not limited to those listed below. Up to 40 hours is estimated through the scope of work period.

- Review, comment, and finalization of materials (e.g. letters to agencies)
- Task and schedule tracking and associated coordination

Deliverables

- Letters in Word and PDF format
- Presentations in PPT and PDF format
- Task and schedule trackers in Excel format

Assumptions

- Additional tasks requested to be completed not described within this scope of work will require a contract amendment, which includes requests for tasks that may require more than eight (8) hours of additional work.
- All meetings will be attended by Rincon virtually. Up to 1 hour is anticipated to prepare for Manager and Subbasin meetings, which includes coordination for agenda topics and materials and meeting preparation time.
- Should meetings extend beyond the timeframes described in this scope of work, or additional meetings be requested as directed by the Coordination Committee, impacts to cost estimates provided in this scope of work will occur and additional task order changes will be requested.
- Tasks are only directed by Coordination Committee at Subbasin Meetings.
- Rincon will document as needed task support directed by the Coordination Committee in Subbasin Meetings notes and provide verbal updates on progress at all Manager and Subbasin Meetings.
- All meeting notes will be archived on Rincon hard drives and will only be distributed as requested by Kern Subbasin members.
- Work under this scope excludes any public outreach and engagement efforts, ad-hoc committee/subcommittee-directed work or meeting attendance, which are being conducted by separate consultants or GSA managers tasked with those efforts.

Cost

As shown in Table 1 below, the estimated cost for this additional scope is \$83,194. Labor for the above additional scope will be billed on a time and materials basis. Back-up detail will be provided for all billed time.

Table 1 Cost Summary

Task	Estimated Cost
Task 1 Meeting Support	\$61,926
Task 2 SGMA Portal and Data Management System Support	\$10,124

Task 3	As Needed Task Support	\$11,144
Total		\$83,194

Thank you for your consideration and for the continued opportunity to support the professional services provided. If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Kristin Pittack at 760-223-5062 or kpittack@rinconconsultants.com or Rosalyn Prickett at 760-930-7671 or rprickett@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.



Kristin Pittack, MELP
Senior Environmental Planner II



Rosalyn Prickett
Principal, Water Resources

Attachments

Attachment 1 2026 Rincon Fee Schedule

January 7, 2026

VIA EMAIL: Tim@BVH2O.com

Tim Ashlock
Buena Vista Water Storage District
525 N. Main Street
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

Re: Kern Subbasin Annual Support for DMS, Website, and Annual Report Assistance

Dear Mr. Ashlock:

The purpose of this Task Order is to define the Scope of Work and the cost estimate for GEI Consultants to continue providing support to the Kern Subbasin for the Data Management System (DMS) technical support and hosting services, KernGSP website maintenance, and general support for implementation of the Kern Subbasin's 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Outlined tasks and fees associated with maintaining the Kern Subbasin's DMS and website, and Kern Subbasin general support are outlined in the following sections.

Task 1. Data Management System

GEI will continue hosting the Kern DMS on a secure, dedicated server which includes routine server maintenance and assistance with unexpected bug fixes. The hosting fee is \$100 per month. Technical support will be provided as needed throughout the calendar year and invoiced based on the actual labor effort each month. Time is billed based on a minimum of 15-minute intervals, and work will be performed on an as-requested basis. Stephanie Hearn will serve as the Project Manager (PM) to the Subbasin and liaison to GEI's programming team.

Assumptions

- Estimated labor effort is primarily for project management, minor fixes or updates, updating groundwater level sustainability indicators, and routine maintenance tasks.
- The monthly hosting fee remains \$100.
- Approximately 80 hours of labor effort is estimated for bug fixes and technical support.

Deliverables

- Hosting and server maintenance from January 1 through December 31, 2026.
- As-needed support with data fixes and DMS performance improvements.

Task 2. Website Maintenance

The Kern Subbasin website was developed in 2024 and populated with various documents and information to provide easy access to the public on Subbasin-wide SGMA activities. GEI will support website maintenance by paying annual fees, troubleshooting technical errors, and

updating documents as requested. Support will be provided as needed throughout the calendar year and invoiced based on the actual labor effort each month. Stephanie Hearn will serve as the Project Manager (PM) to the Subbasin and liaison to GEI's web developer.

Assumptions

- Estimated labor effort is primarily for project management and minor fixes or updates. No significant changes or updates to the website content or materials are anticipated in 2026.
- Pass through expenses are estimated up to \$350 to renew the domain name, website registration, and WPForms tool that enables people to register for the Kern Subbasin email distribution list.
- Approximately 15 hours of labor effort is estimated for minor fixes and content updates.

Deliverables

- Website maintenance and minor fixes/content updates from January 1 through December 31, 2026.

Task 3. Kern Subbasin General Support

Kern Subbasin general support is essentially an as-needed service that provides budget to work against while supporting Subbasin-wide tasks. By definition, as-needed tasks are not known at this time; however, it is anticipated that they would be generally related to supporting the Subbasin's implementation activities, performing specific technical tasks, participating in meetings on behalf of the Subbasin, and general consulting. An example of the general support task includes participating in Department of Water Resources (DWR) meetings to support the transition from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to DWR.

Assumptions

- Recommended budget estimates up to 80 hours of Stephanie Hearn's time.

Deliverables

- Participation in DWR transition meeting.
- Other as-requested services, presumably related to implementation of the 2025 GSP water quality sustainability indicators.

Budget

The maximum estimated budget of \$47,550 is based on the proposed scope of work and assumptions. Billing for all work completed under this proposal will be in accordance with the terms of the Professional Services Agreement between GEI and Buena Vista Water Storage District, with labor billed at 3.05 times the labor rate. Invoices are prepared on a time-and-materials basis and submitted within one month of performing the work. The Subbasin will only be billed for the actual hours worked. Total Project billings will not exceed the authorized budget amount without obtaining written authorization.

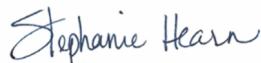
Table 1. Budget Estimate

Task	Hours	Budget
1. DMS Management System	80	\$20,000
Monthly Hosting Fee		\$ 1,200
2. Website Maintenance	15	\$2,000
Domain and Website Fees		\$ 350
3. Kern Subbasin General Support	80	\$24,000
Total Budget Estimate		\$47,550

Closing

If this proposal is acceptable, please have an authorized representative sign indicating your acceptance of this Task Order. We look forward to continuing to work with the Kern Subbasin. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Hearn at 661.716.3026 or shearn@geiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,



GEI Consultants, Inc.

Stephanie Hearn
Branch Manager, Permitting and Compliance



GEI Consultants, Inc.

David Miller
Principal Consultant

Authorization

Consistent with the terms defined in the Kern Subbasin Cost Sharing Agreement for Revising Groundwater Sustainability Plans, dated December 15, 2023, this Task Order is authorized by the attached signatures. The date of execution is January 1, 2026. All work will be billed under a new GEI Project Number.

Draft – Todd GW Scope of Work, 2026 Kern-IWFM Review and Update

Term: 12 months (Ending December 31, 2026)

Model Uses:

- Quantify native and sustainable yields.
- Friant-Kern Canal attribution analysis.
- Annual Report updates
- GSP 5-year periodic eval.
- Evaluation of P/MAs

Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination

Task 2 – Basin-Wide Review and Documentation

- Coordination with GSAs on technical review of the model.
- Document and summarize suggested model changes (from GSAs).

Task 3 – Evaluation of Model Improvements

- Deep percolation.
- Develop list of model improvements for future update.
- **Others??**

Task 4 – Model Refinement and Recalibration

- Presentation of recommended model improvements to policy group.
- Perform model improvements.

Task 5 – Model Peer-Review

- Discuss strategy for model peer review with managers.

Cost Estimate - 2026 Kern-IWFM Review and Update

Todd Groundwater

Job Name: 2026 Kern-IWFM Review and Update

Client: Kern County Subbasin GSAs

Date: 12/17/2025

Todd Job Number: 62526

STAFF	Mike Maley	Lindsay Hall	Walt McNabb	Sebastien Poore	Evan Bosingier	Mike Wotrich	Cynthia Obuchi			
TASKS	Principal PM \$300	Senior Engineer \$270	Consult Hydrogeo \$280	Assoc Engineer \$230	Staff Geologist \$170	GIS/ Graphics \$190	Admin Costs \$160	Total Labor Hours	Total Labor	Total Costs
Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination	20	12	1	8	0	0	4	45	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Task 2 – Basin-Wide Review and Documentation	48	24	8	24	8	0	0	112	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Task 3 – Evaluation of Model Improvements	60	20	16	60	40	8	0	204	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Task 4 – Model Refinement and Recalibration	60	40	32	120	80	16	0	348	\$ 82,000	\$ 82,000
Totals	188	96	57	212	128	24	4	709	\$ 174,000	\$ 174,000



December 19, 2025

PROPOSAL – SCOPE OF WORK

To: David Halopoff, Cawelo Water District
Trent Taylor, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
Michelle Anderon, Kern County Water Agency
Raul Barraza, Arvin Community Services District
Kris Lawerence, Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District

From: Mike Maley, PG, CHG, Principal Hydrogeologist, Todd Groundwater
Maureen Reilly, PE, Principal Engineer, Todd Groundwater

Re: **Proposal –Kern County Subbasin Water Quality Exceedance Investigation and Technical Evaluation**

The Kern County Subbasin (Basin No. 5-022.14) is the largest subbasin in the State, has been designated as critically overdrafted, and is governed by a collaborative group of water districts, water storage districts, irrigation districts, and municipalities. These agencies manage a complex water supply system that includes a large portfolio of local and imported water sources and access to flood waters from throughout the State. These sources are used not only for water supply within the Subbasin, but also for local managed aquifer recharge projects and numerous large water banking projects, which collectively provide both local and State-wide water supply and water quality benefits. To comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), local agencies are organized into Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) that coordinate to produce Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) covering the entire Subbasin.

In March 2023, the Subbasin received notification of a determination by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that the 2022 GSPs prepared by the Subbasin GSAs were collectively inadequate. The Subbasin was referred to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to determine if probation was necessary. Since March 2023, a variety of Subbasin-wide coordination activities were conducted to amend the 2022 GSPs. Since March 2023, the Subbasin has been working with SWRCB staff to respond to the DWR identified deficiencies and additional concerns from SWRCB staff. This included establishment by the Subbasin GSAs of a Technical Working Group (TWG) that held regular technical meetings with SWRCB staff.

In August 2025, the Subbasin GSAs adopted the 2025 Plan for the Kern County Subbasin (2025 Plan), which is identified as multiple plans with a single Coordination Agreement to address deficiencies identified by DWR and address additional deficiencies and potential

actions identified through TWG coordination with SWRCB staff. In a Public Hearing held on September 17, 2025, the SWRCB voted to release Kern Subbasin from prohibition and officially return jurisdiction to DWR. Included in the 2025 plan were a water quality monitoring program, mitigation plan, and water quality exceedance plan. We understand that the goal of the Kern Subbasin GSAs (Kern GSAs) is to implement the plans and policies outlined in the 2025 Plan.

APPROACH FOR WATER QUALITY EXCEEDANCE INVESTIGATIONS

As noted above, the Kern Subbasin continues to coordinate the implementation of the 2025 Plan. The Kern GSAs want a single, unified approach to implementing water quality monitoring, data management, and data assessment that will apply to the entire Subbasin. We understand that one of the key goals of the Kern GSAs in implementing the 2025 Plan is to provide a clear and transparent process that will be followed in the event of a water quality exceedance.

We have evaluated the scope of work presented in the request for proposals (RFP) for this project and have crafted our approach in response.

Similar to the RFP scope, we envision the process for evaluating water quality exceedances will include the four main task categories summarized below:

1. **Develop Templates:** Todd Groundwater will develop a clear list of tasks to be completed after each biannual Representative Monitoring Well (RMW) monitoring event and any domestic well water quality testing. These tasks will be incorporated into two templates that define the steps to be taken to investigate each occurrence of individual well water quality testing that returns results with exceedances above the 2025 Plan Minimum Thresholds (MTs) for constituents of concern. Collectively, these steps will be the foundation of Exceedance Investigations and/or Technical Evaluations (as differentiated below) to be completed following any and all MT exceedances. The first template will address the steps to be taken to evaluate results from biannual RMW monitoring and will define related Exceedance Investigations for RMW exceedances. The second template will address elective testing of domestic and other private wells and will establish the steps and procedures for related Technical Evaluations of exceedances in those wells. Each template will be developed with input from the Kern GSAs, and draft templates will be available for discussion prior to finalization.
2. **Exceedance Investigation – Biannual RMW Network Monitoring:** Once the template for assessing RMW water quality conditions compared to MTs is developed and agreed to by the Kern GSAs, Todd Groundwater will implement it following each biannual monitoring event. These monitoring events are defined in the 2025 Plan and should include Subbasin-wide RMW sampling in the spring and fall. MT exceedances in any individual well will trigger an Exceedance Investigation that will apply the steps identified in the RMW Water Quality MT (RMW-WQ MT) template from step 1 above. Todd staff responsible for the investigation will give a full report on these evaluations,

including recommendations for next steps on all exceedances, to the Kern GSAs in a Manager's Meeting.

3. **Technical Evaluation - Domestic Wells:** As specified in the mitigation policy in the 2025 Plan, domestic well owners and users may monitor or request monitoring of their wells. If testing of any domestic wells shows water quality constituent concern concentrations above the relevant MT, Todd Groundwater initiate a Technical Evaluation. Domestic well Exceedance Investigations will include review the water quality data from the affected domestic well, assessment of conditions in other wells close to the domestic well(s), and evaluation of current and historical land use in the affected area. The Exceedance Investigation will focus on assessing if the Water Quality Objective (WQO) exceedance is a result of groundwater management activities and evaluate the long-term mitigation proposed in the 2025 Plan Domestic Well Assessment. These investigations will be conducted on an as-needed basis. Todd staff responsible for domestic well Exceedance Investigations will report to the Kern GSAs in a Manager's Meeting.
4. **Coordination:** Todd Groundwater will continue to coordinate with the Kern GSAs and all consultants who are involved with the well mitigation program, water quality monitoring, and well inventory efforts.

SUBBASIN-WIDE COORDINATION EXPERIENCE

As noted above, the Kern Subbasin continues to implement the 2025 GSP through Subbasin-wide coordination. We understand that the Kern GSAs want to be fully engaged in Subbasin-wide coordination efforts coordination and desire clear streamlined processes.

Todd Groundwater continues to be highly active in multiple Subbasin-wide coordination activities since the beginning of the SGMA process including GSP preparation, groundwater model development, TWG participation, Annual Report preparation, 2025 Plan preparation and other groundwater related tasks. Through this experience, Todd Groundwater has an extensive background in understanding the local groundwater conditions and groundwater management practices in the Subbasin that will help support their stated goal of better and more consistent Subbasin-wide coordination. In brief, this experience includes:

- **Cawelo GSA GSP** – Mike Maley was Project Manager for preparation of the original GSP submitted in January 2020 and Revised GSP that responded to DWR's Incomplete Determination submitted in July 2022.
- **Kern River GSA GSP** – Todd Groundwater prepared the original GSP submitted in January 2020. Maureen Reilly has been working closely with KRGSA to implement the 2025 Plan and serves as their representative on the TWG.
- **Technical Working Group (TWG)** – Todd Groundwater is actively participating with the TWG to advise the Coordination Committee on methods for coordinated Subbasin-wide efforts, including the development of the 2025 Plan and its implementation. Maureen Reilly has been involved in the Water Quality Subcommittee and the development of the Water Quality Exceedance Action Plan.

- **C2VSimFG-Kern Model Development** – Todd Groundwater developed the current Subbasin groundwater model, C2VSimFG-Kern, for the 2020 GSPs by updating DWR’s C2VSimFG model with local managed water supply and demand data to develop Subbasin-wide water budgets using a consistent methodology and evaluating the aggregated 2025 Plan Projects and Management Actions.
- **Basin Study** – Todd Groundwater is the technical lead for a comprehensive study funded by a DWR grant to address data gaps and improve the overall methodology for determining water budgets for the entire Subbasin. A revised Subbasin-focused groundwater-surface water model, IWFM-Kern, will be one of the key deliverables of the Basin Study.
- **Kern County Subbasin Annual Reports** – Todd Groundwater has prepared the four Annual Reports submitted to DWR since 2020. The annual report includes compiling water budget data from water agencies and updating the C2VSimFG-Kern model for an updated water budget.
- **Data Management System (DMS) Development Support** – Technical support to the DMS Group for adding local water budget data into the DMS to support future Annual Report production.
- **Other Local Projects** – Todd Groundwater has worked on multiple local hydrogeological, planning and modeling projects for several Subbasin agencies including North Kern WSD, Kern Delta WD, Buena Vista WSD, Kern Fan Monitoring Committee, City of Bakersfield, and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD.

Todd Groundwater will provide project team members with Kern County Subbasin experience to support the preparation of the new Water Quality Exceedance Investigations. The following provides our proposed scope of services, cost estimate and schedule for this work. A cost estimate is provided at the end of this text on **Table 1**.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF SERVICES

The framework established by SGMA and described in the 2025 Plan defines water quality exceedances as an undesirable result to be mitigated by sustainable groundwater management. If water quality exceedances are reported, the 2025 Plan requires that an investigation assess if they are the result of groundwater management activities (e.g., groundwater pumping and/or recharge activities).

Water quality is monitored biannually by the Kern GSAs at RMWs. Water quality at each RMW is compared to established RMW-WQ MTs to check for the occurrence of exceedances. If exceedances are identified, an Exceedance Investigation will assess if the exceedances are the result of groundwater management activities. The monitoring approach assumes that water quality at RMWs also represents conditions in the domestic and non-public wells within the RMWWQ Zone of Influence surrounding each RMW. Adverse findings in an RMW thus require that a water quality investigation consider those private wells.

Additional water quality data may be reported from private wells outside of the biannual sampling program defined in the 2025 Plan. For wells outside of an RMW-WQ Zone of Influence, non-nitrate WQOs are used to establish exceedances at private wells, and a separate Technical Evaluation workflow and report template is to be followed.

The following proposed scope of services can be broadly organized into three categories: template development to produce the workflows and standardized report formats to address exceedances, and the two subsets of subsequent investigations triggered by water quality exceedances. Both the workflow and investigations will be coordinated with the Kern Subbasin Water Quality Consultant.

Task 1. Template Development

Task 1 consists of the development of a standard template for consistency in conducting the RMW-MT Exceedance Investigations and Technical Evaluations. Our approach used is based on the requirement outlined in Appendix G (Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program) and Appendix K (Kern Subbasin Exceedance Policy And Action Plans) of the 2025 Plan.

Task 1a Develop RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigation Template

To address MT exceedances identified during biannual sampling at RMWs, Todd Groundwater will develop an RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigation Template consisting of a workflow outlining the approach and a standardized report template. The workflow may consist of flow charts and narrative descriptions. We will prepare a Draft RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigation Template in conformance with the Kern Subbasin Exceedance Policy and Action Plans and provide the draft to the Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for review and comment. After addressing comments, we will finalize the RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigation Template.

Task 1b Develop Technical Evaluation Template

For WQO exceedances reported in private wells outside of GSA key well zones of influence, we will prepare a Draft Technical Evaluation in conformance with the Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program and Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provisions (Kern GSP Appendix K-2). In a similar format to Task 1a, the template will include both an evaluation workflow framework and a standardized report template. The Draft Technical Evaluation Template will be provided to the Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for review and comment, after which it will be edited and finalized.

Task 2. RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigation

Task 2 consists of the development of the RMW-WQ MT Exceedance. Our approach used is based on the requirement outlined in Appendix K (Kern Subbasin Exceedance Policy And Action Plans) of the 2025 Plan.

Task 2a Post-Event Data Initial Screening

Following each semi-annual water quality sampling event, analytical results from RMWs will be compared to RMW-WQ MTs exceedances and exceedances will be identified.

Data screening after sampling events and any subsequent investigations will be coordinated with the Well Inventory Database Representative to identify and document relevant domestic and non-public well locations and construction information. We will coordinate with the Water Quality Consultant and Data Management System Representative to review, evaluate, and utilize water quality and well information as publicly available groundwater quality information to be utilized in the RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigation(s) are incorporated into the Subbasin databases.

Task 2b RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigations

The workflow established in Task 1a will be followed to assess if each exceedance is a result of groundwater management activities.

If an Investigation links water quality exceedances to management activities, the investigation will evaluate whether domestic and other non-public wells within the respective RMWWQ Zone of Influence are also impacted due to groundwater management activities for constituents of concern identified in Section 13 of the Kern GSP.

Results will be reported in the Final RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigation report(s), signed by a Todd Groundwater State of California-licensed Professional Geologist or Engineer. Todd Groundwater staff will be available to attend Kern Subbasin Mitigation Evaluation Committee (KMEC) meetings to provide technical support as it relates to RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigations.

Task 3. Technical Evaluation

Task 3 consists of the development of the RMW-MT Exceedance. Our approach used is based on the requirement outlined in Appendix G – Section 7 (Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track Application Process) of the 2025 Plan.

Task 3a Data Screening

Todd Groundwater will screen domestic well water quality analyses to identify if WQO exceedances are present. Screening of data received from the Well Mitigation Program Consultant and Domestic Well Assessment completed by Kern Subbasin contractors and/or partners is assumed to be an ongoing and continuous process. We will coordinate with the Water Quality Consultant and Data Management System Representative to utilize publicly available groundwater quality information in Technical Evaluation screening processes. If an exceedance is identified, the screening process will identify if an RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigation has been completed in the proximate area. If not, a Technical Evaluation will be conducted.

Task 3b Technical Evaluations

For private wells non-nitrate WQO exceedances not associated with RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigations, a Technical Evaluation will be completed following the template established in Task 1b.

If it is found in the Technical Evaluation that a non-nitrate WQO exceedance is a result of groundwater management activities, the Technical Evaluation will evaluate the long-term mitigation proposed in the Domestic Well Assessment. Results will be reported in Final Technical Evaluation report(s), signed by a Todd Groundwater State of California-licensed Professional Geologist or Engineer. Todd Groundwater staff will be available to attend KMEC meetings to provide technical support as it relates to Technical Evaluations.

Task 4. Coordination with Well Inventory Database Representative

Todd Groundwater will consult and coordinate with the Well Inventory Database Representative as it relates to the well inventory database and its use in the RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigation(s). Todd Groundwater is experienced in interacting with the Kern County Subbasin Data Management System (DMS) through our work on the Annual Report and model updates.

Task 5. Coordination with Water Quality Consultant and Data Management System Representative

Todd Groundwater will consult and coordinate with the Water Quality Consultant and Data Management System Representative as it relates to publicly available groundwater quality information to be utilized in the RMW-WQ Exceedance Investigation(s) and Technical Evaluation(s). Todd Groundwater is experienced in interacting with the Kern County Subbasin Data Management System (DMS) through our work on the Annual Report and model updates.

COST ESTIMATE AND SCHEDULE

The proposed scope of services includes activities associated with Kern County Subbasin Water Quality Investigations and Evaluations. The cost estimate, schedule and project team for completing this scope of services are described below.

Cost Estimate

Based on the scope of work described herein, we have estimated costs for the Kern County Subbasin Water Quality Investigations and Evaluations as shown on the Table 1. The proposed cost estimate is a “not-to-exceed” amount of \$150,600. The largest level of effort is assigned to Task 2 for the RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigation. A majority of effort is also assigned to Tasks 1, 2 and 3 to develop the template, perform the water quality investigations and evaluations, and conduct the Technical Evaluations for domestic wells.

As an initial estimate, we can accommodate approximately 20 RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigations and 8 Technical Evaluations. We anticipate that the initial investigations and evaluations will take more time as we work through initiating the process, and that this process will get more efficient over time. The Subbasin-wide coordination process introduces some uncertainty about the level of involvement; however, we consider that the scope and costs have been developed with a good understanding of the Kern County Subbasin recently completed GSP or the 2025 Plan. Because the uncertainties associated with initiating a new process, we will communicate with the Subbasin GSAs on how much time it takes to conduct these investigations and evaluations for future planning. Throughout the project, Todd Groundwater will look for opportunities for cost and time savings and provide recommendations on options to streamline the process.

Our proposed level of effort is provided by task in Table 2 (following the text). Hours are provided by staff classifications, illustrating the emphasis on senior professionals for critical work tasks and use of more cost-effective staff for technical support. We have also included hours for administrative support in the table.

Table 1. Cost Proposal for Water Quality Investigations and Evaluations

TASKS	Estimated Hours	Estimated Cost
Task 1: Template Development	90	\$24,160
Task 2: RMW-WQ MT Exceedance Investigation	250	\$65,320
Task 3: Technical Evaluation	182	\$46,800
Task 4: Coordination with Well Inventory Database Representative	28	\$7,160
Task 5: Coordination with Water Quality Consultant and Data Management System	28	\$7,160
TOTAL	578	\$150,600

Schedule

The Template Development task requires that these been developed by March 2026 or 60 days from the contract execution. We will have our team available to conduct this work upon approval of the contract.

The MT Exceedance Schedule will be determined by the water quality monitoring. We assume that we will receive two batches of RMW-MT Exceedances to evaluate from the Subbasin's Water Quality Consultant that correspond to the semi-annual reporting of data to DMS. The investigations must be completed within 60 days of receipt of an RMW-MT Exceedance.

The MT Exceedance Schedule will be determined their submittal to the Kern County Subbasin under the Well Mitigation Program. No set time period was identified in the GSP for completing the Technical Evaluation. We will coordinate with the Subbasin Well Mitigation

Subcommittee on completion of this task to determine the appropriate time necessary on a case-by-case basis depending on the overall complexity of the issue.

KEY PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

Todd Groundwater proposes a selected team, who bring groundwater basin management experience, SGMA expertise, requisite technical skills, and knowledge of the Kern County Groundwater Subbasin.

- Maureen Reilly, PE, will be the Technical Lead who will work closely with the technical team to set up the Water Quality Exceedance Investigations and Technical Evaluations consistent with the procedures that provide Water Quality and Well Mitigation Programs for the 2025 Plan for the Subbasin.
- Mike Maley, PE, PG, CHg, CEG, will serve as the Project Manager and provide resource on hydrogeological and groundwater management knowledge of the Subbasin.
- Menso de Jong, PhD, PG, has extensive water quality background with permit applications and water quality investigations. He will be the primary technical analyst for developing the WQ MT Exceedance Investigation and Technical Evaluations.
- Walt McNab, PhD, PG, CHg, has extensive quantitative analysis background in evaluating the impacts of agricultural operations and artificial aquifer recharge on groundwater quality. His key role is assessing the potential of groundwater management activities on water quality.
- Mike Wottrich, GISP, is a well experienced GIS and data analyst who will support the WQ MT Exceedance Investigation and Technical Evaluations with mapping, database access, and GIS spatial analysis.

Todd Groundwater technical staff will assist the Key Project Team members to support the GSP preparation and data analysis, as needed. Additional staff will provide support with graphics and administrative support. Brief biographies of the Key Project Team Members is provided below.



Maureen Reilly, PE, Principal Water Resources Engineer

Maureen has over 25 years of experience in groundwater, environmental, and information systems projects including compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Maureen has worked in Kern County over the past 20 years on various groundwater management projects for Kern Delta WD, KRGSA including all the various iterations Kern County Subbasin GSPs. She is experienced in water quality analysis, monitoring, data management, and reporting in the context of groundwater basin management. Maureen participated in the development of the Water Quality and Well Mitigation Programs for the 2025 Plan for the Subbasin.



Mike Maley, PE, PG, CHG, CEG, Principal Hydrogeologist

Mike will serve as Project Manager. Mike is a licensed professional geologist and civil engineer with over 30 years of experience in groundwater projects. Mike has worked in Kern County over the past 10 years on various groundwater management projects including the Basin Study, Cawelo hydrogeological support and all the various iterations Kern County Subbasin GSPs. With his extensive local background, he will be a resource on hydrogeological and groundwater management knowledge of the Subbasin to support the technical team. As Project Manager, Mike will be responsible for overseeing the execution of the work, schedule and invoicing.



Menso de Jong, PhD, PG, Senior Geologist

In his 15 years of professional and academic experience, Dr. Menso de Jong has supported water resource needs on a wide range of scales, from groundwater and surface water resource evaluations and development for single parcel water systems to basin-wide planning, monitoring, and operations. Menso routinely evaluates existing water resources projects, works closely with clients to develop approaches for resource development, provides scientific support and oversight and analytical work in support of aquifer characterization. Menso will be the primary technical analyst for developing the WQ MT Exceedance Investigation and Technical Evaluations.



Walt McNab, PhD, PG, CHG, Consulting Hydrogeologist

Walt is a computational geoscientist with over 30 years of experience as a consultant and researcher. Walt has provided technical support for Kern County projects over the past 2 years including the Basin Study and the 2025 Kern County Subbasin GSP. Walt has extensive experience with quantitative analysis and modeling of groundwater chemistry problems including assessments of the mobility of trace metals in different environments, impacts of agricultural operations and artificial aquifer recharge on groundwater quality, and brine-rock chemical interactions. Walt will provide assist in



Mike Wottrich, GISP, Senior Data Analyst

Mr. Wottrich has over twenty years of GIS and CAD working experience in water resources management and environmental cleanup projects. He has contributed to a wide variety of interesting and complex projects including data management of large groundwater monitoring programs, production of engineering design drawings, and computer modeling of the subsurface geologic environment and contaminated groundwater plumes for hydrogeologic and environmental applications. He is a certified GIS Professional (GISP) with expertise with software including ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop and Server.

**NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
Board Meeting**

Agenda Item 8A3



Administration: P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 93380-1435
office: (661) 393-2696
fax: (661) 393-6884

Water Orders
Operations: 33380 Cawelo Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9575
office: (661) 393-3361
www.north kernwrd.com

January 15, 2026

TO: GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE
Directors Holtermann and Mitchell, Alternate Glende

FROM: David Hampton and Ram Venkatesan

RE: SGMA Technical Support for 2026, INTERA

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“Approve the Proposal for As-Needed SGMA Technical Support for the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and North Kern Water Storage District for January – December 2026 in the amount of \$149,592, and authorize North Kern WSD cost share up to \$94,243.”

DISCUSSION:

The Kern Subbasin GSAs and technical consultants continue to coordinate and support the implementation of the Kern Subbasin Adopted 2025 GSPs. INTERA has previously been contracted to represent the SGMA related interest specific to Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and North Kern. Additionally, further refinements to the Kern Subbasin groundwater model are necessary and it is recommended that Districts or GSAs participate in that process. INTERA is highly qualified to represent our two Districts in that process.

The INTERA proposal to provide technical coordination, GSP implementation support, groundwater model review and support, and other tasks as needed on behalf of SWID and North Kern is attached. The estimated cost through December 31, 2026 is \$149,592 and based on district acres the North Kern cost share is 63% or \$94,243.

A key component of this proposal is the work that INTERA will contribute to the refinement of the groundwater model. The North Kern staff recommends approving the proposals in the total amount of \$149,952, and North Kern’s cost share of up to \$94,243.

Attachments:

Proposal for As-Needed SGMA Technical Support for the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and North Kern Water Storage District for January – December 2026, INTERA



December 31, 2025

To,

Mr. Kris Lawrence,
General Manager,
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District,
16294 Hwy 43, Wasco, CA 93280
Email: klawrence@swid.org

&

Mr. David Hampton,
General Manager,
North Kern Water Storage District,
33380 Cawelo Extended, Bakersfield, CA 93308
Email: dhampton@northkernwsd.com

RE: Proposal for As-Needed SGMA Technical Support for Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and North Kern Water Storage District for January – December, 2026

Dear Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Hampton,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this proposal for continued as-needed SGMA technical support to the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and the North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD).

In September 2025, the Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) adopted a revised coordinated Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), referred to herein as the 2025 Plan, consisting of one foundational GSP (covering the entire Subbasin) and six additional GSPs containing GSA-specific information (highlighted in “Blue Pages”). The 2025 Plan includes revised water level, water quality, and subsidence sustainable management criteria (SMC), a comprehensive Exceedance Action Plan (for each of the three sustainability indicators), revamped water level and water quality mitigation programs, and a revised stakeholder engagement and community outreach and engagement plan. In December, the SWRCB approved the Kern Subbasin Plan and determined that the Kern Subbasin should be returned to DWR oversight. With this determination, the Kern Subbasin GSAs are transitioning to active Plan implementation and engagement with the Department of Water Resources.

INTERA represented SWID and NKWSD during the Plan revision process in 2024 and served as the lead of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and technical liaison with the SWRCB during the SWRCB review and Plan revision process in 2025. INTERA is also serving as the lead of the Friant Kern Canal (FKC) subsidence sub-committee and is expected to continue to support the Subbasin on Technical Coordination of SGMA implementation efforts through 2026. As such, INTERA has developed a thorough understanding of the technical and implementation requirements of the recently adopted (revised) Kern Subbasin Plan as well as datasets and modeling tools relevant to managing groundwater levels and subsidence in and around SWID and NKWSD (in particular along the FKC). INTERA will utilize this experience, expertise, and

understanding to support SWID and NKWSD on SGMA implementation, technical coordination with surrounding GSAs, and assessment of datasets and modeling tools to manage groundwater levels and subsidence within and around their districts.

The sections below provide more detailed descriptions of the proposed scope and level of effort. The outlined scope covers the calendar year 2026.

1.0 Scope of Work

The scope of work outlined below is split into three subtasks: 1) Subbasin Technical Coordination; 2) SGMA Implementation Support; 3) Model Review and Simulations, 4) Miscellaneous Technical Support, and 5) Project Management. Each of the subtasks is described in the sections below. The scope of work outlined below includes assumptions about the level of effort involved. However, the exact nature of and level of effort for SGMA technical assistance in 2026 may evolve through the year. As such, these estimates are for budgeting and planning purposes. Any deviations from the assumed level of effort will be reported to and discussed with SWID and NKWSD promptly.

1.1 Subbasin Technical Coordination

Continued successful policy and technical coordination with Kern Subbasin GSAs is critical to implementing the Kern Subbasin Plan and achieving groundwater sustainability at the Subbasin and GSA scale. INTERA will support SGMA coordination by attending managers and policy meetings to ensure consistency of implementation efforts with the best available data and management considerations for SWID and NKWSD. INTERA will also review and provide comments on work-products from the various implementation sub-committees relevant to SWID and NKWSD. If necessary, INTERA will meet with sub-committee leads and representatives to ensure issues relevant to SWID and NKWSD are adequately communicated and addressed in the sub-committee's recommendations and work-products. For the purpose of this proposal, it is assumed that INTERA will attend one managers and one policy meeting every month on behalf of SWID and NKWSD. In addition, INTERA staff will a) spend up to 8 hours every month reviewing and commenting on subcommittee interim work-product and b) attend up to one meeting every month to engage with the subcommittee members on behalf of SWID and NKWSD.

1.2 SGMA Implementation Support

SWID and NKWSD will be collecting and reporting groundwater level, quality, and subsidence data for SGMA implementation and compliance purposes. SWID and NKWSD also collect LandIQ data to assess irrigation demands and water use within their districts. INTERA will support the districts on any QA/QC and analysis of SGMA data, as requested by either district. If any exceedances of SMCs are reported, INTERA will support the districts and relevant implementation/exceedance sub-committee(s) in analyzing and reporting the exceedances. Finally, INTERA will support SWID and NKWSD and the mitigation sub-committee in assessing any mitigation applications that are submitted within each district. For the purpose of this proposal, it is assumed that INTERA staff will spend up to 8 hours every month reviewing and analyzing SMCs, exceedances, and mitigation applications relevant to SWID and/or NKWSD. INTERA will meet with SWID and NKWSD once a month to discuss any issues related to SGMA implementation.

1.3 Model Review and Simulations

The Kern Subbasin has developed a regional groundwater model (the C2VSimFG-Kern model) that simulates historical and future groundwater levels and subsidence at the regional scale across the Kern Subbasin. INTERA has also developed 1D subsidence models along the FKC to support future mitigation attribution analysis efforts. The C2VSimFG-Kern model has been calibrated to the regional scale. Future efforts will entail further refinement at the GSA scale. Furthermore, the (refined) regional model will be used with the 1D subsidence model to evaluate the relative contribution to post-2020 subsidence from different GSAs within the Kern Subbasin. For this attribution analysis to be accurate, it is imperative that the GSA operations, past and future management actions, and water budgets are accurately represented and local groundwater levels adequately calibrated in the refined C2VSimFG-Kern model. INTERA will review and recommend appropriate revisions to the C2VSimFG-Kern model to make it more consistent with SWID and NKWSD water budgets and (past and future) management actions. As part of this effort, INTERA will perform testing and validation model simulations to check the accuracy and predictive capabilities of the model. For the purpose of this proposal, it is assumed that INTERA will spend up to 80 hours reviewing and providing recommendations on the C2VSimFG-Kern model. Furthermore, it is assumed that INTERA will spend up to 120 hours performing testing and validation model simulations.

1.4 Miscellaneous Technical Support

INTERA will also support SWID and NKWSD on as-needed miscellaneous technical analysis that may go beyond the scope outlined above. For the purpose of this proposal it is assumed that INTERA staff will spend up to 80 hours performing miscellaneous technical analyses for SWID and/or NKWSD.

1.5 Project Management

Dr. Abhishek Singh, PhD, PE will serve as the project manager and will be assisted by Dr. Leila Saberi, PhD as assistant project manager on the proposed scope of work. INTERA will provide project management services to track scope, schedule, and budget. INTERA will track all efforts specific to SWID and NKWSD and report the relative split of the budget spent between SWID and NKWSD in each monthly invoice. As discussed earlier, the exact nature of and level of effort for SGMA technical assistance in 2026 may evolve through the year. INTERA will maintain regular communication with both Districts to ensure transparency and alignment on progress and budget. Any deviations from the assumed level of effort will be reported to and discussed with SWID and NKWSD promptly. Additional effort for SGMA Technical Support may need to be addressed through future amendments that will be issued upon direction from SWID and NKWSD.

2.0 Schedule

This proposal covers identified tasks for the period from January 2026 to December 2026.

3.0 Budget

The budget for the scope outline above is \$149,592. Any deviation in scope will be promptly communicated to SWID and NKWSD General Managers and may need to be addressed through future amendments to the proposed scope and budget. Travel, lodging and per-DIEM will be billed as other direct costs (assumed to be up to \$1,000 in the budget below) for any in-person meetings.

Table 1. Level of Effort and Budget for SGMA Technical Support for 2026

Task No.	2026 Estimated Hours by Staff Type				Task Totals	
	Principal Engineer/ Scientist I	Sr. Engineer/ Scientist III	Engineer/ Scientist I	Engineer/ Scientist II	Total Task Hours	Total Task Cost
	Singh	Saberi	Neely	Tsuda		
Task 1.1. Subbasin Technical Coordination	24	60		48	132	\$33,624
Task 1.2. SGMA Implementation Support	12	12	48	48	120	\$27,888
Task 1.3. Model Review and Simulations	16	160		80	256	\$62,256
Task 1.4. Miscellaneous Technical Support	8	40		40	88	\$21,128
Task 1.4. Project Management	6	6			12	\$3,696
Other Direct Costs						\$1,000
Total Hours by Staff Type	66	278	48	216	608	
						Estimated 2026 Budget \$149,592

Thank you for considering our proposal to continue this important work. We value the continued trust and confidence in the INTERA team and are eager to build on our experience, expertise, and partnership with SWID and NKWSD to ensure successful SGMA implementation and coordination for both Districts.

Sincerely,

INTERA Incorporated



Abhishek Singh, PE, PhD
President - Water Resources & Supply, Principal Engineer

Attachment: 2026 INTERA Billing Rates and Labor Categories

INTERA Labor Categories and Billing Rates for Calendar Year 2026

Labor Category	2026 Hourly Rate
Principal Engineer/Scientist I	\$366
Principal Engineer/Scientist II	\$321
Principal Engineer/Scientist III	\$298
Sr. Engineer/Scientist I	\$288
Sr. Engineer/Scientist II	\$265
Sr. Engineer/Scientist III	\$251
Sr. Engineer/Scientist IV	\$234
Engineer/Scientist I	\$222
Engineer/Scientist II	\$205
Engineer/Scientist III	\$187
Engineer/Scientist IV	\$169
Engineer/Scientist Intern	\$109
Sr. Technician	\$179
Technician	\$114
Sr. Tech Editor	\$166
Tech Editor	\$120
Sr. CAD/Graphics	\$143
CAD/Graphics	\$114
Sr. Project Analyst	\$229
Project Analyst	\$114
Project Associate	\$114
Mileage	\$0.72/mi