



July 14, 2016

**VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Mr. Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program  
California Department of Water Resources  
901 P Street, Room 213-B  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236  
[mark.nordberg@water.ca.gov](mailto:mark.nordberg@water.ca.gov)

Board of Directors  
David A. Wells  
*President*

Gary J. Morris  
*Vice President*

Barry M. Jameson  
Roger Miller  
Scott Niblett

Harry O. Starkey  
*General Manager*

J.D. Bramlet  
*Director of Operations*

Sanjay "Sunny" Kapoor  
*Director of Finance*

Re: **NOTICE OF THE WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT'S INTENT  
TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Per Section 10723.8(a) of the California Water Code, the West Kern Water District ("West Kern") gives notice of its decision to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") for the portion of its jurisdictional boundaries that overly the Kern County Subbasin (Basin Number 5-22.14, DWR Bulletin 118) within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin.

West Kern's jurisdictional boundaries are depicted in **Exhibit A**.

On June 28, 2016, the West Kern Board of Directors held a public hearing to consider the decision to serve as a GSA. In accordance with Section 10723(b) of the California Water Code, and Section 6066 of the California Government Code, a notice of public hearing was published in a newspaper of general circulation. Proof of publication is shown as **Exhibit B**.

Following the public hearing, West Kern's Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 16-03, enclosed as **Exhibit C**, electing to become a GSA to the extent of the boundaries depicted in Exhibit A. West Kern is not proposing any new bylaws, ordinances, or other new authorities associated with this GSA formation.

Other agencies that are managing or proposing to manage groundwater within the Kern County Subbasin include: the Kern Groundwater Authority, Buena Vista Water Storage District, Kern River Groundwater

Sustainability Agency, the County of Kern, and the Greenfield County Water District.

As required by Water Code section 10723.8(a)(4), West Kern established and is maintaining a list of interested parties that West Kern will amend as necessary during the GSA formation process and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process. As required by SGMA, West Kern will consider all classes of beneficial users and users of groundwater within the Basin, as well as those responsible for developing GSPs. An initial list of stakeholders and interested party classes includes:

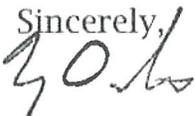
- (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights
  - (1) Agricultural users
    - None known at this time.
  - (2) Domestic well operators
    - Aera Energy, LLC
    - California Resources Corporation
- (b) Municipal well operators
  - City of Taft
  - City of Maricopa
- (c) Public Water Systems
  - West Kern Water District
  - Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
- (d) Local land use planning agencies
  - County of Kern
- (e) Environmental users of groundwater
  - None known at this time.
- (f) Surface water users
  - None known at this time
- (g) Federal Government agencies
  - Federal Bureau of Prisons (Taft Federal Correctional Institution)
- (h) California Native American Tribes
  - None known at this time
- (i) Disadvantaged communities
  - None known at this time

(j) Entities monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of the groundwater basin

- Kern Groundwater Authority
- Kern Water Bank Authority
- Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- Deer Creek & Tule River Authority
- Kern County Water Agency Improvement District 4
- Kern-Tulare Water District
- North Kern Water Storage District
- Semitropic Water Storage District
- Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
- Kern Fan Authority

West Kern is committed to working with all interested parties, across the basin, to develop a GSP that achieves sustainable groundwater management.

By this notice, West Kern has provided DWR with all applicable information required by Water Code section 10723.8(a). If any further information is required, please contact West Kern's general manager, Harry Starkey, at [Harry@wkwd.org](mailto:Harry@wkwd.org).

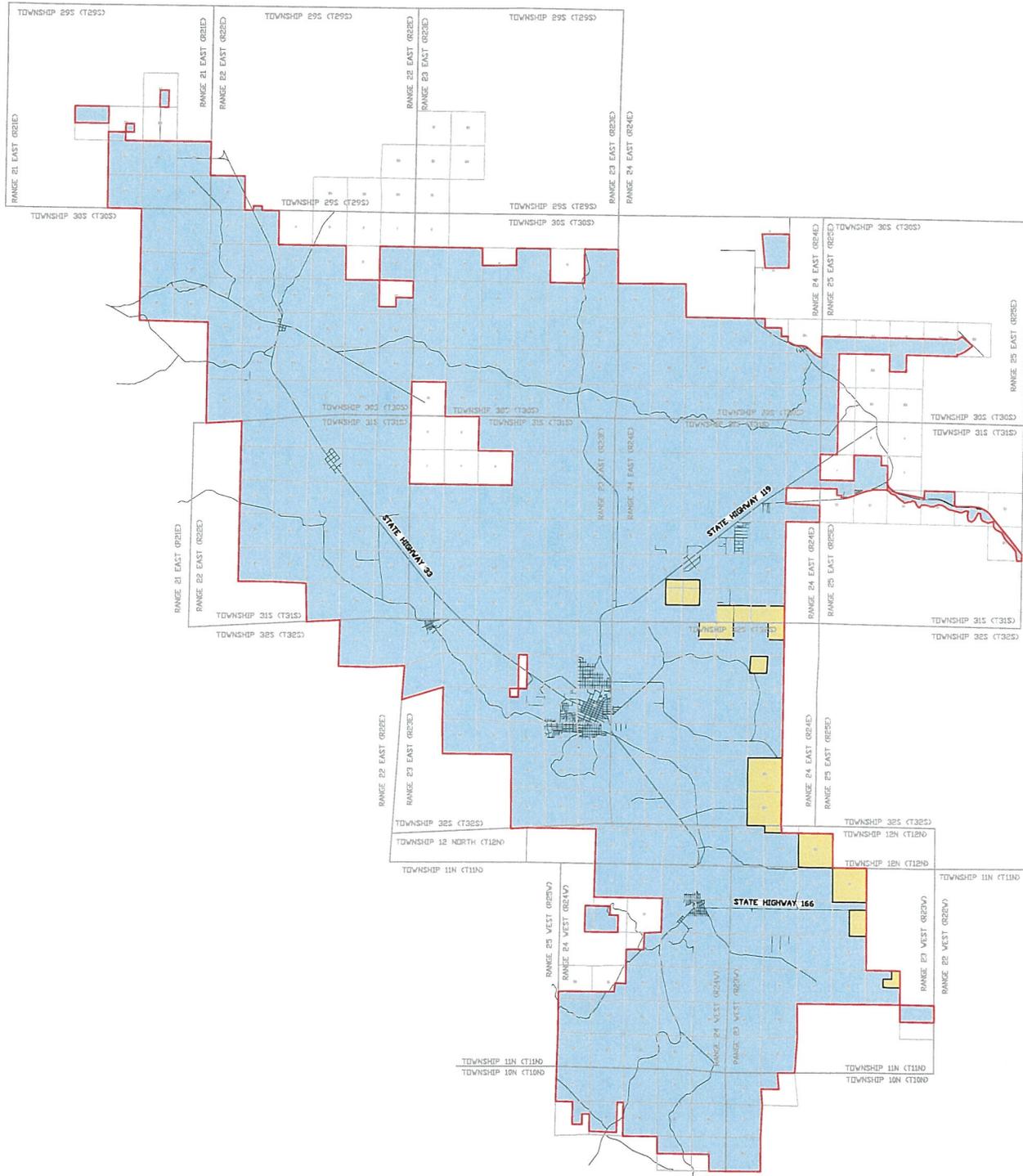
Sincerely,  


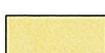
Harry Starkey  
General Manager

cc: Mike McKenzie, South Central Region Contact

# **EXHIBIT A**

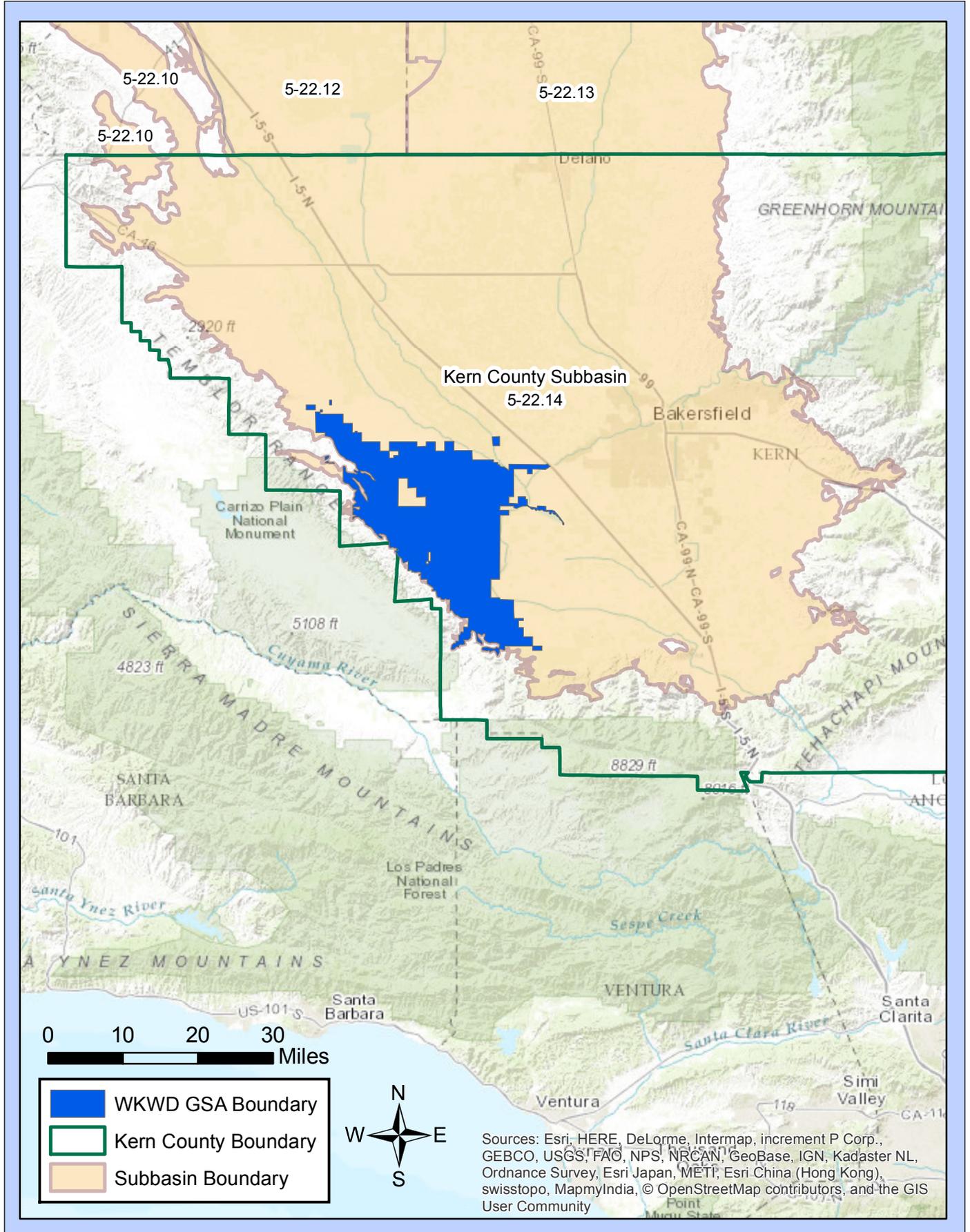
# WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



-  WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
-  WHEELER RIDGE - MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT OVERLAP WITH WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

# WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)  
Application



Author: Doug Jameson - West Kern Water Engineering

# **EXHIBIT B**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to California Water Code section 10723(b), the West Kern Water District (the "District") will hold a public hearing on June 28, 2016 at 6:00pm at the District offices, located at 800 Kern St., Taft, CA 93288.

The purpose of the hearing will be to consider and determine whether the District should become a "Groundwater Sustainability Agency" for a portion of the Kern County Groundwater Sub basin.

The hearing will be open to the public and any person present will have an opportunity to be heard.

Publish Dates: 06/14/16, 6/21/16

PUB: JUNE 14, 21, 2016  
PUB: MIDWAY DRILLER

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**  
(2015.5 C.C.F.)  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Kern )  
)ss

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid. I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the DAILY MIDWAY DRILLER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published bi-weekly in the City of Taft, County of Kern, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Kern, State of California under its date of February 11, 1952, Book 90, Page 286, Case Number 57657, that the notice of which the annexed is printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

June 14, 21

all in the year 2016

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Taft, California, this 21 day of June 2016  
*Oliver DeLaf*  
SIGNATURE

# **EXHIBIT C**

RESOLUTION NO. 16-03

RESOLUTION ELECTING TO ESTABLISH  
THE WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT AS  
A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR  
THOSE PORTIONS OF THE KERN COUNTY SUBBASIN OF  
THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

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**WHEREAS**, the California Legislature passed a statewide framework for sustainable groundwater management, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (California Water Code § 10720 et seq.) pursuant to Senate Bill 1168, Senate Bill 1319, and Assembly Bill 1739, which was approved by the Governor and Chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 16, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the SGMA went into effect on January 1, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SGMA requires all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or multiple GSAs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Kern County Groundwater Sub-basin has been designated by DWR as a high-priority basin and in critical groundwater overdraft; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SGMA authorizes a local public agency overlying groundwater sub-basin to elect to become a GSA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the West Kern Water District (the "District") is a local public agency as defined under the SGMA and is therefore eligible to serve as a GSA; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 10723.2 of the SGMA requires that a GSA consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 10723.8 of the SGMA requires that a local public agency electing to be a GSA to notify the DWR of its election and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a sub-basin; and,

**WHEREAS**, the District is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, notices of a public hearing regarding whether to adopt a Resolution to elect to become a GSA were published on June 14, 2016 and June 21, 2016 in the Taft Daily Midway Driller; and,

**WHEREAS**, the District held a public hearing on June 28, 2016, after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider adoption of this Resolution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the District wishes to exercise the powers and authorities of a GSA granted by the SGMA;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Board of Directors of the West Kern Water District hereby elects to become a GSA for those portions of Kern County subbasin shown in the map attached hereto as Exhibit A; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the District authorizes the General Manager to, within 30 days from the date of this Resolution, provide notification of this election to the DWR, including a copy of this Resolution and additional information required by Water Code Section 10723.8, in the manner required by law; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the District directs the General Manager to begin preliminary negotiations concerning the resolution of potential overlapping GSA boundaries, and to report back about the potential options to resolve any overlapping boundaries.

All the foregoing being upon the motion of Director Morris, seconded by Director Niblett and carried by the following vote:

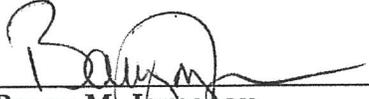
AYES:        President Barry M. Jameson  
              Vice President David A. Wells  
              Director Gary J. Morris  
              Director Scott Niblett  
              Director Roger Miller

NOES:        None

ABSENT:     None

ABSTAIN:    None

**ADOPTED, SIGNED, AND APPROVED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Barry M. Jameson,**  
President of the Board of Directors of  
**WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT**

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, **Harry O. Starkey**, being the appointed secretary of the **West Kern Water District**, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing **Resolution No. 16-03** was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a legally convened meeting of said Board held on the **28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016**, that the above and foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of **Resolution No. 16-03**, and that the same has not been amended or repealed.

ATTEST:



(SEAL)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HOS", is written above a horizontal line.

**Harry O. Starkey,**  
Secretary of the Board of Directors of  
**WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT**

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