

TO: County of Kern, City of Arvin, City of Bakersfield, City of Delano, City of Maricopa, City of McFarland, City of Shafter, City of Taft, City of Wasco

FROM: Kristin Pittack, Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact

RE: Notice of Intent to Adopt Amended GSPs for the Kern County Subbasin

DATE: July 19, 2024

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT

Please be advised that the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (**GSA**) overlying the Kern County Subbasin (**Subbasin**) intend to adopt amended Groundwater Sustainability Plans (**GSP**) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (**SGMA**).

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide notice of the GSAs' intent to adopt amended GSPs pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4.

BACKGROUND

In January 2020, GSAs managing the Subbasin adopted and submitted five GSPs to the Department of Water Resources (**DWR**), as required by SGMA. Two years later, in January 2022, DWR determined those GSPs to be "incomplete," and gave the GSAs additional time to address DWR's identified deficiencies. Then, in July 2022, the GSAs submitted six GSPs to DWR; five revised GSPs and one new GSP. In March 2023, DWR determined all six GSPs to be "inadequate," and referred the Subbasin to the State Water Resource Control Board's (**State Water Board**) intervention process under SGMA.

The first step in the intervention process is a "probationary hearing" conducted by the State Water Board. That hearing for the Subbasin is anticipated for Spring 2025.

In preparation for the hearing, the Subbasin's GSAs have prepared *draft* amended GSPs addressing concerns raised by DWR and the State Water Board. The links to the draft amended GSPs can be found here: <https://dms.geiconsultants.com/kern/mapviewer>. In May 2024, the Subbasin's GSAs submitted the drafts to the State Water Board for review.

ADOPTION OF AMENDED GSPs

This Fall, the GSAs plan to hold public hearings to adopt the amended GSPs.

SGMA requires that, before a GSA may adopt or amend a GSP, the GSA must provide cities and counties within the area covered by the GSP at least 90 days' notice. (Wat. Code, § 10728.4.). While some GSAs have already provided Kern County and any cities within their

coverage area with a notice similar to this one, we are sending this notice to all to ensure that Kern County and any city within the Subbasin that has *not yet* received the required notice are provided with notice of the their GSAs' intent to adopt an amended GSP as well as to provide an update on the current status of the State Water Board process.

Enclosed is a map showing the GSAs in the Subbasin allowing you to identify the GSA managing groundwater in your area. From there, you can determine the relevant GSP by following the appropriate link to each draft amended GSP on the website provided above. For example, by using the map, the city of Taft can determine that it is located within West Kern Water District GSA's boundaries. The website contains a link to the draft Amended Kern Subbasin GSP which is the GSP for that GSA.

Each GSA that has not already provided notice pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4 must review and consider comments from any city or county within the GSA's coverage area receiving this notice, and consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of this notice. The contact information for your GSA can be found within the draft GSP covering your area.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or SGMA implementation in the Subbasin, generally, please do not hesitate to email me at kpittack@rinconconsultants.com.



Signature

July 19, 2024

Date

Kristin Pittack, MS

Name

Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact

Title

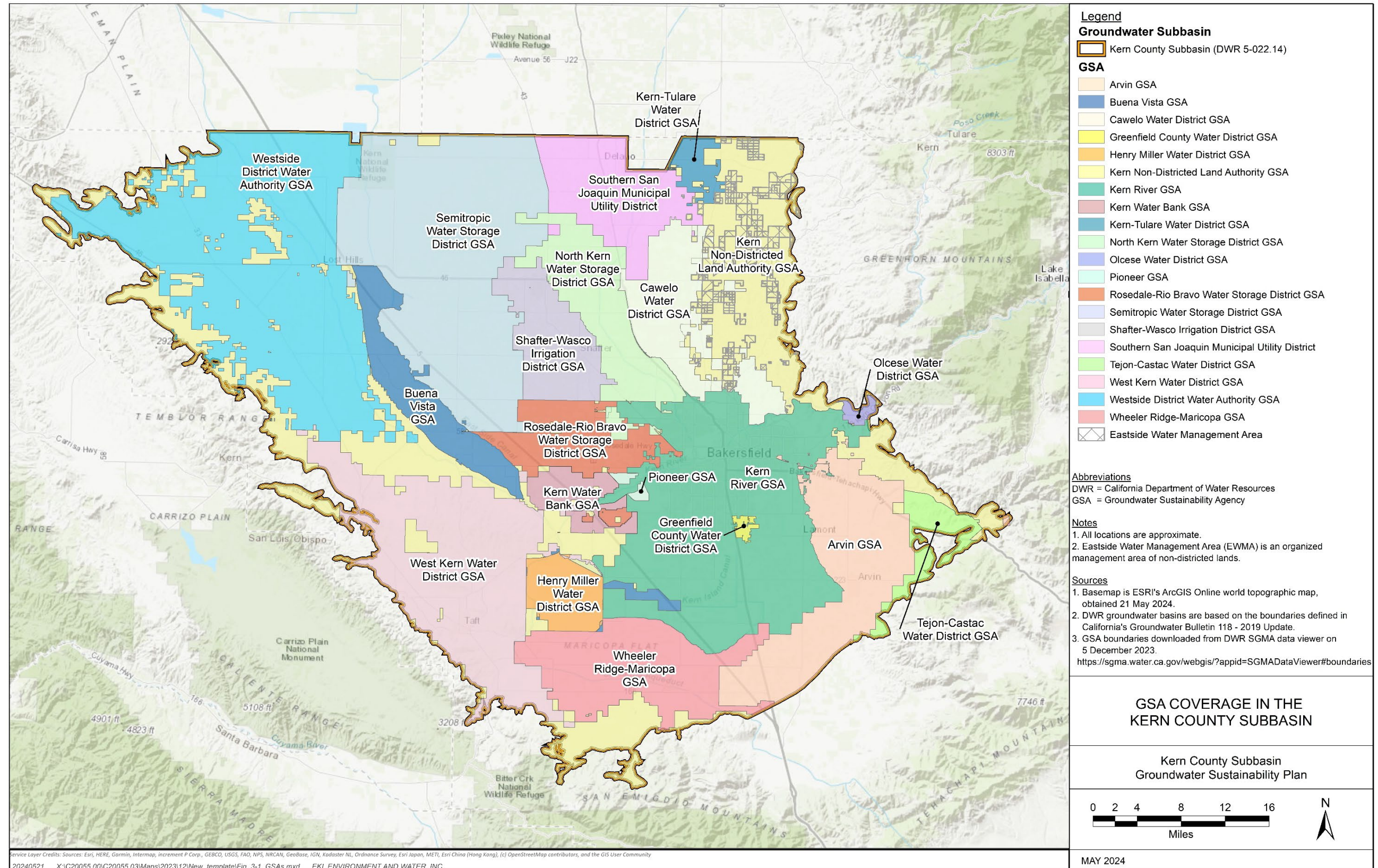


Figure 3-1. GSA Coverage in the Kern Subbasin