



TEJON-CASTAC
WATER
DISTRICT



South of Kern River Executive Committee Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 15, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Information Posted:

Southofkernriver.com

<http://www.aewsd.org> * <http://www.wrmwsd.com>

<http://www.tejoncastacwd.com> * <https://www.arvincsd.com>

In Person: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Headquarters

20401 E. Bear Mountain Blvd. Arvin, CA 93203

Via Remote (**Microsoft Teams**): <https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting Number: **286 322 996 655**

Meeting Password: **CeQNaX**

Phone: **1.213.437.9052**

Phone Meeting Number (access code): **456 925 835#**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. AUTHORIZATION OF INITIAL REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETING UNDER AB361
4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Coordination Committee update (*Muhar, Nicholas*)
 - B. Finance (*Nicholas*)
 - C. South of Kern River (SOKR) website (*Nicholas*)
 - D. State Water Project's (SWP) California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) SOKR Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) comment letter response (*EKI*)
 - E. SOKR Management Area Updates (*Muhar, Nicholas, Martin, Barraza*)
 - F. Correspondence
7. CLOSED SESSION
 - a. Potential Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(d)(2); 1 item).
8. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SOUTH OF KERN RIVER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 8, 2022**

Director Yurosek called to order the quarterly meeting at 10:02 a.m., with remote attendance by all present:

Executive Committee Directors

Rafael Gallardo – Arvin Community Services District (ACSD)

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

Mark Valpredo – Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD)

Michael Blaine – Wheeler Ridge-Mariposa Water Storage District (WRMWS)

District Staff

Raul Barraza – ACSD

Jeevan Muhar – AEWSD

Angelica Martin – TCWD

Sheridan Nicholas – WRMWS

AUTHORIZATION OF INITIAL REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETING UNDER AB361

Director Yurosek made a motion to authorize meeting by teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) (AB 361) based on findings that the State of Emergency declared by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020 is still in effect and that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Director Blaine seconded.

There was a roll call vote (Yurosek – Aye, Blaine – Aye, Gallardo – Aye, Valpredo – Aye). The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF JULY 1, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Director Blaine made a motion to approve the July 1, 2022 South of Kern River (SOKR) Executive Committee meeting minutes. Director Valpredo seconded.

There was a roll call vote (Yurosek – Aye, Blaine – Aye, Gallardo – Aye, Valpredo – Aye). The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Disclaimer regarding C2VSimFG-Kern release

Mr. Muhar introduced AEWSD's ongoing project to develop a model that supports internal District decision making. As part of this project, AEWSD has requested C2VSimFG-Kern

model files extended through Water Year 2021 from Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA). KGA has initiated discussions with their legal counsel on revising the previously signed disclaimer prior to releasing the model files. The Coordination Committee requested input from the SOKR Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).

As the files are non-proprietary public information, Director Yurosek will convey the SOKR GSA's support at next Coordination Committee meeting. Following the meeting, AEWSD plans to submit a public records request if topic remains unresolved.

Coordination Committee update

Mr. Muhar provided a brief overview of the August 17th Coordination Committee meeting discussions, including LandIQ's upcoming grant-funded work, the Basin Study and subsidence effort, re-initiation of Basin Data Management System (DMS) maintenance, the C2VSimFG-Kern disclaimer, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) timeline and next steps for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) updates.

It was noted that Director Yurosek or Mr. Muhar can forward any questions regarding the SOKR GSP to Paul Gosselin of DWR. The next Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for September 21st. There were no comments or questions.

EKI Task Order for SOKR GSP Implementation Support through January 2023

Ms. Dutton of EKI Environment & Water Inc. (EKI) discussed EKI's scope of work for GSA coordination and administration of the SOKR GSP through January 2023. The task order totals \$25,400 and extends September 2022 through January 2023. There were no comments or questions.

Director Valpredo made a motion to endorse EKI's task order and recommend funding authorization. Director Blaine seconded. There was a roll call vote (Yurosek – Aye, Blaine – Aye, Gallardo – Aye, Valpredo – Aye,). The motion passed.

Finance

Mr. Nicholas gave a financial update. WRMWSD received three invoices from EKI for SOKR GSP development and one invoice from KGA for the removal of the SOKR GSAs from the KGA, totaling \$160,048. Per the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), WRMWSD will invoice the three SOKR GSAs equally. Mr. Nicholas will provide a line-item cost reconciliation table within the next Executive Committee meeting packet.

SOKR Management Area Updates

Mr. Muhar provided an update on SOKR GSP monitoring and implementation within the Arvin GSA, including ongoing monthly groundwater level readings, earthwork completion at the Sunset Spreading Works facility, construction initiation on the Forrest Frick/Eastside canal intertie, and pursuit of a \$30 million loan to build GSP-identified pipeline project(s) that enable in-lieu recharge in the groundwater service area.

Mr. Nicholas provided an update on SOKR GSP monitoring and implementation within the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA, including ongoing monthly groundwater level readings, subsidence analysis along the California Aqueduct, and revised funding model to implement a groundwater use charge with the intent to incentivize decreased groundwater use.

Ms. Martin stated TCWD GSA has nothing to report.

Mr. Barraza shared that ACSD is pursuing pipeline replacements and investigating the feasibility of combining a solar field with percolation ponds near ACSD wells.

Mr. Muhar shared the status of Spring 2022 groundwater levels in comparison to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs). One well located in Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA is in exceedance of its Minimum Threshold (MT), and several wells are trending downward in Arvin GSA. Per the SOKR GSP and Basin definitions, undesirable results are not yet occurring. There were no comments or questions.

Considerations for development of SOKR website

Mr. Nicholas reported that establishing and maintaining a basic website like the White Wolf GSA will have minimal associated costs. The website could provide cross-links between each of the SOKR GSA's individual websites and the SOKR GSP, a download link to the SOKR GSP, and GSA contact information and serve as a forum for interested parties to sign up for SOKR GSP specific notices. Per Executive Committee direction, WRMWSD will purchase a website domain.

Coordination of common approaches and policies

Mr. Muhar suggested that responding to certain requests in a coordinated manner may improve efficiencies and better serve the SOKR GSAs. As such, the SOKR Managers will begin to bring topics forth to the Executive Committee for consideration. There were no comments or questions.

Correspondence

No comments on the SOKR GSP have been submitted to DWR.

Future meeting location

Future meetings will be held in person at a location within one of the District boundaries, to be determined by SOKR Managers.

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2) (potential litigation; 1 item). Legal Counsel had nothing to report out of closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee meeting of the South of Kern River was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. Future meetings will be scheduled for 90 minutes.

Mark Valpredo, South of Kern River
Executive Committee Secretary