



TEJON-CASTAC  
**WATER**  
DISTRICT



## South of Kern River Executive Committee Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Information Posted:

<http://www.arvined@aewsd.org> \* <http://www.wrmwsd.com>  
<http://www.wrmwsd.com> \* <https://www.arvincsd.com>

Via Remote (WebEx): [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com)

Meeting Number: **2557 932 0775**

Meeting Password: **jEEatBri653**

Phone: **1.415.655.0001**

Meeting Number (access code): **2557 932 0775**

Meeting Password: **53328275** (from land line)

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. AUTHORIZATION OF INITIAL REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETING UNDER AB361
4. APPROVAL OF JULY 1, 2022 MEETING MINUTES
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Disclaimer regarding C2VSimFG-Kern release (Muhar)
  - B. Coordination Committee update (Muhar)
  - C. EKI Task Order for South of Kern River (SOKR) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support through January 2023 (EKI)
  - D. Finance (Nicholas)
  - E. SOKR Management Area Updates (Muhar, Nicholas, Martin, Barraza)
  - F. Considerations for development of SOKR website (Nicholas)
  - G. Coordination of common approaches and policies
  - H. Correspondence
  - I. Future meeting location
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  
July 1, 2022**

Director Gallardo called to order the quarterly meeting at 1:31 p.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

*Others Present*

Julie Gantenbein – Water and Power Law Group  
Steve Torigiani – Young Wooldridge  
Aaron Lewis – EKI Environment and Water  
Sarah Hodson – EKI Environment and Water

**AUTHORIZATION OF INITIAL REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETING UNDER AB361**

Director Gallardo 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 was 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 Yurosek seconded.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Director Valpredo made a motion to elect the following slate of officers: Director Yurosek serve as Chair of the Executive Committee, Director Blaine to serve as Vice Chair, and Director Valpredo to serve as Secretary. Director Gallardo seconded.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Finance**

Mr. Nicholas had no items to report. No further comments.

### **South of Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Plan (SOKR GSP) Updates**

Mr. Muhar provided an update on the public draft SOKR GSP posted on each of the four (4) District websites following separate Board meetings in mid-June. None of the Districts have received comments on the GSP. The Districts are prepared to take comments until the special Board meetings scheduled for July 20 and 21, 2022 to adopt the final GSP. No further comments.

### **Management Area Updates**

Mr. Nicholas explained that the SOKR GSP is still a part of the Kern Subbasin Plan, and as such, the SOKR Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) still need to coordinate with the rest of the Subbasin GSAs. There are still a few items that are being discussed on a Subbasin level that could result in changes to the SOKR GSP. No further comments.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Muhar discussed that the six Subbasin Coordination Committee members filed a letter with Paul Gosselin of the California Department of Water Resource (DWR) detailing the latest meeting between DWR and the Subbasin Coordination Committee. The purpose of this letter was to clarify and request confirmation on the discussion that took place at the meeting, particularly in regard to subsidence along the California Aqueduct and Friant-Kern Canal.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (potential litigation). There was nothing to report out of closed session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Executive Committee meeting of the South of Kern River was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

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Mark Valpredo, South of Kern River  
Executive Committee Secretary

31 August 2022

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

Subject: South of Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Support through  
January 2023  
Kern County Subbasin, Kern County  
(EKI C2-209)

Dear Mr. Nicholas:

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSO, District, or Client) has requested that EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) prepare a scope to support Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities for the South of Kern River (SOKR) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) following the submittal of the SOKR GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in July 2022 through the anticipated release of DWR's determination on the Kern Subbasin Plan in January 2023.

## BACKGROUND

The SOKR GSP was adopted in July 2022 by the Arvin GSA, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA, and Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD) GSA. The SOKR GSAs have jointly adopted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that describes the coordinated implementation of the SOKR GSP, including (1) establishment of the Executive Committee to provide a forum wherein the GSAs may organize joint development and implementation of a sustainable groundwater management program, and coordinate with the other Kern Subbasin GSPs; (2) coordination and support amongst the three SOKR GSAs; (3) timely adoption of GSP amendment(s) or other actions necessary for implementation; (4) equally borne costs incurred to retain consultants to assist with GSP implementation and perform studies as recommended by the Executive Committee; and (5) designation of principal contact persons for each GSA. As outlined in the MOA, Arvin GSA is responsible for coordinating meetings with the Executive Committee and principal contacts ("SOKR Managers") and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA will serve as the fiscal agent for coordinating each GSA's payment of its allocated share of joint expenses for SOKR GSP development and implementation.

The SOKR GSP identifies the key technical aspects of GSP implementation that are the responsibility of each GSA within their respective management areas, all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2022-2023, including: (1) Monitoring, Data Collection and Data Gap Filling; (2) Projects & Management Action (P/MA) implementation; (3) Intrabasin Coordination; (4) Stakeholder Engagement; (5) Reporting; and (6) Enforcement and Response Actions. As described in the MOA, each GSA is responsible for implementing the SOKR GSP within its respective management area, bearing its own costs with respect to activities and responsibilities under the MOA, and no GSA will implement the GSP within any other GSA's management area without consent. Therefore, the scope of work below does not address these

GSA-specific efforts, but is rather focused exclusively on coordinated SOKR GSP work efforts related to GSA administration, coordination and implementation.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

The tasks listed below are to facilitate coordination and administration of the SOKR GSP amongst the three SOKR GSAs through 31 January 2023.

### **Task 1 – GSA Coordination and Administration**

EKI will support the SOKR GSAs to coordinate, participate in, and manage the following SOKR GSP meetings scheduled through 31 January 2023, including development of meeting agendas, as-needed PowerPoint presentations, meeting minutes, as-needed meeting packet memoranda and supporting documents, and quarterly cost reconciliation tables:

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

EKI will coordinate with WRMWSD to establish quarterly cost reconciliation tables that track all SOKR GSP expenses and disbursements for reimbursement from the SOKR GSAs. Quarterly cost reconciliation tables will be included in the SOKR Executive Committee meeting packets.

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

### **Task 2 – GSP Implementation Support**

Task 2 involves intrabasin coordination. Specifically, EKI will support the SOKR GSAs involvement with Basin-wide activities, including attendance of Basin coordination meetings with other Kern Subbasin GSAs, including attendance at the semi-regular “managers meetings” and provision of as-needed support for Kern Subbasin Executive Committee meetings. EKI has assumed virtual attendance and/or support at up to 10 meetings.

### **Task 3 – Project Management**

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

**PERSONNEL**

EKI’s staff members who will lead this project include Anona Dutton, P.G., C.Hg. (Officer) and Christina Lucero, P.G. (Associate 2), with technical and strategic support provided by Chris Heppner, P.G. (Supervising 2), Aaron Lewis (Grade 1), and Sarah Hodson (Grade 5); grades in parentheses are for purposes of billing in accordance with the attached Schedule of Charges (see Attachment A). Other EKI staff members will be assigned to assist with the performance of the tasks as required to meet project commitments.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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

**COMPENSATION**

Inasmuch as the exact level of effort required to complete the above Scope of Work cannot be known precisely, EKI proposes to perform the work on a time and materials expense reimbursement basis in accordance with our current Schedule of Charges (Attachment A). The estimated budget for this scope of work is \$35,900 (see also Table 1) and we will inform you if the level of effort exceeds this anticipated amount.

**Table 1. Estimated Budget**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Task 1 – GSA Coordination and Administration	\$13,000
Task 2 – GSP Implementation Support	\$8,400
Task 3 – Project Management	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$25,400</b>

**SCHEDULE**

EKI is prepared to start work on the above Scope of Work immediately upon authorization to proceed. The total duration of the effort will continue through 31 January 2023. EKI will inform the SOKR GSAs of any issues that arise that may affect the schedule for completion or impact the anticipated level of effort.

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

Sheridan Nicholas  
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District  
31 August 2022  
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Very truly yours,

EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anona L. Dutton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

AUTHORIZATION  
WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT (CLIENT)

By \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

Attachment A. 2022 Schedule of Charges

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



**Proposal/Agreement Date: 29 August 2022**

**EKI Proposal/Project # C2-209**

**SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.**

**1 January 2022**

<b><u>Personnel Classification</u></b>	<b><u>Hourly Rate</u></b>
Officer and Chief Engineer-Scientist	307
Principal Engineer-Scientist	296
Supervising I, Engineer-Scientist	286
Supervising II, Engineer-Scientist	276
Senior I, Engineer-Scientist	265
Senior II, Engineer-Scientist	255
Associate I, Engineer-Scientist	244
Associate II, Engineer-Scientist	230
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 1	214
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 2	202
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 3	185
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 4	165
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 5	145
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 6	128
Project Assistant	130
Technician	116
Senior GIS / Database Analyst	150
CADD Operator / GIS Analyst	133
Senior Administrative Assistant	147
Administrative Assistant	115
Secretary	96

**Direct Expenses**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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