



State Water Resources Control Board

February 20, 2025, Kern County Subbasin Probationary Hearing Agenda

The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) will hold a public hearing on February 20, 2025, to consider whether to designate the Kern County Subbasin as a probationary basin pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). See the [Kern County Subbasin Probationary Hearing Notice](#) for information on parking and accessibility for the hearing.

This probationary hearing will be included as an item on the agenda of the February 20, 2025 Board meeting. The expected order of events for the hearing are described below. The hearing may start as early as, but not before, 9:00 a.m. Time limits, breaks, panels, and the order of events may change at the discretion of the Board Chair. Board questions and discussions may occur throughout.

Hearing Agenda

1. Public Comments by elected officials or California Native American Tribes
2. Presentation of State Water Board Staff Recommendations
3. Panel Presentation by Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

Break

4. Other Panels Specific to the Kern County Subbasin (see "How to Participate" below)
5. General Public Comment (may be interspersed with panels depending on number of panels)
6. Board Discussion and Potential Vote on Probationary Designation

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How to Participate

The State Water Board will hold the public probationary hearing at the time and location noted below. There are also options to participate remotely. If you are participating remotely and would like to make a public comment or are part of a panel presentation, see the instructions below. If you do not wish to speak, the English, Spanish, and Punjabi webcasts of the public hearing with closed captioning can be accessed at video.calepa.ca.gov.

Public Board Hearing

Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

In-Person Location

Coastal Hearing Room
Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Spanish and Punjabi interpretation will be provided. For language services other than Spanish or Punjabi, please contact 916.322-6508 or OPP-LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Public Comments. Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of the public probationary hearing by contacting the Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management at SGMA-Kern@waterboards.ca.gov **no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Please use the subject line: “Comments – Kern County Subbasin.”**

Members of the public will also have an opportunity to make oral comments at the probationary hearing. To ensure a productive, efficient, and fair hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to be heard, oral comments will be limited to up to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise directed. If there are a large number of commenters, speakers may be asked to shorten their comments to accommodate all speakers.

To provide an oral comment remotely or in person: Before or on the day of the public Board hearing, fill out our online form at bit.ly/speaker-card-form. Please note that the form will not accept responses until February 12, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. The Board Clerk will provide you with Zoom login information in advance of the meeting. For more information about participating remotely, please visit bit.ly/providingcomments.

Panels. The State Water Board will consider requests by groups that wish to provide a panel presentation, rather than individual public comments. Panel presentations must be relevant to the potential probationary designation or to groundwater management in the Kern County Subbasin. Panel presentations will be limited to up to 20 minutes unless otherwise directed. The purpose of panels is to provide an option for groups or organizations to present information collectively and efficiently, including technical details and shared expertise. See below on how to request a panel at the hearing.

To request a panel: Please complete the Panel Request Form available here: [Panel Request Form](#) as soon as possible, but **no later than January 23, 2025**. Please submit the following information:

1. The topic of the proposed panel
2. The primary contact for the panel
3. The name of each presenter
4. The entity or entities being represented
5. Whether the panel intends to use one or more PowerPoint presentations
6. An email address and phone number for each presenter
7. Specification as to whether a presenter intends to participate on the panel virtually or in person
8. The time requested for the panel presentation (panels may request up to 20 minutes in total).

Only one form needs to be submitted for each proposed panel presentation.

Staff will contact the primary contact for the panel to confirm if the proposed panel is approved and the length of time allotted for the panel. Presentation length will be at the discretion of the State Water Board.

Panel slides: If a panel plans to use a PowerPoint presentation, that PowerPoint presentation must be submitted to sgma@waterboards.ca.gov **no later than January 29, 2025, at 12:00 noon**. This will allow the State Water Board time to translate the presentation to Spanish and Punjabi in advance of the hearing. Presentations must be in PowerPoint format and should not include any animations, transitions, or external media sources. Slides should be fully editable to enable translation. If a panel does not submit its proposed PowerPoint presentation by this deadline, it may not be presented during the hearing.

Summary of Deadlines and Key Dates

Deadline / Activity	Date
Deadline to request a panel	January 23, 2025
Deadline to submit panel PowerPoint slides	January 29, 2025, at 12:00 noon
Sign up to provide a comment in person or virtually using bit.ly/speaker-card-form	Form opens February 12, 2025; can sign up prior to or during the hearing
Deadline to submit written comments	February 13, 2025, at 12:00 noon