



FINAL 2025 KERN SUBBASIN PLAN



Kern County Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

AUGUST 25, 2025

AGENDA

- Summary of Revisions: Draft to Final
- Implementation Updates
- Schedule Updates

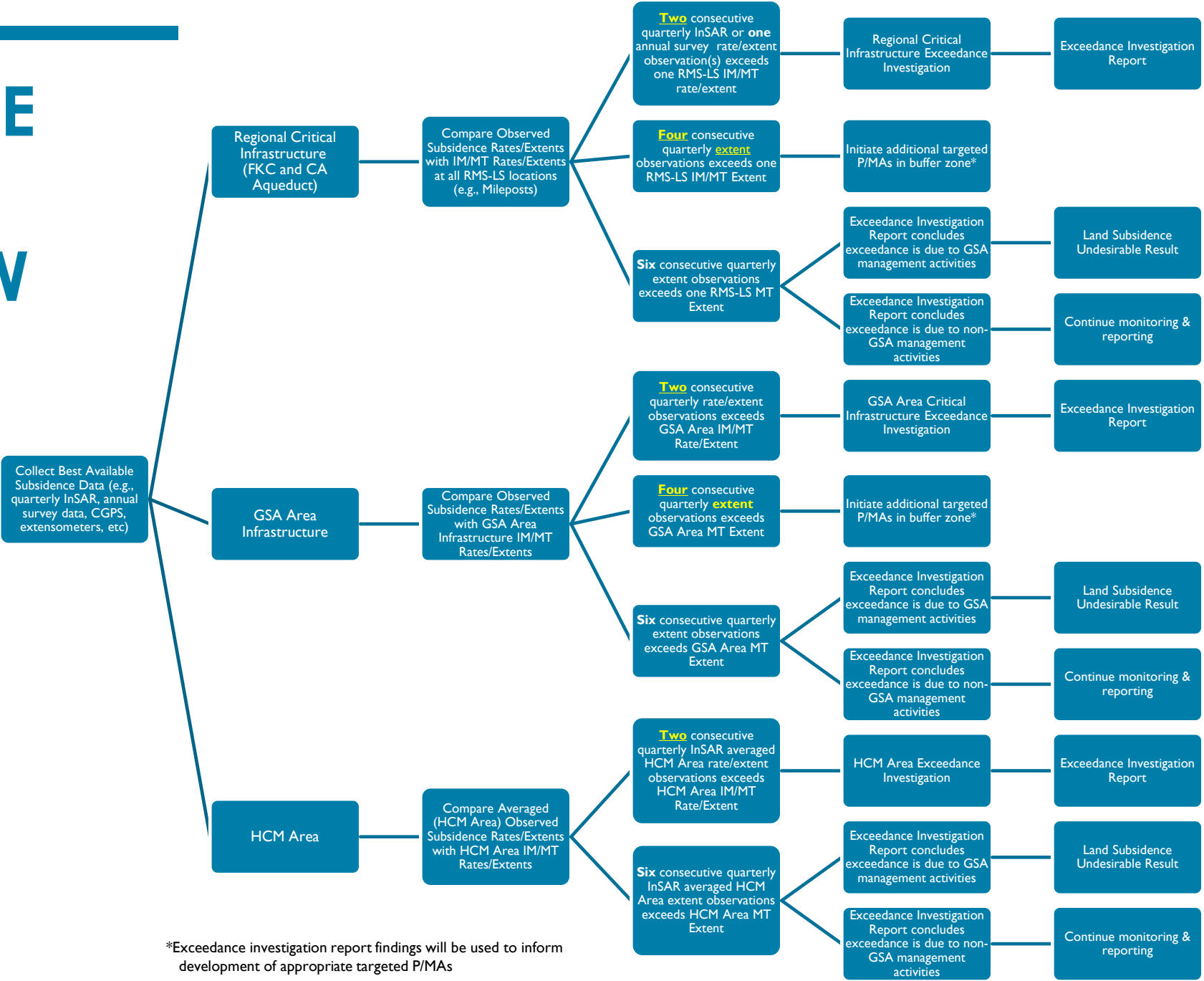
SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **ES & Sections 1 – 4:** Introduction; Sustainability Goal; Agency Information; GSP Organization
 - Minor Editorial Changes
- **Section 5:** Description of the Plan Area
 - Section 5.6: Beneficial Use
 - Clarified well planned use/user type definitions and made consistent across GSP and Appendices
 - Section 5.10: Notice and Communication
 - Updates throughout this section regarding 2025 Plan public noticing and outreach to describe engagement activities for consistency with updated Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan and Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy
- **Sections 6 – 10:** Basin Setting; Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model; Groundwater Conditions; Water Budget; Management Areas
 - Minor editorial changes

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **Sections 11 – 13: Sustainable Management Criteria**
 - **Section 13.1: Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels**
 - All figures/tables and appendices updated to reflect latest MTs and MOs
 - Revised well impact analysis with latest MTs (with nominal changes)
 - Appendix I-3: Added well consolidation information
 - **Section 13.2: Groundwater Storage**
 - Revised storage change analysis using latest MT surface
 - Clarified storage estimates provided are contextual only and UR criteria use groundwater levels as proxy
 - **Section 13.3: Groundwater Quality**
 - Minor editorial changes (clarifying well nomenclature)
 - **Section 13.5: Subsidence**
 - Removed hierarchy for monitoring
 - Appendix K-I (Subsidence Action Plan): Clarified IM/MT triggers and timelines and added flow chart based on input from CASP

SUBSIDENCE ACTION PLAN FLOW CHART



*Exceedance investigation report findings will be used to inform development of appropriate targeted P/MAs

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **Section 14: Projects and Management Actions**

- Updated Subbasin Figures based on minor GSA P/MA refinements
- Updated Appendix J (GSA P/MAs) reflecting implementation progress and minor refinements
- Clarified well user type in all relevant appendices (Appendices G and K)

- **Section 15: Monitoring Network**

- Clarified subsidence monitoring network data sets and associated figures

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

■ **Appendix F-1: Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan**

- Updated references as appropriate to 2025 Plan
- Revised introduction to reflect 2025 Plan process and incorporation of CO&ES
 - From CO&ES: Added description of gap analysis, Community Partner meetings, 2025 Community Workshops, Focus Groups and Pop-Ups, and Digital Outreach
- Removed timeline (outdated) and combined evaluation and reporting sections

■ **Appendix F-3: Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy**

- Added a new section outlining 2025 Plan revisions in response to community feedback on water quality and mitigation concerns in coordination with SVRCB staff, e.g., expansion of monitoring network, addition of degraded water quality mitigation program track, clarification on well user types

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: DRAFT TO FINAL

- **Appendix G-I: Well Mitigation Program, Version 2.0**
 - Revised terms and references to the types of systems that are eligible for technical assistance for consistency with Health and Safety Code definitions
 - Clarified Dry Well Mitigation Track and Groundwater Quality Mitigation track for domestic wells and multi-use used for drinking water
 - Clarified Well Technical Assistance Track for Community Water Systems and State Small Water Systems
 - Identified potential future revisions to provide funding assistance to State Small Water systems – up to \$100,000

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

■ **Coordination Agreement**

- Revisions to ensure consistency with 2025 GSP

■ **KNDLA JPA**

- Revisions in response to SWRCB staff comments

■ **Projects and Management Actions**

- **CASP Coordination:** Two bi-weekly meetings with CASP (7/11 & 7/25)
 - Key Takeaways - commitment to ongoing data sharing and collaboration. Final 2025 GSP will be revised to clarify timelines for exceedance triggers and investigation initiation, monitoring data, among other items.
 - Subbasin has committed to collaborating with CASP on further analysis of potential causes of subsidence
- **Data Gaps/RMS: Well Inventory Updates**
 - Salient Updates – GSAs continuing to actively work on their well inventory and submitting updates to incorporate into the Subbasin dataset
 - Focused on identifying destroyed/replaced wells
 - Integrated public supply and Kern County Public Health state-small into the well inventory
 - GSAs incorporated “known” wells without a matching record to ensure all production wells are accounted for in the final inventory

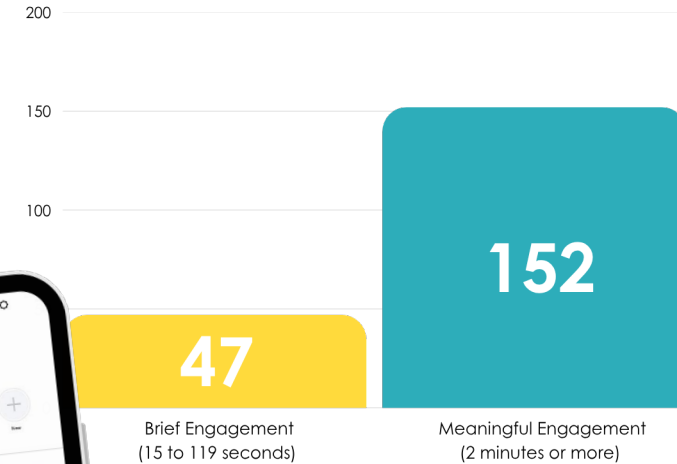
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Community Outreach & Engagement

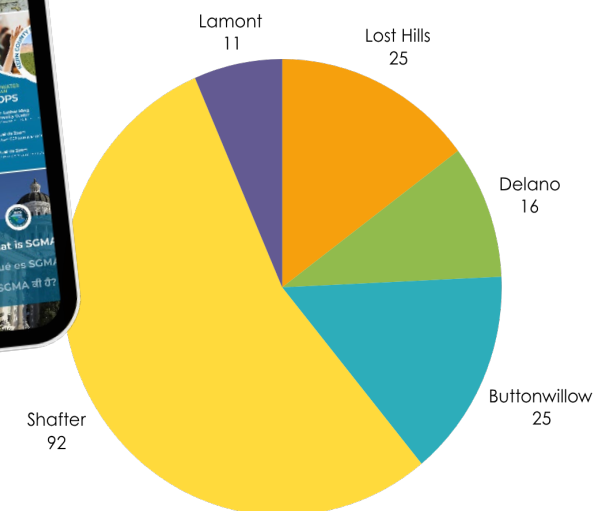
- 5 Meetings with Community Partners (NGOs and CBOs)
- 5 Community Pop-Up Events
- 3 GSP Workshops
- Social media and website updates
- 5 Focus Groups
 - 2 with Lost Hills community members and community partners
 - 1 with Shafter community member and community partners
 - 1 with Small Growers
 - 1 in process of being scheduled with other community groups



Engagement at April - May 2025 Community Pop-Up Events



Count of Survey Responses by Community Pop-Up Event



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Critical Milestones and Success Factors



Timeline	Project Goals	Key Milestones
March 2025	✓ Increase Awareness	Drafted and submitted CO&ES Strategy Outline to SWRCB Updated Kern Subbasin website Created social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) Created surveys: Community Partners, Focus Groups, and community members <i>Community Partners Meeting #1</i>
April 2025		Developed Engagement Toolkit Social media accounts went live – ongoing social media updates monthly <i>Pop-up Event #1</i> <i>Focus Group #1</i> <i>Community Partners Meeting #2</i>
May 2025	✓ Comprehensive Feedback	<i>Focus Group #2</i> <i>Pop-up Event #2-5</i> <i>Focus Group #3</i> <i>Community Partners Meeting #3</i>
June 2025	✓ Improve Communication	<i>Community Workshops #1-3 “2025 Plan” (In-Person and Virtual)</i> Distributed Engagement Toolkit (GSAs, Community Partners) <i>Community Partners Meeting #4</i> Submitted CO&ES Strategy to SWRCB and posted to Kern Subbasin website for public review and comment
July 2025		<i>Focus Group #4</i> <i>Community Partners Meeting #5</i>

SCHEDULE

- **June 20 – July 21:** Kern Subbasin Public Comment Period
 - 6 Comment Letters Received
 - Responses to Comments Addressed (Appendix N-2)
- **August:**
 - Adoption by all Kern Subbasin GSAs
 - Coordination with SWRCB Board Members
 - SWRCB Probationary Hearing Panel Presentations:
 - Notice for Panel Presentations (*early this month*) & Panel Presentations Due (*end of month*)
- **Early September:**
 - Transmittal of Final 2025 Plan to SWRCB staff
 - Transmittal of Community Outreach and Engagement Progress Update to SWRCB Board
 - SWRCB Final Staff Report (*~10 days prior to hearing*)
- **September 17:** Continued Probationary Hearing