



KERN IRWMP

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

150.8 Water Conservation

April 12, 2011

Rolf Frankenbach
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
1416 9th Street, Room 338
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Tulare Lake Basin Portion of Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan 2011 Region Acceptance Process Application

Dear Mr. Frankenbach,

The Tulare Lake Basin Portion of Kern County (Kern) Integrated Regional Water Management Plant (IRWMP) herein submits our 2011 Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) application.

During the 2009 RAP, the Kern IRWMP received conditional acceptance. Over the course of a year following the draft and final 2009 RAP decisions, the Kern IRWMP participants worked diligently with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff in both the Fresno and Sacramento offices, as well as with neighboring and non-neighboring IRWMPs to resolve the conditions of our 2009 RAP conditional approval. The Kern IRWMP 2011 RAP application documents our satisfaction of our 2009 RAP conditions of approval.

At the request of DWR staff, rather than four hardcopies, enclosed is one hardcopy and one electronic copy (CD) of our 2011 RAP application. Additionally, included in the hardcopy and on the CD are electronic copies of our original 2009 RAP application, including our GIS files.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (661) 634-1411.

Sincerely,



Lauren Bauer
Kern IRWMP



KERN IRWMP

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Region Acceptance Process
April 2011



Submitting Entity Information

The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) has been designated by the Tulare Lake Basin Portion of Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) (herein after referred to as the Kern IRWMP) Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) to submit this RAP application.

KCWA is the local contracting entity for. Additionally, KCWA participates in a wide range of water management activities within the Kern Region to preserve and enhance Kern County's water supply.

The Kern RWMG was formed through a Participation Agreement among 30 public agencies and other undersigned signatories for development and implementation of the Kern IRWMP.

Ms. Lauren Bauer will be the primary contact during the 2011 RAP.

Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93308
Lauren Bauer
lbauer@kcwa.com
Tel: (661) 634-1411
Fax: (661) 634-1428



2009 Region Acceptance Process Conditions of Approval

The Kern IRWMP received conditional approval during the 2009 Region Acceptance Process (RAP) (Attachment 1). The conditional approval specified three conditions:

1. The Kern IRWMP should "... explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the area ..." with the specific intention of developing "... optimal IRWM region(s) that fosters integration and cooperation and does not result in overlapping and competing planning efforts."
2. The Kern, Poso Creek, Tule, Kaweah and Southern Sierra IRWMPs should consider nearby "gap" areas for inclusion in an existing planning region.
3. The Kern IRWMP must "... cooperate and coordinate with the Southern Sierra IRWM Region ... and other adjacent IRWM Regions."

Both prior to and after the release of the 2009 RAP decisions, the Kern IRWMP has worked continuously to communicate and coordinate with neighboring and non-neighboring IRWM regions, both inside and outside of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, on issues of mutual interest, including boundaries, projects, plan elements, legislation and IRWM program developments. The Kern IRWMP, even prior to its inception, has communicated and collaborated with existing and developing IRWM regions to provide an efficient and effective means of water resources planning for all IRWM participants. As the Kern IRWMP has developed, we have continuously maintained open communication with other IRWM regions and have fostered new opportunities for communication and collaboration on a local, regional and statewide basis with other IRWM regions, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff and other local, state and federal agencies. Through these well-established means of communication, the Kern IRWMP worked with neighboring and non-neighboring regions, as well as DWR staff, to satisfy our 2009 RAP conditions.

The specific remedies to each of the three conditions are discussed further in subsequent sections; however, in summary, the Kern IRWMP has satisfied our 2009 RAP conditions by (1) developing a letter agreement with the Poso Creek IRWMP, (2) coordinating with neighboring IRWM regions to provide coverage to adjacent gap areas and (3) continuing to regularly communicate and coordinate IRWM planning efforts with all neighboring regions, as well as numerous non-neighboring regions.



Condition No. 1: Communication and Coordination with the Poso Creek IRWMP

In the first condition placed upon the Kern IRWMP, DWR requested that the Kern IRWMP “... explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the area ...” with the specific intention of developing “... optimal IRWM region(s) that fosters integration and cooperation and does not result in overlapping and competing planning efforts.” In this requirement specific reference is made to cooperation and communication with the Poso Creek IRWMP.

Background

At the time of the release of the 2009 RAP decisions, the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs overlapped in northern Kern County as a result of the respective boundaries of our participants. The only means of removing the overlap was for the two regions to become a single IRWM region, as was originally suggested in the draft 2009 RAP decisions. However, in the final 2009 RAP decisions DWR had removed this requirement from both the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs. Therefore, satisfaction of this condition appeared to be impossible. So, the Kern IRWMP sought guidance from DWR in order to ensure full satisfaction of the condition. Representatives of the Kern IRWMP met with DWR staff on February 2, 2010 to discuss how best to satisfy this condition. A subsequent meeting was held March 18, 2010 between DWR staff and representatives of the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs. As a result of these meetings, the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs were permitted to remain two distinct regions despite the overlap of our boundaries. Further, DWR stipulated in its May 3, 2010 letter that the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs must continue to “... coordinate planning and/or implementation projects that provide mutual and multiple benefits for the area” (Attachment 2). Therefore, remedy of this condition focused on communication and coordination of planning efforts with the Poso Creek IRWMP.

General Communication and Coordination

Members of the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs have a long history of open communication and coordination of surface water and groundwater management on regional and local scale. This history predates the IRWM program. Regional coordination and communication is evident in the numerous groundwater banking programs, routine exchanges and transfers of water supplies between urban and agricultural purveyors, participation in local and state programs and participation in a multitude of local water management meetings.

In addition to these activities, the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs continue to coordinated IRWM planning efforts via email communication, participation in IRWMP meetings and participation in the Tulare Lake Integrated Regional Planning Group (Regional Planning Group). Since the inception of both the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs, representatives of each IRWMP have received regular communication regarding meeting times, plan progress, document availability, project updates, etc. Additionally, representatives of the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs participate in the IRWMPs' RWMG meetings and plan specific workshops.¹ The Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs also participate in the monthly meetings of the Regional Planning Group. The Regional Planning Group is composed of all of the IRWM regions in the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, with the exception of the Westside IRWMP.² The monthly coordination meetings serve as a regional forum for the IRWM regions to discuss boundaries, grants, applicable legislation, IRWM program developments, potential projects and other issues of mutual interest.

Letter Agreement Defining Boundaries and Coordination

In addition to the regular communication between the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs, the two IRWMPs have developed a “Letter Agreement on Region Boundaries and Coordination of Water Management Strategies for the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan” (Agreement) (Attachment 3). The Agreement defines the Poso Creek IRWMP’s boundaries within the Kern IRWMP, and identifies the area of overlap. Additionally, the Agreement identifies the need for continued collaboration and five main water management issues of mutual interest, including restoration of water supplies, protection of water quality, preservation of local management, protection and/or restoration of habitat and improving the relationship between land use planning and water resources. This Agreement has been approved by both IRWMPs.³

An Example of Success

The Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs remain committed to successful communication and coordination of our planning efforts. As a result of our overlapping boundaries and coordinated water management, several proposed projects in the region can be found on both the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs’ project lists. Additionally, during the most recent round of implementation grant applications, the Poso Creek IRWMP’s grant application included five projects related to the Kern IRWMP. Two of the projects submitted for possible grant funding, the Cross Valley Canal to Calloway Canal Intertie and Consolidation of Bishop Acres Drinking Water Distribution System, were projects proposed under the Kern IRWMP as well.⁴

¹ Plan specific workshops have included disadvantage community meetings, project prioritization workshops, etc. hosted by one or both of the IRWMPs.

² The Westside IRWMP had repeatedly been invited to participate, but has declined to date. The Westside IRWMP is on the Regional Planning Group’s email distribution list, and does monitor our activities.

³ The Kern IRWMP is in the process of appointing new co-chairs to the Executive Committee. The co-chairs are the authorized signatories for the Agreement.

⁴ The Kern IRWMP is not current eligible for implementation grants.



Condition No. 2: Coverage of Gap Areas

The second condition placed upon the Kern IRWMP requested that the Kern, Poso Creek, Tule, Kaweah and Southern Sierra IRWMPs consider nearby “gap” areas for inclusion in an existing planning region. As depicted on Attachment 4, the gap areas include a single region in the southeastern portion of Kings County and several small areas in eastern Tulare County. As described below, the Kern, Poso Creek, Tule, Kaweah and Southern Sierra IRWMPs worked collaboratively to provide coverage to the gap areas.

Tulare County Gap Area

In its 2009 RAP decisions, DWR identified several small gap areas in Tulare County, hereafter collectively referred to as the Tulare County Gap Area. Aerial photography indicates the area is composed of agricultural land and open space. There are no communities, including disadvantaged communities, identified in the area.

The Tulare County Gap Area was not included in any of the neighboring IRWM regions as a result of simple oversight when the Poso Creek, Tule, Kaweah and Southern Sierra IRWMs were designating their original boundaries. During fall 2009 and winter 2010, these IRWM regions worked collaboratively via the Regional Planning Group’s monthly meetings, email communications, etc. to realign their boundaries with one another. Decisions on how best to divide the Tulare County Gap Area into the existing IRWM regions were made based on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, land use, water management concerns and existing or planned projects. The realignment process resulted in the Tulare County Gap Area being covered by the existing IRWM regions.

Kings County Gap Area

DWR noted a second gap area in southeastern Kings County, hereafter referred to as the Kings County Gap Area. This area is surrounded by the Kern, Poso Creek and Tule IRWMPs and is approximately 83 square miles (Attachment 4). Aerial photography indicates the area is composed of agricultural land and open space. Agricultural uses in the area include dairies, row crops and feed crops. There are no communities, including disadvantaged communities, identified within the area.

During fall 2009 and winter 2010, the Kern, Poso Creek and Tule IRWMPs discussed options for coverage of the area in one or more of the IRWM regions via phone conversations, email communications and during Regional Planning Group’s monthly meetings. During these discussions it came to light that the

area in question is, in part, within the boundaries of the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD). In 2009 and 2010, Eric Osterling, of the Upper Kings River Water Basin Forum (Upper Kings) IRWMP, and Dennis Keller, Kaweah River Basin IRWMP, reported to the Regional Planning Group regarding discussions with both Kings County and TLBWSD staff, as well as various other water management entities within the region (Attachment 5). It was reported that neither Kings County nor TLBWSD, at present, wanted to join an existing IRWMP or develop their own.

The Kern, Poso Creek and Tule IRWMPs do not have authority to expand our respective boundaries into the area without consent. Additionally, as the area does not contain any disadvantaged communities, the Kern IRWMP could not identify any overriding considerations that would justify expansion of our boundaries to cover the area. Therefore, it was determined that inclusion of the Kings County Gap Area in one of the three IRWMPs was not appropriate. While this area remains a gap area for the region, the Regional Planning Group continues to outreach to Kings County and TLBWSD. We are hopeful an IRWMP will be developed in the future to cover this area, as well as the remainder of Kings County.



Condition No. 3: Communication and Coordination with Adjacent IRWM Regions

The third condition of the Kern IRWMP’s 2009 RAP decision requested the Kern IRWMP “... cooperate and coordinate with the Southern Sierra IRWM Region ... and other adjacent IRWM Regions.”

Communication with Existing Regions

As previously discussed under Conditions 1 and 2, the Kern IRWMP is an active participant in the Regional Planning Group’s coordination meetings. These monthly meetings offer an opportunity to communicate regularly with the neighboring IRWM regions within the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region regarding boundaries, grants, applicable legislation, IRWM program developments, potential projects and other issues of mutual interest.

In addition to the Regional Planning Group meetings, the Kern IRWMP regularly communicates with our neighboring IRWM regions, both inside and outside our funding region, via email, phone and/or participation in the Roundtable of Regions meetings. The Kern IRWMP sends and receives regular communication from our neighboring and non-neighboring IRWMs, including the Southern Sierra, Santa Barbara County, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, Inyo-Mono and Poso Creek IRWMPs, to name a few. Communications include information on meetings, projects, plan updates, grant applications and status, etc. This allows the Kern IRWMP to remain up to date on the latest plan developments of our neighboring regions and vice versa. Lastly, the Kern IRWMP is a participant in the Roundtable of Regions. The Roundtable of Regions is a voluntary group, composed of all IRWM regions across the state. The Roundtable of Regions holds regular meetings and serves a statewide forum to discuss issues of mutual interest, including plan elements, legislation, grant applications and status, etc. Recent meetings have also included DWR staff participation. The Roundtable of Regions provides yet another forum for the Kern IRWMP to remain up to date on IRWM developments.

Communication with Developing Regions

In addition to working with existing IRWM regions, the Kern IRWMP has recently become involved with the developing Fremont Basin IRWM. The Fremont Basin IRWM is a proposed IRWM region in eastern Kern County. While still in its infancy, representatives of the Kern IRWMP have been in communication with the group, and have provided assistance with boundary development and information regarding starting an IRWM program. We expect to continue to foster an open line of communication and provide assistance as the Fremont Basin region develops.



Substantial Changes to Boundaries and/or Governance

Subsequent to the 2009 RAP, the Kern IRWMP has not substantially changed its boundaries or governance structures, which are only briefly described below. Our 2009 RAP application includes the full descriptions of the formation and structure of the Kern IRWMP's boundaries and governance. Enclosed is a CD containing an electronic copy of our original 2009 RAP application for your reference.

Boundaries

The Kern IRWM Region consists of that portion of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region that is within Kern County, with small additional areas that are included for hydrologic reasons (Attachment 6). The Kern IRWMP Region covers approximately 5,690 square miles of Kern and Kings Counties. The southern boundary is based on the Tulare Lake Basin watershed boundary, to maximize opportunities for participation and project implementation. The northern boundary is jurisdictional, separating Kern County from Tulare and Kings County (with the exception of the Dudley Ridge Water District service area which is located in Kings County, but is included within the Kern IRWM Region boundary to negate management issues). The area within the other boundaries includes all the key agencies dealing with similar water management issues, such as unreliability in supplies, aging infrastructure, water quality problems and shared groundwater banking operations; therefore, the boundaries are appropriate to define the Kern IRWM Region and make sense for long term water management.

Governance

The governance structure currently in operation for the Kern IRWMP is provided by the 2008 participation agreement. The agreement established the Kern RWMP and Executive Committee, and prescribed the preliminary roles and responsibilities for each. Further, the agreement established a set of subregions within the Kern IRWMP to allow participants more opportunity to work collaboratively on a local level. Decision-making within the Kern IRWMP is a consensus based process in which all participants have a voice. Additionally, all participants are able submit projects for inclusion in the Kern IRWMP. Lastly, the agreement also provides for funding of the Kern IRWMP, which has been entirely self-funded to date. Contribution of funding is based on financial ability, and is not a requirement for participation in the Kern IRWMP. These elements are all embodied in the draft governance structure included in the Kern IRWMP. Once adopted, the Kern IRWMP will be the governing document and the participation agreement will expire.



Attachment 1

Kern IRWMP 2009 RAP Decision

No. 15 - Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region covers the Kern County area west of the crest of the Sierras and north of the Tehachapis. This Region is surrounded by mountain ranges to the east, south, and west. The north boundary consists of the Kern/Kings and Kern/Tulare county lines.

The Kern County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of 53 participants; the majority of them are public agencies that have statutory authority over water supply or water management. In addition, there are 96 stakeholders representing town councils, regulatory agencies, environmental, agricultural, and land use planning entities throughout Kern County. This Region has made significant progress regarding governance, public outreach, and identification of Disadvantaged Communities. The Kern County RWMG is in the process of developing an IRWM Plan and collecting and prioritizing implementation projects from stakeholders which will be included in the Kern County IRWM Plan.

The Kern County IRWM Region overlaps with the Antelope Valley IRWM Region in the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District service area. The two Regions have agreed to work cooperatively in the overlap area. The Kern County IRWM Region also overlaps with the Southern Sierra IRWM Region in the mountains/foothills area within Kern County. These two Regions are cooperatively working together and have agreed that the Kern County IRWM Region will manage the overlap area, and the Southern Sierra IRWM Region will re-draw its south boundary at the Kern/Tulare county line. These two IRWM Regions have also agreed to work cooperatively on future projects in the overlap area whenever necessary. Additionally, the Kern County IRWM Region overlaps with the Poso Creek IRWM Region. It appears that the Poso Creek and Kern County IRWM Regions are planning for the water resources.

Interview Conclusions- Conditional Approval for Planning Funds Only

DWR will allow the Kern County Region to apply for planning grant funds only. This region is not yet qualified to apply for implementation grant funds.

DWR encourages the Kern County IRWM Region and the surrounding IRWM efforts (including Poso Creek) to explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the area. DWR’s intent is to facilitate future communication and cooperation between surrounding IRWM Regions, to develop an optimal IRWM region(s) that fosters integration and cooperation and does not result in overlapping and competing planning efforts. Nearby “gap” areas, not covered by the Kern County, Poso Creek, Tule River, Kaweah River, or Southern Sierra IRWM Regions should also be considered for inclusion in the IRWM planning effort.

The Kern County IRWM Region must also cooperate and coordinate with the Southern Sierra IRWM Region, in the mountains and foothill areas and other adjacent IRWM Regions. The two regions have resolved their overlap issue.

The stated communication and cooperation, optimal region development, as well as inclusion of “gap” areas, will be considered when determining future region approval and eligibility for subsequent funding rounds.

1

2

3



Attachment 2

May 3, 2010 Letter From DWR Staff

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



May 3, 2010

Ms. Lauren Bauer
Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, California 93308

Dear Ms. Bauer:

Thank you for meeting with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on March 18, 2010, to discuss the boundary and overlap issues of the existing Poso Creek and Kern Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) regions. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how to best structure the regional boundaries in the area, while considering preexisting and current IRWM planning activities.

At this time, DWR does not oppose Poso Creek and Kern remaining as two distinct IRWM Regions. We anticipate that Poso Creek and Kern will work cooperatively to resolve any remaining overlap issues and expand on potential opportunities to coordinate planning and/or implementation projects that provide mutual and multiple benefits for the area.

Each group can prepare for the upcoming IRWM Grant Program and may apply for IRWM grants subject to satisfying any other conditions of approval from the Region Acceptance Process (RAP) and subject to any criteria and review process set up for each funding cycle. As stated in the 2009 RAP Decisions, optimal region development will be considered when determining future region approval and eligibility for subsequent funding rounds.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Yun with the Financial Assistance Branch at (916) 651-9222 or Dane Mathis with the South Central Region Office at (559) 230-3354.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula J. Landis".

Paula J. Landis, Chief
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management

cc: Paul Oshel, District Engineer
Semitropic Water Storage District



Attachment 3

Letter of Agreement on Region Boundaries and Coordination of Water Management Strategies for the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan



1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280
661-758-5113



3200 Rio Mirada Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308
661-634-1400

September 20, 2010

Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Attn. Lauren Bauer
C/O Kern County Water Agency
P. O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Re: Letter of Agreement on Region Boundaries and coordination of water management strategies for the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

The Kern and Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) have established a relationship that defines common interests in a shared boundary, for a portion of each group's Integrated Regional Water Management Planning activities. This Letter of Agreement establishes that the Kern and Poso Creek RWMGs accept the boundary for purposes of defining their respective Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) regions, as set forth in the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) 2009 *Final IRWM Region Acceptance Process Guidelines* (RAP Guidelines).

The Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs overlap in portions of Northern Kern County (Attachment 1). The area of overlap is a result of the jurisdictional service area boundaries of the County of Kern (County), Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), several cities (referred to as the North County Cities), overlapping with 6 agricultural water districts and North West Kern Resource Conservation District.¹ The County, KCWA and North County Cities are members of the Kern IRWMP, while NWKRCD and remaining water districts are members of the Poso Creek IRWMP. In a letter from DWR dated May 3, 2010, both the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs were approved to remain as two distinct regions.

The physical boundary defining the Poso Creek IRWMP Region within the Kern IRWMP area is described as follows. The easterly boundary of the Poso Creek Plan generally follows the eastern boundary of the eastern most Poso Creek RWMG District Boundary or Highway 65,

¹ Communities located with the Poso Creek IRWMP region, include, but are not limited to, the Cities of Delano, McFarland, Shafter and Wasco, as well as several unincorporated communities indirectly represented by the Community Water Center and Self Help Enterprises, Inc. The agricultural water districts within is region are: Cawelo Water District, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, Kern-Tulare Water District, North Kern Water Storage District, Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and Semitropic Water Storage District.



1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280
661-758-5113



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661-634-1400

whichever is most eastern, except along Poso Creek and Rag Gulch where the boundary is extended easterly of Highway 65, as follows: The Poso Creek extension begins near the southeast corner of Section 32, T27S, R27E where Highway 65 crosses the south Section Line, then eastward to the southeast corner of Section 34, T27S, R27E, then southerly to the southwest corner of Section 2, T28S, R27E, then easterly to the South ¼ corner of Section 4, T28S, R28E, then northerly to the North ¼ corner of Section 28, T27S, R28E, then westerly to the northwest corner of Section 25, T27s, R27E, then northerly to the East ¼ corner of Section 14, T27S, R27E, then westerly to Highway 65. The Rag Gulch extension begins at the southeast corner of Section 27, T25S, R27E, then easterly to the southeast corner of Section 26, T25S, R27E, the northerly to the northeast corner of same Section 26, then easterly to the South ¼ corner of Section 24, T25S, R27E, then northerly to the North ¼ corner of Section 13, T25S, R27E, then westerly to the southeast corner of Section 11, T25S, R27E, then northerly to the Kern County/Tulare County Boundary at the northeast corner of Section 2, T25S, R27E. The southerly boundary is the northerly boundary of the Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD and the KCWA Improvement District No. 4. The westerly boundary is the westerly boundary of the Semitropic Water Storage District. The boundary generally follows the differentiation between the Poso Creek Hydrologic Unit and the Kern River Hydrologic Unit and recognizes the historic working relationship between districts that overlie the Poso Creek Hydrologic Unit.

The overlap of the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMP Regions results in the need to clearly define responsibilities for management of surface water and groundwater resources in the area, as well as other integrated planning efforts. The Kern and Poso Creek RWMGs have identified water management issues and objectives that are applicable to both regions. In order to ensure optimum region development and efficient management of the region's water resources, the Kern and Poso Creek RWMGs agree to collaborate on water management issues, including, but not limited to the following mutually identified items:

1. Enhancement of state-wide surface water supplies and conveyance;
2. Protection of state-wide surface water and groundwater quality;
3. Preservation of local control over local surface water and groundwater;
4. Protection and/or restoration of habitat; and
5. Improvement of the relationship between land use planning and water resources

The groups also agree that the primary focus of the collaboration is to bring more water and funding into the area.

A formal mechanism for collaboration will be defined in the governance documents of the Kern and Poso Creek IRWMPs. Until such time, the Kern and Poso Creek RWMGs agree to work collaboratively via open communication and participation in the Tulare Lake Basin Hydrologic Region planning meetings. **On behalf of the Kern Regional Water Management Group:**



POSO CREEK IRWMP

Management Group

1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280
661-758-5113



3200 Rio Mirada Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308
661-634-1400

Kern IRWMP, Co-chair

Kern IRWMP, Co-chair

Lead Agency: Kern County Water Agency
Contact: Lauren Bauer, Water Resources Planner II
Phone number: (661) 634-1411

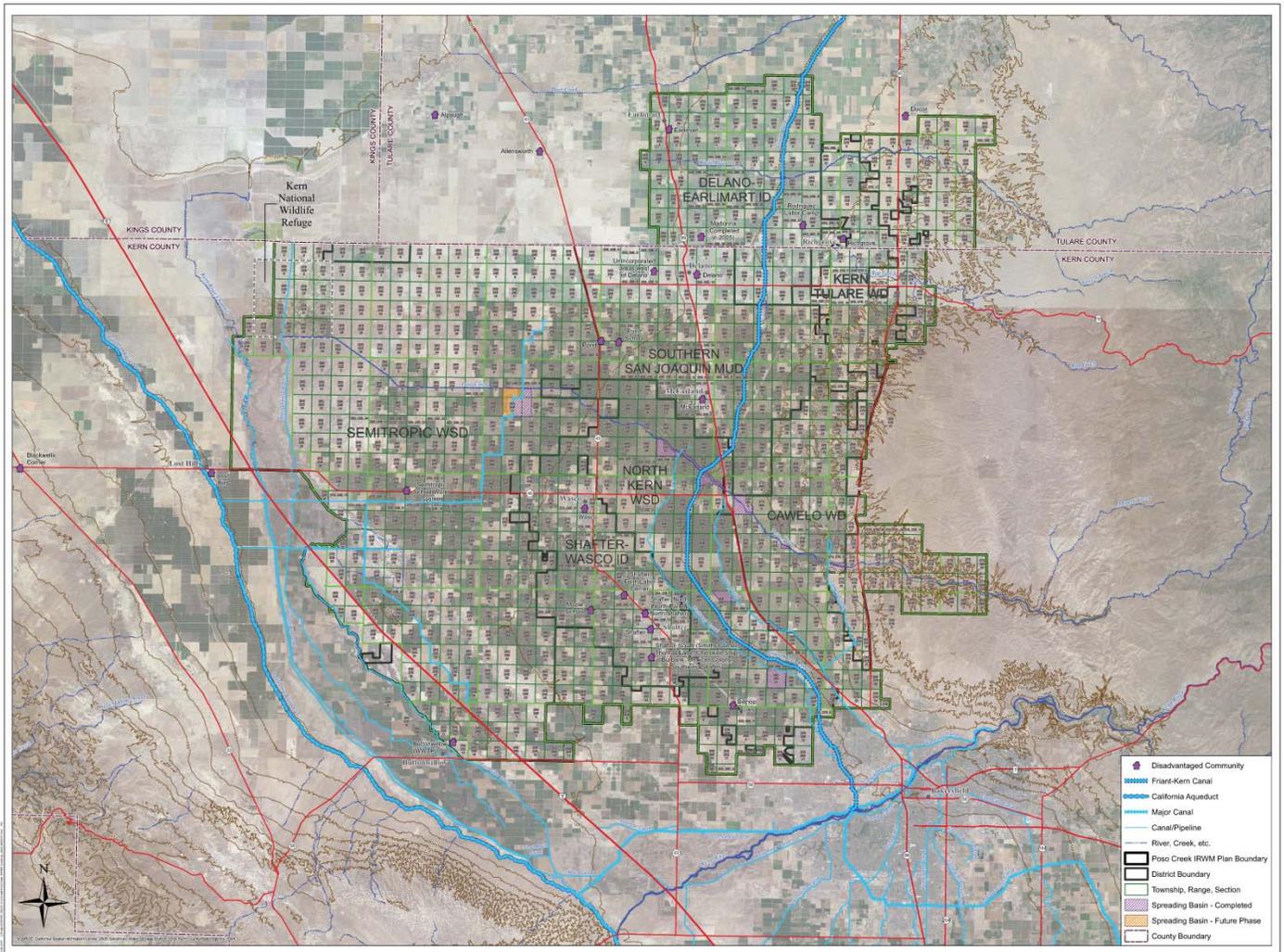
On behalf of the Poso Creek IRWMP Regional Water Management Group:

Paul Oshel
Poso Creek IRWMP RWMG Chair

Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District
Contact: Paul Oshel, Senior Engineer
Phone number: (661) 327-7144

cc: Dane Mathis, Department of Water Resources
Paula Landis, Department of Water Resources
Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Joe Yun, Department of Water Resources
Kern IRWMP Executive Committee
Poso Creek IRWMP RWMG

Attachment 1

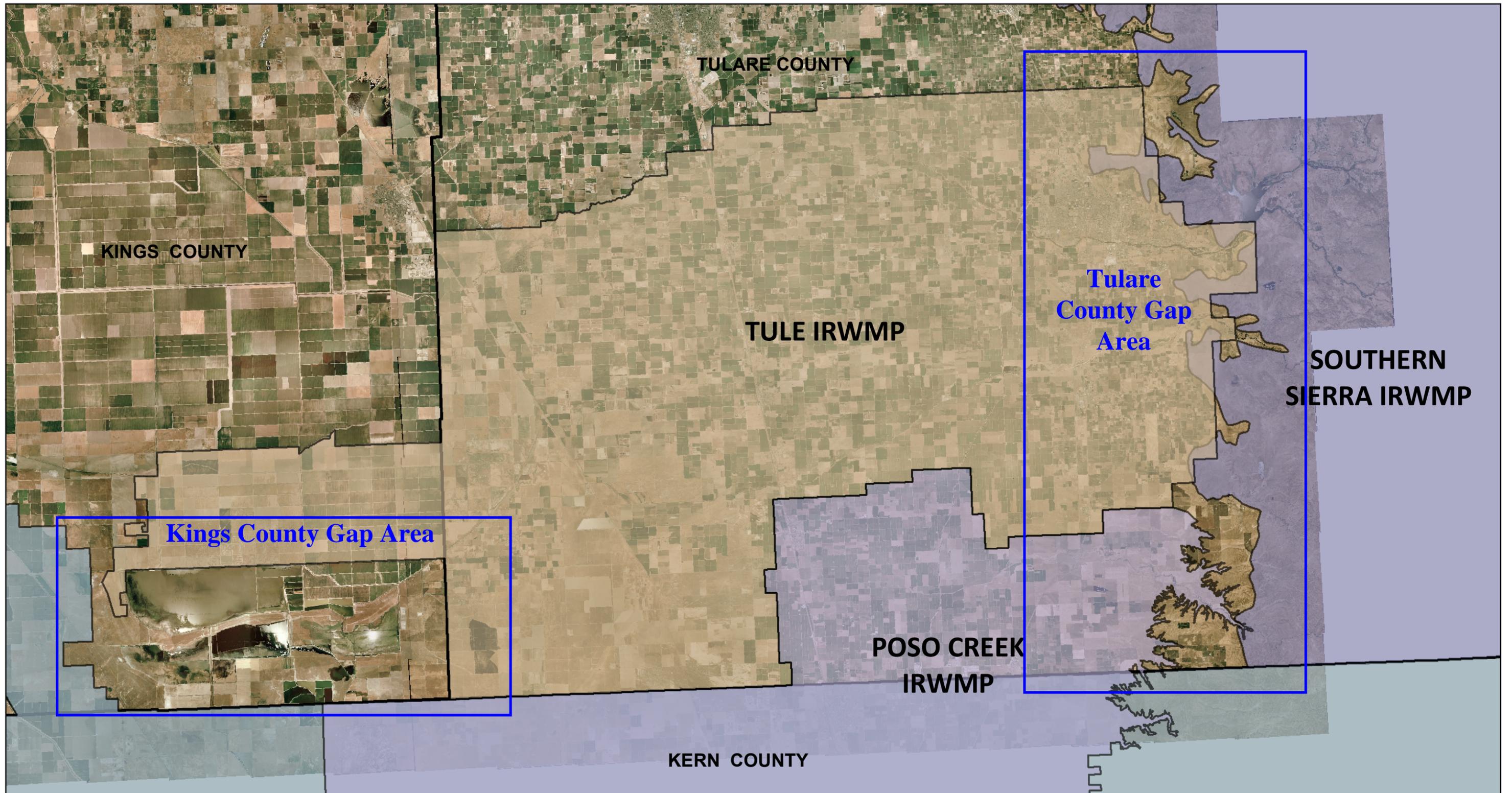


[Poso Creek integrated Regional Water Management Plan Boundary, July 2010 placeholder for Region Map Kern/Poso overlap map Currently Being Generated]



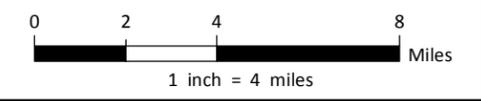
Attachment 4

Map of Gap Areas in Kings and Tulare Counties



KERN COUNTY
WATER AGENCY
Bakersfield, CA

Created: 2009-0904, S. Chambless
Filename: Tule_Adjacent_Area_Aerials_09-0904.mxd





Attachment 5

**Email Communication from Eric Osterling
(Documenting Outreach to Kings County Gap Area Entities)**

Bauer, Lauren

From: Eric Osterling [eosterling@krcd.org]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Bauer, Lauren
Cc: Rick Hoelzel
Subject: Tulare Lake Subbasin IRWM Outreach
Attachments: Bauer(KernIRWMP)_DWR_2011RAP_Section1GapAreas_2011_0330
_OsterlingReview.docx

Lauren:

I have reviewed the account of Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority's (UKBIRWMA) outreach efforts in the Tulare Lake subbasin region that is contained within your draft Regional Acceptance Process application (attached). I find it consistent with my own recollection of events that transpired. Between late 2009 and late 2010, UKBIRWMA staff did schedule and did attend meetings with stakeholder representatives from the Tulare Lake subbasin region where IRWMG formation was proposed. Among other stakeholders, the following entities participated in those meetings:

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Kings County Board of Supervisors
Kings County Planning Department
Kings County Water Commission
JG Boswell Corporation
Westlake Farms
Atwell Island Water District
Corcoran Irrigation District
Angiola Water District
Alpaugh Irrigation District
City of Corcoran
Melga Water District
Salyer Water District

To date, the response UKBIRWMA staff has received from Tulare Lake subbasin stakeholders is that the region will not be pursuing formation of its own IRWMG in the foreseeable future. However, staff continues to engage Kings County stakeholders on other coordinated activities (e.g. CASGEM) and will continue to encourage the future development of an IRWMP.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Thank you,

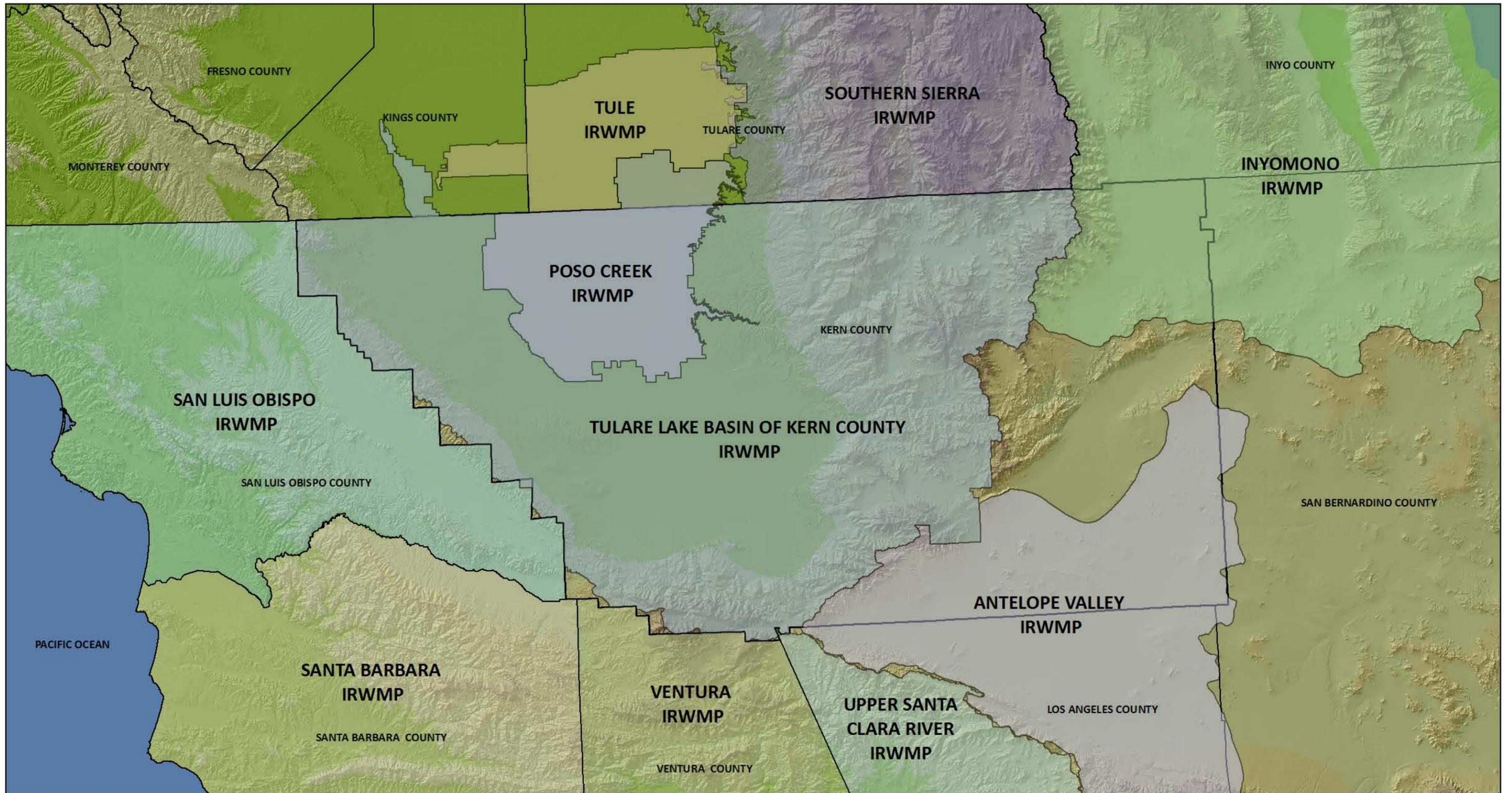
Eric C. Osterling
Associate Resource Analyst
Water Resources Programs / Hydrology

Kings River Conservation District
Water Resources Department
4886 E Jensen Avenue
Fresno, CA 93725
office: 559.237.5567 x135
fax: 559.237.5560
www.krcd.org



Attachment 6

Kern IRWM Region Boundary Map



KERN COUNTY
WATER AGENCY
Bakersfield, CA

Created: 2009-0325, S. Chambliss
Revised: 2009-0413, S. Chambliss
Filename: Adjacent_IRWMP_Regions_09-0325.mxd

