FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tracy Leach (661) 703-5639
February 21, 2025
For Immediate Release

Kern County Water Agency Responds to State Water Board's Grant of Continuance for Subbasin

BAKERSFIELD – The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) welcomes the decision by the State Water Resources Control Board to grant a continuance for the Kern County Subbasin following a public hearing on February 20, 2025, to September 17, 2025. This extension provides the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the Subbasin, including the Agency, additional time to address remaining concerns and demonstrate continued progress in meeting the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements.

In December 2024, the Kern County Subbasin GSAs completed and submitted their fourth Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), which was developed in response to feedback from the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board. The plan included revised sustainable management criteria (SMCs) while reflecting a significantly greater collaborative approach and a clear path towards achieving long-term sustainability.

The Agency is grateful that the State Water Resources Control Board is granting the continuance. There has been tremendous coordinated progress in the region to address SGMA requirements. The extension allows the GSAs to refine their strategies and continue their efforts to meet SGMA requirements. It also provides an opportunity to further strengthen collaboration with local agencies and regulatory bodies, ensuring that the Subbasin's groundwater resources are managed sustainably for future generations.

###

The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) was created in 1961 by a special act of the State Legislature and serves as the local contracting entity for the State Water Project. The Agency, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011, participates in a wide scope of management activities, including water quality, flood control and groundwater operations to preserve and enhance Kern County's water supply—the main ingredient for the well-being of an economy.