

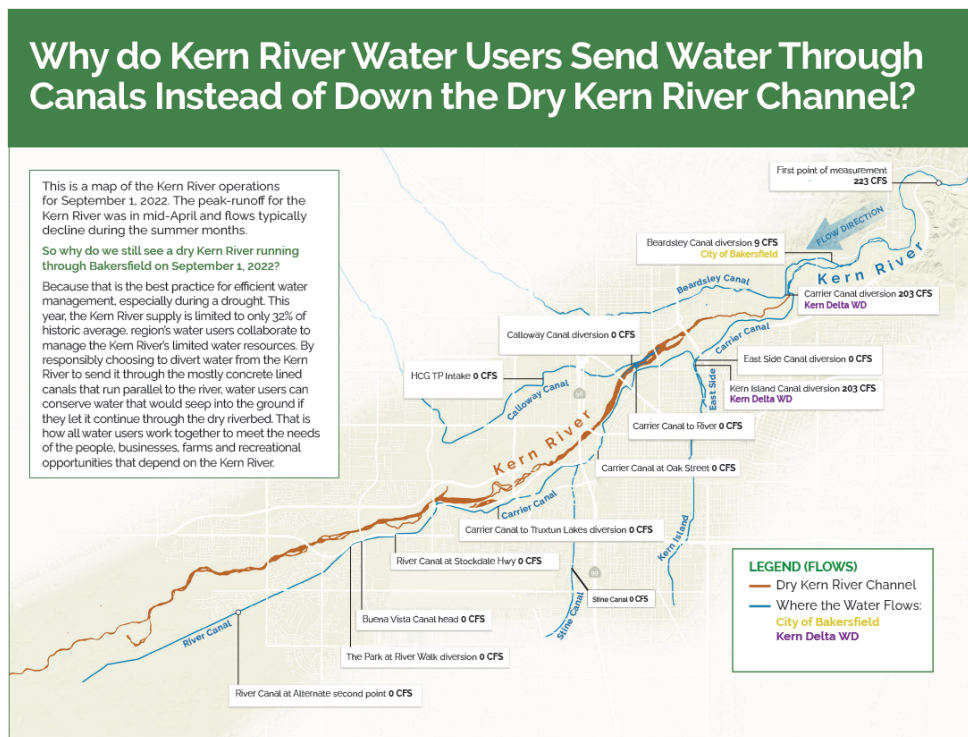


# Sustainable Kern River

Newsletter | Fall 2022



## NEW SEPTEMBER MAP: Where Does The Kern River Water Flow?



This is a map of the Kern River operations for September 1, 2022, released as part of a new series of maps that we created for May, July, August and September. The peak-runoff for the Kern River was in mid-April and flows typically decline during the summer months.

So why do we still see a dry Kern River running through Bakersfield on September 1, 2022? Because that is the best practice for efficient water management, especially during a drought. This year, the Kern River supply is limited to only 32% of historic average. The region's water users collaborate to manage the Kern River's limited water resources. By responsibly choosing to divert water from the Kern River to send it through the mostly concrete lined canals that run parallel to the river, water users can conserve water that would seep into the ground if they let it continue through the dry riverbed. That is how all water users work together to meet the needs of the people, businesses, farms and recreational opportunities that depend on the Kern River. [Click here to see the full maps and learn more.](#)

## Kern County Water Monitor

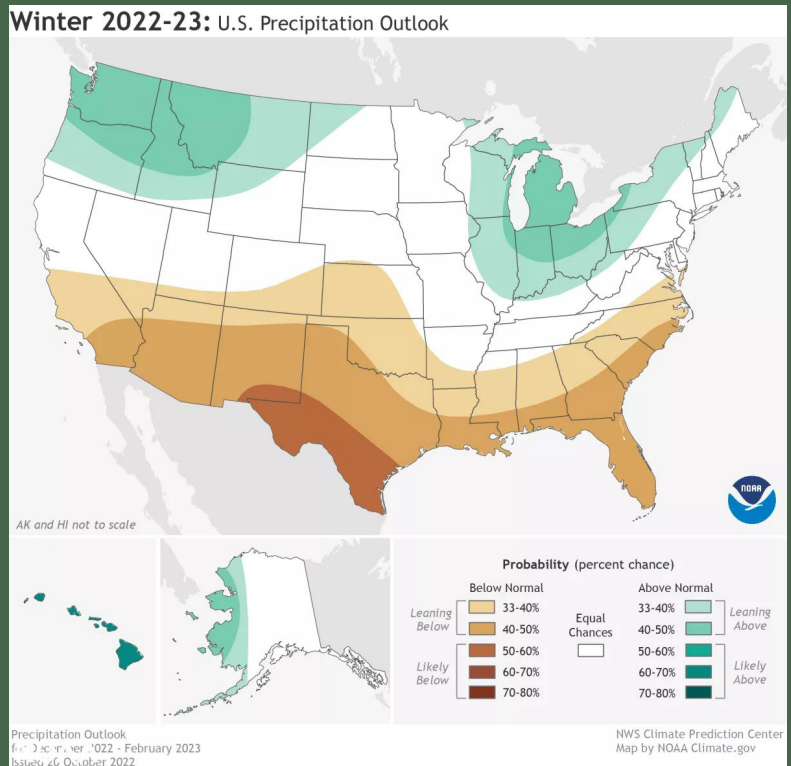
There is no shortage of media coverage when it comes to California water. Finding the most relevant articles to better understand how the current drought, groundwater management, irrigation efficiency and so many other issues stand to impact water availability in Kern County can be a daunting task. SKRC continues to monitor the wide range of voices weighing in on these subjects and more through our “Kern County Water Monitor.” We pulled out just a couple of the articles that we found particularly noteworthy that we’d like to share with you.

### The latest U.S. winter outlook spells trouble for dry California

By: Hayley Smith, Los Angeles Times  
October 21, 2022

“A warm, dry winter is in store for much of California as La Niña conditions are slated to persist through at least January, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The agency’s [U.S. winter outlook](#), released this week, spells trouble for the drought-dried state as it enters what is typically its wettest season, when rainfall and Sierra snowpack help replenish water supplies that carry it through the rest of the year.”



### VIDEO: The Kern River’s work starts long before it hits Bakersfield



By: Lois Henry, SJV Water  
September 29, 2022

This year, SJV Water has put out a series of videos exploring the specifics of who owns Kern River water and where it goes. In this episode, SJV Water headed upstream with Kern River Watermaster Mark Mulkay for a quick look at how some of the structures and obligations on the river above the San Joaquin Valley influence “the law of the river.”



## Kern County crop value sets new record

By: Todd Fitchette, Western FarmPress  
October 12, 2022

“Farming output in Kern County, Calif. grossed its highest-ever figure in 2021, beating its previous record set just a year earlier by 9%. The value of all crops produced last year in Kern County grossed more than \$8.34 billion. [...]

Each of the top four commodities – grapes, citrus, pistachios, and almonds – grossed over \$1 billion in cash receipts, according to the annual crop and livestock report from the Kern County Department of Agriculture.”as our mega-drought drags on.”



## As water levels drop in California's Lake Isabella, a Wild West ghost town re-emerges



By: Andrew Pridgen, SFGate  
September 6, 2022

“At Lake Isabella, nestled within the southern Sierra Nevada foothills in Central California, the telltale signs of drought are all too visible. The shoreline resembles a giant toilet bowl ring around the lake’s edge, while the detritus of long-forgotten secrets in various stages of decay poke up from the lake’s bottom.

Now at 8% capacity, the man-made lake is revealing the foundations of one of the Wild West’s most infamous towns — and it’s all visible from the shore, or accessible by boat.”

## **Follow SKRC on Twitter**



Stay part of the conversation on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SustainTheKern>. While the SKRC will continue to release regular newsletters, following the SKRC Twitter account is a great way to receive even more of our commentary and engage with us on the most recent Kern River water stories as they happen in real time.

Our drought outlook in Kern County is undoubtedly dire, and as a natural consequence, water users in the region are competing for an increasingly limited Kern River water supply. Despite these challenges, we at the Sustainable Kern River Coalition remain optimistic that if we all operate from the same set of facts and adhere

to the law of the river, we can continue to meet pressing community needs while exploring innovative solutions to address the impacts of drought in the long term. If you or your organization is interested in joining the Sustainable Kern River Coalition, or in receiving additional information, contact us at [info@sustainablekernriver.org](mailto:info@sustainablekernriver.org).



## About the Sustainable Kern River Coalition

The Sustainable Kern River Coalition is a regional group of water users, community members and business interests who are committed to protecting and maintaining the rights and access to Kern River water that support the families, farmers, small businesses and disadvantaged communities who are the backbone of Kern County's economy. If you or your organization is interested in joining the Sustainable Kern River Coalition, or in receiving additional information, contact us at [info@sustainablekernriver.org](mailto:info@sustainablekernriver.org).

 Sustainable *Kern River*