



Sustainable Kern River

Newsletter | March 2023



Flood Safety During Storm Events



Winter weather picture sent in by Donna Harris, as included in Bakersfield Now
([GALLERY: Kern River Valley, surrounding areas facing heavy rain, flooding - Friday, 3/10/23](#))

This has been a winter like none other for Kern County and the state of California. Coming off of three of the driest years in the state's history, we're now seeing the wettest several months most of us have ever experienced. We have record snowpack and flooding where just months ago we had drought. This type of "climate whiplash" is the new normal for California, and we are all working to adapt. 70 years after the completion of Isabella Dam, we must continue to invest in more water supply and flood control projects to ensure resiliency for future generations.

These recent storms have been devastating for some Kern County communities and many places are still working to recover. Thank you to the first responders who have been working around the clock assisting communities affected by flooding. For anyone in need, the Red Cross is operating multiple shelters offering hot meals in the region – [click here to see the most up to date list of locations](#).

Safety Advice From [Red Cross Central California](#):

"If an emergency threatens your neighborhood, be prepared to evacuate quickly and leave the area if local officials tell you to do so. Have your disaster kit ready. Review your emergency plan with everyone in your household. Plan your evacuation route and alternates in case main roads are impassable. Where will you go and how will you get there? Will you go to a hotel, a friend or relative's home, or an emergency shelter. Don't forget your pets."

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 current weather conditions, 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 to share with you.



GALLERY: Kern River Valley, surrounding areas facing heavy rain, flooding

By: Staff, Bakersfield Now
March 10, 2023

Bakersfield Now readers are sending in photos and videos of winter weather flooding the Kern River Valley.

The Bakersfield Californian

Our View: It's now not a drought; it's a water storage problem

By: Editorial Board, The Bakersfield Californian

March 19, 2023

"It is critical for Californians and their public officials to anticipate the extremes, and plan and invest in the responses. Mother Nature can be cruel. Today's floods can be followed by tomorrow's droughts."

Watermaster warns residents about the dangers of the Kern River

By: Anthony Wright, 23ABC

March 23, 2023

"With the significant rainfall Bakersfield has seen in the past few weeks, Kern River Water Master Mark Mulkay told 23ABC although the river has experienced an increase in its downstream flow he urges everyone to stay out of it. 'People are going to see it through the city and think 'oh boy this looks so fun, we need to go out and play in it.' There's trees in it, there's brush in it, there's all kinds of things underneath that water. People need to be very careful when they're around the river this year. There's going to be more water than they've seen in a long time and they just really need to protect themselves."



After years of drought, the Kern River thunders through Bakersfield once more

By: Corey O'Leary, 23ABC

March 23, 2023

"After years of drought, recent rains means more water for the Kern River, and the river is flowing through Bakersfield once again. 'We are going to be maximizing our recharge and keeping this water as best we can within the City of Bakersfield,' said Assistant Water Resources Director Daniel R. Maldonado.

The increased river flow also means that lakes and ponds, like the lakes just off Truxtun Avenue, are full."

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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.

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.

