



Sustainable Kern River

Newsletter | October 2023



How Well Do You Know the Kern River?

Take our Kern River pop quiz!



For over a century, the region's water users have been working together to sustainably manage the limited water resources all of Kern County relies on from the Kern River – providing the water our families, farmers, businesses and disadvantaged communities rely on.

The Kern River is the backbone of our region's economy and makes life possible for so many Kern County residents and businesses. It is also an ecological treasure and international tourist destination – from Lake Isabella to the awe-inspiring beauty of Sequoia National Park & Forest to rafting down the Wild and Scenic Kern River.

The story of Kern County couldn't have been written without the Kern River, so how well do you know it? Take our Kern River pop quiz, send it to a friend and see how well your knowledge of the Kern River stacks up!

[Click Here To Take Our Kern River Pop Quiz](#)

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.



Kern River interests allowed to squeeze a little extra water into Lake Isabella this winter

By: Lois Henry, Bakersfield Californian
October 19, 2023

“Kern River irrigators will be able to store more water than usual in Lake Isabella this winter, but not as much as they’d like.

Typically, the “carry over” amount is 170,000 acre feet to allow enough room in the lake to handle a heavy winter. Isabella can hold 568,000 acre feet at full capacity.

Agricultural districts and others with rights to the river, collectively known as the Kern River interests, asked to increase the carry over amount next year to 245,000 acre feet, in case it turns dry again.”

Imagine turning on the faucet...and nothing comes out

By: Steven Mayer, Bakersfield Californian
October 17, 2023

“Most residents of Bakersfield expect when they turn on the tap in the kitchen or the bathroom, their glass, their coffee pot or their bath will soon be filled with clean, crystal-clear water.

But what would you think if you turned on your tap and ... nothing happened?

‘Today we are here to imagine a day without water ... that would be a very sad day,’ said Tamara Johnson, district manager of California Water Service’s sprawling Bakersfield District.”





9 rescued from Kern River rapids near Lake Isabella

By: Eric Gabino, Bakersfield Now
October 8, 2023

“Nine people on a raft were rescued after they were stuck in the rapids of Kern River Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday, October 7, the Kern Valley Search and Rescue received a call about nine people, including three children, stuck on a raft in the Kern River.”

USACE installs temporary pumps to alleviate seepage at Isabella Lake

By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
October 6, 2023

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District awarded a contract for the installation of a temporary pump system at Isabella Dam in Lake Isabella, California, on Sept. 28, 2023, to increase the capacity of the existing pump system and redirect seepage back into the lake.

By Oct. 2, the new system had been installed and was operational. The temporary system has currently eliminated downstream flows caused by seepage.”



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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.