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Contact: Jon Parker, Kern Water Bank Authority  
(661) 398-4900

**THE SACRAMENTO SUPERIOR COURT RULES IN THE MONTEREY PLUS CEQA CASES THAT IT  
WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO SUSPEND KERN WATER BANK  
OPERATIONS PENDING DWR'S SUPPLEMENTAL CEQA REVIEW**

BAKERSFIELD, CA - On October 2, 2014, Judge Timothy M. Frawley of the Sacramento Superior Court issued a ruling on CEQA remedy issues in the Monterey Plus Project CEQA cases: *Central Delta WA v. DWR*; *Rosedale Water Storage Dist. v. DWR*, particularly relating to Kern Water Bank operations as the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prepares supplemental CEQA review of the project.

The Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA) believes that the Court appropriately rejected the extreme remedy of shut down of the Kern Water Bank as advocated by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and other petitioners in the Central Delta case. The Court was "persuaded that shutting down the Bank would result in more environmental harm than allowing it to remain operational," and ruled it would be "contrary to the public interest" and "reckless and irresponsible" to suspend Kern Water Bank operations particularly under current severe drought conditions. As the Court's ruling also states, the "point of having a water bank is primarily to provide water in times of shortage."

The Court ruled, as advocated by KWBA and all the other parties in both cases including DWR and the Rosedale petitioners, that it was in the public interest to not enjoin but rather continue Kern Water Bank operations while DWR prepares its supplemental CEQA review, subject to certain conditions including the interim operating plan jointly developed by and between KWBA and neighboring Rosedale-Rio Bravo and Buena Vista Water Storage Districts for protection of local groundwater. KWBA is committed as a responsible agency to diligently assisting DWR with timely completion of its supplemental review as required by CEQA and the Court and bringing closure to 19 years of litigation.

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*KWBA is a public agency comprised of water entities in Kern County, and a water entity in Kings County, responsible for providing previously banked water to a wide range of agricultural and urban users in portions of Kern County including the City of Bakersfield and Kings County, which helps reduce impacts of the current drought and protects local jobs, the economy, and the environment. Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the KWBA and the Kern Water Bank have been providing significant positive benefits to the groundwater basin and environmental resources including endangered and threatened species in the San Joaquin Valley under a long-term habitat conservation plan (HCP) and related permits.*