PROVOST&PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP

ADMINISTRATOR FOR SOUTH KERN & OLD RIVER MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING SUMMARY
JANUARY 15, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

OVERVIEW

The community engagement meeting for the South Kern Mutual Water Company (SKMWC) and Old River Mutual Water Company (ORMWC) was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the South Kern MWC well site (9820 Par St., Bakersfield, CA 93311).

In-person attendees included Kristen Bitsberger, Ryan Jensen, Hamish Kellam, and Amanda De Anda from Provost & Pritchard (P&P), along with one community Resident.

WATER SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Both systems continue to have uranium levels exceeding the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) established by the State Water Resources Control Board. As a result, the status of the water remains unsafe, and both systems are under a "Do Not Drink" notice.

SKMWC exceeds the uranium MCL, with the most recent sample collected on July 16, 2025, at 23 µg/L, and is within the allowable limit for nitrate, with a sample collected on August 8, 2025, at 6.2 mg/L. ORMWC exceeds the uranium MCL, with the most recent sample recorded on July 16, 2025, at 20 µg/L, and is within the nitrate limit, with a sample collected on August 6, 2025, at 4.2 mg/L. Bacteria and 1,2,3-TCP were not detected in the most recent samples for either system.

While 1,2,3-TCP was not detected in recent sampling, it remains a contaminant of concern due to historical fluctuations above and below the MCL. Water quality results are publicly available on the State Board's website.

Kristen noted that lead and copper sampling occurs every five years and that recent results showed no lead or copper detected in either system's pipes. Residents were reminded that the water is not safe to drink and to notify P&P if bottled water is needed.

WORK UPDATES

FENCE AND RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPACTS

Property owner fences along Par Street are currently located within the county right-of-way. During construction, some fences may need to be temporarily relocated. These impacts primarily affect residents in both the South Kern and Old River service areas along Par and Beam Streets.

SOUTH KERN SYSTEM UPDATES

A new gated fence was installed at the South Kern well site to match the fencing at the residence located at 9820 Par Street. The fence installation was completed by the property owner and their contractor. The lock was reinstalled on the gate after the installation.

A minor water main leak was observed on November 21, 2025. The system operator, McMor, completed the repair while maintaining system pressure.

OLD RIVER SYSTEM UPDATES

P&P is working to finalize a property access agreement for the Old River well site. The agreement has been drafted and is pending finalization with the owner of the surrounding parcels.

BILLING & WATER RATES

Billing for both systems is managed by Golden State Water Company. Water rates are based on system usage, and no rate changes are planned at this time. A future rate study will be completed in coordination with the City of Bakersfield as part of the consolidation process.

Funds collected through water rates are used to cover system operations and maintenance. P&P's Administrator work is not funded through system O&M funds.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENT

Upcoming activities include quarterly public meetings and continued coordination with residents. In the future, residents may be contacted to provide written permission through property access agreements, allowing P&P's technical team to access properties to locate service lines and septic tanks for future planning and construction.

Residents were encouraged to stay informed by signing up for email and text alerts, visiting the South Kern and Old River Administrator website, completing the community survey, and submitting public comments by phone, email, or mail. The meeting concluded at approximately 6:00 p.m.