**Talking points for calling the CA State Water Board in support of a flowing Kern River**

**Number to call:** (916) 341-5600

**Hours to call:** 8-5pm Pacific Time

**What to say:**

* “Hi, my name is, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* Say that you would like to leave a comment for the Board and the public record
* Share something about why you care about flowing rivers, or why you care about the Kern River (if you have a personal connection to it – i.e. you live nearby, you hiked by it, you whitewater rafted on it)
* Express that you think it’s wrong for the river to be dry, for all or some of the below reasons (whichever you want to emphasize):
	+ People not having access to the water for recreation, especially people with the most limited resources to travel or pay for access to water/naturally beautiful outdoor amenities
	+ Plants and animals can’t survive without the water
	+ The water can still be used for agriculture by being diverted further west from the river channel
	+ The water is a critical source of groundwater recharge, which is now required by law due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
* Ask that the water board take a comprehensive look at the water rights issues on the Kern and to award all forfeited and unappropriated water to the City of Bakersfield, the only applicant who has committed to put all of the water through the river channel

For additional questions about giving a comment, feel free to reach out to contact@bringbackthekern.org.