

MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS INTERIM WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

- Andy Malone (Lead Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Samantha Adams (Executive Director, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called roll and confirmed that all members of the Technical Advisory Committee were present. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

TAC Committee Members	Jim Bennett, County of San Diego (and Watermaster Board Member)
	Robert (Bob) Wagner, Representing AWARE
	Thomas (Tom) Watson, Representing Rams Hill
	Trey Driscoll, Representing Borrego Water District
Watermaster Staff	Andy Malone, Lead Technical Consultant (WEI)
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director (WEI)
	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel
	Kristan Culbert – Staff Scientist (WEI)
Others Present	WMB Member Dave Duncan – Watermaster Chairman, Borrego Water District
	WMB Member Shannon Smith – Watermaster Vice Chairman, Recreation Representative
	WMB Member Mark Jorgensen – Watermaster Representative, Community Rep.
	Michele Staples, Jackson Tidus, Representing AWARE (Agriculture)
	Geoff Poole, General Manager – Borrego Water District
	Steve Anderson, BBK, Representing Borrego Water District
	Rebecca Falk
	Cathy Milkey, Rams Hill
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	Tammy Baker
	Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe
	Leanne Crow (Board Alternate) – County of San Diego
	Timothy Ross, DWR
	Anita Regmi, DWR

- Committee Member Introductions. The Committee members appointed thus far introduced themselves:
 - Bob Wagner, PE (Principal Water Resources Engineer, Wagner & Bonsignore) – representing AWARE. Mr. Wagner has over 30 years of experience in water resources engineering. He currently serves as the Watermaster Engineer for the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster.
 - Tom Watson, PG (Principal Geologist, Aquilogic) – representing Rams Hill. Mr. Watson has over 35 years of experience in environmental and groundwater management. He was previously involved in overseeing all of the water resources management programs

for the City of Santa Monica and is currently involved in the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for numerous clients in California.

- Trey Driscoll, PG, CHG (Principal Hydrogeology Project Manager, Dudek) – representing Borrego Water District. Mr. Driscoll has 20 years of experience in hydrogeology and groundwater management. He was the project manager from Dudek (consultant to the County of San Diego) for the development of the GSP for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin and has been involved in technical work in the Borrego Springs for over five years.
- Jim Bennett, PG, CHG (County of San Diego) – representing the County. Mr. Bennett has 23 years of experience in hydrogeology. He was the manager of the development of the GSP for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin. He sits on the Borrego Springs Watermaster Board, representing the County of San Diego.
- Andy Malone, PG (Principal Geologist, WEI) – representing the Borrego Springs Watermaster. Mr. Malone has 25 years of experience in geology and groundwater management. He also serves as the principal-in-charge for engineering services for the Chino Basin Watermaster; in this role he leads numerous technical committees including the Ground Level Monitoring Committee and the Prado Basin Habitat Sustainability Committee.

Mr. Malone covered the guidelines for the Committee meeting, which specify that (a) Committee meetings are open to the public, and (b) three minutes are allowed for public comments at the beginning and end of each Committee meeting.

II. Public Comments. The following persons addressed the TAC:

- Tim Ross (Branch Manager, Southern Region Office). Informed the TAC that the DWR has begun is semi-annual groundwater monitoring event in the Borrego Springs taking place from October 27, 2020 to October 29, 2020. His office remains available to provide technical resources and introduced that Anita Regmi (DWR) is the Borrego Springs subbasin point of contact.
- Watermaster Chairman Dave Duncan thanked the committee members for their service.
- Rebecca Falk addressed the TAC regarding two items:
 - Requested the TAC to address the expansion of the water quality monitoring program to fill data gaps in the east and northeast areas of the Basin, noting that information on a potential well has been provided to staff.
 - The requirement to redetermine the Sustainable Yield of the Basin: does the redetermination happen regardless of whether it is requested by the Board?
- Tammy Baker addressed the TAC regarding two items:
 - The need to have high-frequency meter reads for monitoring pumping (every two months is prudent).
 - How best to provide questions to the TAC.
 - Ms. Adams recommended to send an email, chat message, or arrive at meetings a few minutes early to indicate interest in addressing the TAC.
- Cathy Milkey thanked the TAC for their work and their attendance during today's meeting.

III. Objectives and Operation of the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Malone provided an overview of the TAC's purview and duties as defined by the Judgement and Rules & Regulations and provide recommended operating procedures for TAC meetings and reporting to the Watermaster Board. There was no discussion from the TAC on this item.

IV. Meter Reading Program. Mr. Malone outlined the TAC's assignment of developing a recommendation to the Board on a meter reading program that will produce pumping data to support the technical requirements of the Judgement and GMP. A discussion ensued that resulted in a consensus draft recommendation to the Board¹. Mr. Malone explained that the next steps are to develop a formal memorandum to the Board documenting the recommendation. Mr. Malone proposed to prepare the draft memorandum and circulate it amongst the TAC for review and editing. The final recommendation will be submitted to the Board as part of the agenda package for the November 12, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

V. TAC Schedule for FY 2021. Mr. Malone outlined the TAC's assignment of recommending the general schedule and technical topics for subsequent TAC meetings. A discussion on the TAC's purview and duties as defined by the Judgement and Rules & Regulations ensued, the key points of which included:

- The recommended technical scope of work and technical budget for water years 2022 and 2023 to address the update of the Sustainable Yield is due by June 1, 2021. This topic will require an extensive discussion and will be guided by language in the Judgement and the approved Watermaster estimated budget. It will be helpful if Watermaster staff first prepares a recommendation for the TAC to review and comment on before the TAC meets to discuss. The recommendation should be distributed two to three weeks before the TAC meeting.
- The TAC has already identified that a meeting in April will be needed to revise the meter reading program as discussed in the prior agenda item.
- The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Plan is due two years after entry of the Judgment and there will be monitoring performed in the interim. The most critical issue related to the monitoring plan is to fill data gaps. This discussion is also likely to be extensive.
- Ms. Adams clarified that prior to the adoption of a new Groundwater Quality Monitoring Plan, the Watermaster will continue to implement the existing semi-annual monitoring program.

Based on the discussion, the TAC recommended the following meeting dates and topics:

- April 2021
 - Update the meter reading program recommendation
 - Review and discuss the technical scope of work and budget for water years 2022 and 2023 to address the update of the Sustainable Yield
- May 2021 (TENTATIVE)
 - As needed follow-up meeting to continue discussion of the technical scope of work depending on the outcome of the April 2021 meeting.

¹ The discussion and recommendation on the meter reading program are documented in a separate memorandum authored by the TAC.

VI. Public Comments (time permitting). The following persons addressed the TAC:

- Rebecca Falk expressed concern that the water quality data gaps are not being addressed yet.
 - Mr. Malone noted that water quality is critical to groundwater management and that data gaps will not be ignored by the TAC in their work.

VII. Adjournment. Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.