

Borrego Springs Watermaster Overview

Borrego Water District Town Hall

November 15, 2022

Presented By: Samantha Adams, Executive Director

Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Formed by Settlement Agreement (2019-2020)
 - Comprised of Parties with 90% of water rights
 - Interim Watermaster held first meeting in March 2020
- Formalized by Stipulated Judgment on April 8, 2021
- Physical Solution for the Basin = Judgment + Groundwater Management Plan
- Objective is to achieve sustainability by end of WY 2040, largely through incremental reductions in pumping (“Rampdown”)

Judgment

- Establishes pumping rights of the Parties
 - 24,293 acre-feet of baseline pumping allocation (BPA)
- Provides pumping Rampdown schedule
 - Reduce pumping allocation by 50% in first 10 years
 - Reduce pumping allocation by additional 25% by end of 20 years
- Redetermination of Sustainable Yield every five years
- Establishes mechanisms for water rights accounting
 - Carryover, transfers, remedies for Overproduction
- And more...

Watermaster Powers and Responsibilities



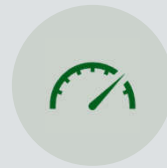
ESTABLISH
ANNUAL BUDGET



LEVY PUMPING
ASSESSMENTS



WATER RIGHTS
ACCOUNTING



METERING AND
PUMPING
REPORTS



ANNUAL
REPORTING TO
THE COURT AND
DWR



IMPLEMENT
MONITORING
PROGRAMS



ADMINISTER
TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE



ADMINISTER
ENVIRONMENTAL
WORKING GROUP

Watermaster Governance

- Five Board of Directors
 - Agriculture, Recreation, Municipal, Community Representative, County Representative
- Staff
 - Executive Director (Samantha Adams, West Yost)
 - Technical Consultant (Andy Malone, West Yost)
 - Legal Counsel (James Markman, RWG)
- Board meets monthly to take actions to implement the Judgment and GMP

Watermaster Operations

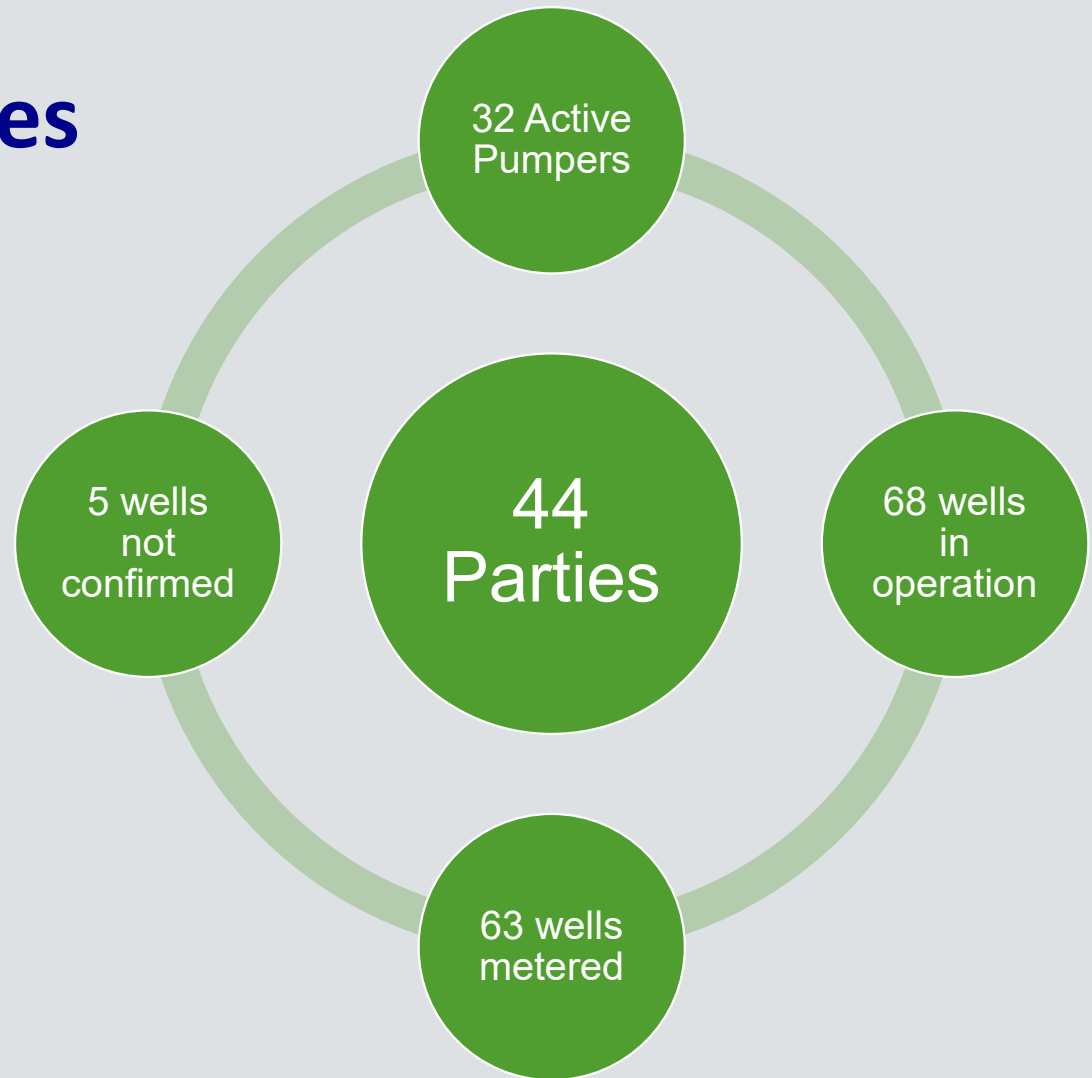
- Fiscal Year = Water Year
 - WY 2023 = October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023
- Operations Financed by Pumpers, supplemented with grants
 - Start-up Assessment = \$1,159,488 (\$48 per acre-foot of BPA)
 - Annual Assessment Set by Board (\$458,000 for WY 21 and 22)
- Expenditures
 - WY 2021 plus startup period = \$540,445 (including pass through expenses)
 - WY 2022 = \$811,226 (including pass through expenses)

Some Accomplishments to Date

- Established and implemented metering program – 93% of known wells metered
- Clear system of tracking of pumping rights
 - completed water rights accounting for las 2 WYs
- 92% of pumping in WY 2022 was metered
- Measured reductions in pumping from WY 2021 to WY 2022
 - Decreased by about 1,500 acre-feet
- Submitted first comprehensive report to the Court and DWR in April 2022
- Grant funding award of about \$2.7M for monitoring, reporting, and addressing strategies for restoration of fallowed agricultural land

Watermaster Parties and Pumpers

Parties and Pumpers as of October 1, 2022

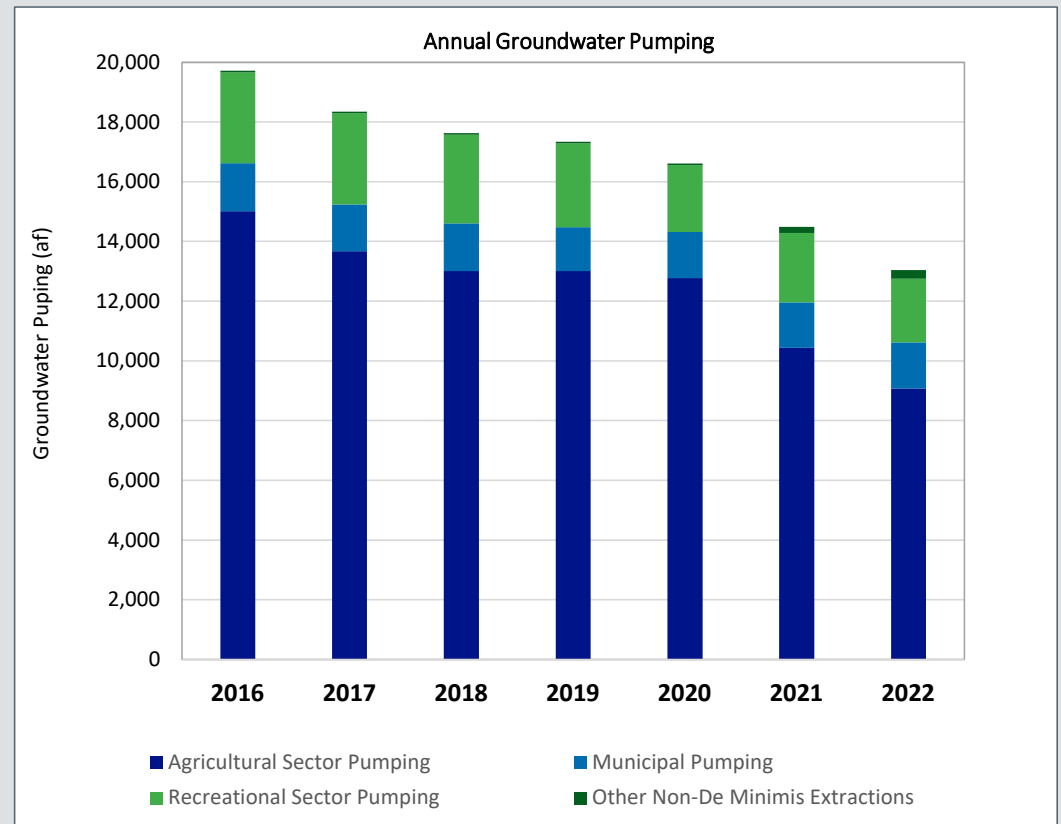


Groundwater Pumping

WY 2022

Total Pumping = 13,037.67 af

- *Agriculture* – 9,070.75 af
- *Recreation* – 2,131.40 af
- *Municipal* – 1,545.46 af
- *Other* – 290.06 af



What's Next in WY 2023

- Begin grant-funded project to study potential for biological restoration of fallowed lands – supported by EWG
- Technical Advisory Committee will work on scoping the process to complete the update of the Sustainable Yield by January 2025
 - Work will begin following Board approval of scope
- Prepare groundwater monitoring program workplan to improve monitoring in the Basin

Want to Learn More?

- **Stakeholder Open House – December 8, 2022**
 - In Person at Borrego Springs Library
 - 2:00 to 4:00 pm
- Next Watermaster Board meeting – December 8, 2022
 - In Person at Borrego Springs Library
 - 4:30 to 6:30 pm
- Website: borregospringswatermaster.com
- Email: borregospringswm@westyost.com
- Executive Director contact: sadams@westyost.com