

MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

Andy Malone (Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at about 8:30 a.m. and recognized that all four Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members were present at the start of the meeting.

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Technical Advisory Committee Members	Robert Wagner (representing AAWARE)
	Tom Watson (representing T2 Borrego)
	Trey Driscoll (representing Borrego Water District)
	Jim Bennett (representing the County of San Diego)
Watermaster Staff	Andy Malone, Technical Consultant (West Yost)
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director (West Yost)
	Lauren Salberg, Staff Scientist (West Yost)
	Eric Chiang, Principal Engineer (West Yost)
Others Present	Abhishek Singh
	Leanne Crow
	Diane Johnson
	Michele Staples
	Michael Wells
	Tammy Baker
	Shannon Smith (Board member)
	Rebecca Falk
	Travis Huxman

II. Public Comments

None.

III. Develop Recommendations for Technical Scope of Work in WY 2023 to Support the Update of the Sustainable Yield in 2025

Mr. Malone led a discussion on potential options for a technical scope of work in WY 2023 to support the required redetermination of the Sustainable Yield in 2025. The options that were discussed and their associated cost estimates are shown in the table below.

Task	Cost Estimate
Approved Scope of Work for WY 2023	\$31,598
Update Water-Use Factors in the FMP	\$52,000
Correct Errors Identified in 2021 BVHM TM	\$33,000
Evaluate New Methods for Estimating Recharge	\$71,000
Compare and Validate the Depth Distribution of Pumping in the MNW2 Package	\$13,000
Upgrade BVHM to Use the New Version of MODFLOW-OWHM	\$34,000
Compare Simulated to Measured Heads for Model Validation	\$10,000

Mr. Malone presented each task separately and facilitated questions and answers. Mr. Malone qualified the cost estimates as “budget level” and stated that each cost estimate was derived as a “stand-alone” task; hence, the cost estimates would need to be refined depending on the TAC recommendations on which tasks to perform.

The TAC consensus was that all the tasks were necessary to perform to redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2025, except that the final task (Model Validation) should be replaced with a formal model recalibration. The TAC also recommended that the most appropriate source of funding to complete these tasks is repurposing of the SGM grant funds.

The discussion concluded with Mr. Malone committing to preparing a scope-of-work, cost estimate, and schedule to perform the tasks above (including formal model recalibration) to support the redetermination of the Sustainable Yield in 2025. **[Note:** This scope of work, cost estimate, and schedule will be disseminated to the TAC for review and feedback via email. After addressing TAC feedback and with TAC approval, West Yost will prepare a final scope of work, cost estimate, and schedule which will be presented to the Watermaster Board as the TAC recommendation. The TAC recommendation will include a justification for each task and a description of the consequences of not performing each task to assist the Board in its evaluation and decision.]

IV. Review Draft Technical Memorandum: Groundwater Monitoring Gap Analysis

Mr. Malone summarized the contents of the draft technical memorandum (TM): Groundwater Monitoring Gap Analysis which was published for TAC review on October 20, 2022. Mr. Malone stated that this memorandum is the first step in an effort to update the Watermaster’s groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring programs by April 8, 2023 as required by the Judgment. The Monitoring Gap Analysis was performed by comparing the objectives of the monitoring programs to the Watermaster’s current monitoring program to identify gaps in the current monitoring networks and/or the current monitoring protocols. Mr. Malone explained that the identification of the gaps in the monitoring programs will form the basis for an update to the monitoring programs, including a plan to fill the gaps.

Mr. Malone presented the gaps in each monitoring program separately and facilitated TAC comments, questions, and answers. Highlights of the TAC discussion and feedback were:

- Generally, too many gaps were identified in the monitoring network, and filling all the identified gaps would be costly.

- Some of the identified gaps are in areas where filling the gaps would be difficult or impossible, such as along the fringes of the South Management Area.
- The gaps should be prioritized in order of importance to support sustainable groundwater management.
- The highest priority gaps should be in areas used for drinking water, which is generally in the North Management Area and the Central Management Area. Borrego Water District has no plans to install new wells in the South Management Area.
- Emphasis for monitoring should be the upper and middle aquifers where contaminants in return flows from overlying land uses could potential impact the drinking water wells.
- Travel time to the nearest drinking water wells should be considered when identifying gaps in the monitoring network.
- Additional water-quality data exist that are currently not in the Watermaster’s database. For instance, Borrego Water District has recently sampled and analyzed for the full suite of analytes under Title 22. These data may be useful in identifying other potential contaminants of concern.

Mr. Malone requested written comments on the draft TM from the TAC by November 16, 2022, and asked the TAC to provide their prioritization of the gaps in their comments. Mr. Malone stated that, based on the TAC comments, West Yost will prepare a draft **Groundwater Monitoring Plan** for TAC review in January/February 2023, so that the Board may consider the plan in March/April 2023.

V. Storage Change Calculation Methods (2021-22)

Mr. Malone informed the TAC that West Yost is performing the annual storage change analysis for the Borrego Springs Subbasin for the 2021/22 annual report to the DWR using the same methods employed in last year’s annual report (the 2020/21 annual report). Mr. Malone added that after submitting last year’s annual report, a TAC member recommended a sensitivity analysis to test an alternative interpolation method for groundwater elevations. The consensus of the TAC was to not perform the sensitivity analysis.

Mr. Malone outlined the following schedule to complete the storage change analysis:

- November 14: Use the current methodology to estimate annual storage change (Spring 2021 to Spring 2022) and distribute the draft results to the TAC by email.
- November 28: TAC submits comments on the draft storage change results.
- December 8: West Yost presents the storage change results to the Board.

VI. Status Update: DWR Monitoring Well Funded through DWR’s TSS Grant

Mr. Malone informed the TAC that the DWR is requiring that Borrego Water District be the signatory to the TSS Agreement and coordinate with the DWR on monitoring well construction. That said, West Yost has recommended a “clustered” monitoring well design with two boreholes, as opposed to a “nested” design with one borehole containing two monitoring wells. In the “clustered” design, there are two boreholes, spaced at least 30 feet apart, with one monitoring well in each borehole to monitor the shallow and deep aquifers. Mr. Malone stated that the DWR, in concept, has approved the “clustered” monitoring well design. Mr. Driscoll, as the technical consultant for the Borrego Water

District, added that this would be the safest well design to ensure a properly-functioning monitoring facility. The TAC agreed with the “clustered” well design concept.

VII. Public Comments

Michele Staples asked about the status of DWR monitoring in the basin. Mr. Malone informed Ms. Staples that the DWR no longer performs monitoring since the Watermaster has assumed monitoring responsibilities. Ms. Staples also recommended that the same legend be used on the change in storage maps in the annual report to facilitate visual comparisons of change in storage from year to year.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at about 11:15 a.m.