

MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

Andy Malone (Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at about 10:00 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)
	Jim Markman (Legal Counsel)
Others Present	Diane Johnson
	David Peterson
	Bob Krakowski
	Leanne Crow
	Travis Huxman

II. Public Comments

Bob Krakowski asked if the TAC procedure had been modified to allow public comment after each agenda item and requested explanation for why the procedure had or had not changed. Andy Malone responded that public comment is still reserved for periods at the start and end of each TAC meeting to maximize the time available for TAC discussions. Mr. Malone stated that the Watermaster Board has not directed him to make any changes to this TAC procedure.

III. Review of new Watermaster guidelines regarding TAC procedures

Mr. Malone provided a summary of the draft *Resolution No. 23-01 of the Board of Directors of the Borrego Springs Watermaster to Establish Guidelines for the Technical Advisory Committee Process* and asked for TAC comments or questions. In response to a TAC member's question on the origin of the new guidelines, Mr. Malone and Samantha Adams described that the new guidelines were developed in response to confusion over the role of the Technical Consultant at the TAC and a desire by the Board to add clarity and transparency to all TAC procedures. TAC members requested clarification on several items in the new guidelines for TAC procedures, such as:

- How TAC members can provide or present supplemental analyses and reports for TAC recommendations and/or TAC input.
- The proposed rules for ad hoc TAC member conversations with the Technical Consultant.

The discussion concluded with Mr. Malone stating that the revised guidelines regarding TAC procedures would be presented to the Watermaster Board for action during the March Board meeting.

IV. Review of draft Groundwater Monitoring Plan

Mr. Malone summarized the contents of the draft *Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* which was published for TAC review on February 10, 2023. Mr. Malone stated that this draft plan is the update to the Watermaster's groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring programs and the final report must be adopted by April 6, 2023, as required by the Judgment. The plan builds upon the Watermaster's current monitoring programs and leveraged the Groundwater Monitoring Gap Analysis discussed by the TAC in November 2022, which described recommended improvements to the current monitoring networks and/or the current monitoring protocols.

Mr. Malone used a data visualization tool, HydroDaVE, and facilitated TAC comments, questions, and answers on the draft plan. Highlights of the TAC discussion and feedback were:

- The understanding of recharge has been identified as a data gap in the Basin. To address this gap, additional wells should be added to monitoring network recharge areas, especially in the North Management Area, near Coyote Creek, and the South Management Area, near Yaqui Ridge and Borrego Sink Wash.
- A feasibility study is warranted to determine the possibility of installing a new monitoring well(s) in the Anza-Borrego State Park. Trey Driscoll indicated that in prior conversations with the State Park, there may be numerous and costly challenges to getting approval to install a new well.
- The recommended areas of improvement should be prioritized regarding importance to support sustainable groundwater management and the likelihood of finding an existing well to monitor.
- Currently, there is a lack of wells with transducers in areas of recharge. Transducers are necessary to collect high-frequency groundwater-level data that record the basin response to recharge.
- The GIS layer that shows parcels that are potentially using septic systems needs to be checked and possibly updated.
- A GIS layer should be added to show the Anza-Borrego State Park boundary.
- Additional testing could be performed when converting existing wells to monitoring wells to characterize the aquifers, such as: well profiling, depth-discrete sampling for water quality, and/or aquifer testing.
- The final plan should include more specific details on the level of effort required to add specific wells to the monitoring network(s) and a timeline to identify what will be accomplished in the next two years versus the following five years.

Mr. Malone requested written comments on the draft plan from the TAC by March 1, 2023. Mr. Malone stated that, based on the TAC comments, West Yost will prepare a draft **Groundwater Monitoring Plan** for Board review on March 9, 2023 and a final plan for Board action on April 6, 2023.

V. Redetermination of Sustainable Yield in 2025

Mr. Malone led a discussion on potential options for repurposing funds from the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant to fund the revised scope of work to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2025, which was approved by the Watermaster Board during their February 9, 2023 Board meeting. The options that were discussed and their associated cost estimates are shown in the Table 2 below.

Table 2. Options for Re-Purposing of SGM Grant Funding

SGM Grant Task	Approved SGM Grant Budget	Re-Purposed SGM Grant Funds to Support Revised Scope to Redetermine Sustainable Yield	
		Option 1	Option 2
Task 5. Construct New Surface-Water Monitoring Station	\$89,000		\$89,000
Task 4. Surface-Water Flow Monitoring	\$90,000	\$45,000	\$80,000
Task 6 - Identify and Address 6 Improperly Abandoned Wells	\$340,000	\$55,000	
Task 11a. Board Meetings	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Totals	\$609,000	\$190,000	\$259,000
Target Budget for Grant Re-Purposing		\$161,704	\$161,704

Mr. Malone stated that the Board requested specific TAC input on the repurposing of grant funding for Tasks 4 and 5 related to the surface-water monitoring station on Coyote Creek.

The TAC consensus was that the most appropriate option of repurposing SGM grant funding is Option 2. The TAC unanimously agreed that due to numerous challenges pertaining to the surface-water monitoring station (time constraints, access/permitting issues, etc.), these tasks should be re-purposed to support the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield by 2025. The TAC also recommended that the Technical Consultant begin identifying other tasks that may not be completed before the SGM grant expires and recommend re-purposing those funds too to maximize the use of the grant.

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

Mr. Malone and Trey Driscoll informed the TAC that the DWR is performing a site visit on the afternoon of February 21, 2023. Although no TAC members will be present for the site visit, BWD staff will be in attendance. Contractor mobilization may begin as soon as February 27, 2023.

VII. Public Comments

None.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at about 12:00 p.m.