

**MINUTES**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER**  
**Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting**  
**Monday, June 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

**I. Opening Procedures**

Andy Malone (Lead Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Malone called roll and confirmed that all five Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members were present at the start of the meeting. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

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| <b>Technical Advisory Committee Members</b> | Bob Wagner, PE (Principal Water Resources Engineer, Wagner & Bonsignore) |
|   | Tom Watson, PG (Principal Geologist, Aquilogic)                          |
|   | Trey Driscoll, PG, CHG (Principal Hydrogeologist, Dudek)                 |
|   | Jim Bennett (County of San Diego and Watermaster Board Member)           |
| <b>Watermaster Staff</b>                    | Andy Malone, PG (Principal Geologist, West Yost)                         |
|   | Eric Chiang, Principal Engineer (West Yost)                              |
|   | Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist (West Yost)                              |
|   | Jim Markman, Watermaster Legal Counsel                                   |
| <b>Others Present</b>                       | Tammy Baker  |
|   | Boyd Hill  |
|   | Travis Huxman  |
|   | Diane Johnson  |
|   | Nancy Karas  |
|   | David Peterson, Wagner & Bonsignore                                      |
|   | Leanne Crow  |

*TAC Meeting Guidelines.* Mr. Malone covered the guidelines for Committee meetings, which specify that TAC meetings are open to the public and individuals from the public are allowed three minutes each for comments during the public comment periods at the beginning and end of each TAC meeting.

**II. Public Comments**

Diane Johnson asked if the other tasks related to Redetermining the Sustainable Yield by 2025 referred to in the TAC Agenda memo are eligible for Prop 68 Grant funding. Mr. Malone responded that Prop 68 Grant funding will be used to support all five tasks under the approved scope of work to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2025.

### III. Review Results of Task 1 and Task 2 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2025

West Yost staff presented on the methods and results of *Task 1 – Compare FMP-Estimated Groundwater Pumping to Actual Pumping for WY 2022* and on the work performed to-date on *Task 2 – Update the Water-Use Factors in the FMP* (see Agenda Package). TAC discussion and questions included:

- The estimation of groundwater pumping for the BPA analysis for citrus and date palms included the use of a leaching factor.
- Agreement that the irrigation efficiencies used in the Farm Process (FMP) are unrealistic and that these values should be lowered to better represent actual irrigation efficiencies within the Basin.
- The grid cell size used in the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) is not refined enough to capture localized differences in crop types in the Basin because only one land use classification can be assigned to each grid cell.
  - Further evaluation is necessary to determine the influence of the grid cell size on FMP-estimated pumping.
  - If the grid cell size were to be refined or modified, more analysis would need to be done to determine the historical extent of crops in the Basin. For some crop types, such as citrus and dates, the history of growing these crops in the Basin is well documented. However, for other crop types, there is uncertainty in when, where, and how these crops were irrigated and grown.
- The reference evapotranspiration (ET) data from the Basin Conceptual Model (BCM) should be compared to local ET data from CIMIS station 207.
- The other supplies to meet crop demands—precipitation and shallow groundwater via root uptake—are likely negligible and do not need to be investigated further.
- Agreement that TAC members would like some additional time to prepare and submit written comments on the presentation and the memorandum in the agenda packet, particularly on recommendations for next steps. TAC members agreed to submit written comments to West Yost by June 16, 2023.
- West Yost staff informed the TAC that the schedule to complete Task 2 is mid- to late-July, 2023, and compliance with this schedule is important in order to meet the requirements of the Judgment and the Prop. 68 grant.

### IV. Public Comments (time permitting)

Boyd Hill provided a summary of the letter sent by Shannon Smith, the Recreational Representative on the Watermaster Board, regarding Watermaster’s participation in groundwater sampling for the GDE project being conducted by the Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy.

### V. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.