

MEETING MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting
Monday, July 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

Andy Malone (Lead Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., at which time he confirmed the meeting was being recorded.

Mr. Malone called roll and confirmed that five Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members were present at the start of the meeting. The sixth TAC member (Dr. Detwiler) arrived after the start of the meeting. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Technical Advisory Committee Members	Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe (Wagner & Bonsignore) – <i>representing</i>
	Tom Watson, PG (Principal Geologist, Aquilogic) – <i>representing T2</i>
	Trey Driscoll, PG, CHG (Principal Hydrogeologist, INTERA) – <i>representing Borrego Water District</i>
	Jim Bennett (County of San Diego and Watermaster Board Member) – <i>representing County of San Diego</i>
	John Peterson, PG, CHG (retired) – <i>representing Roadrunner Golf and Country Club</i>
	Dr. Russell Detwiler (University of California, Irvine) – <i>representing the Borrego Springs Community</i>
Watermaster Staff	Andy Malone, PG (Principal Geologist, West Yost)
	Eric Chiang (Principal Engineer, West Yost)
	Samantha Adams (Executive Director, West Yost)
	Lauren Salberg, GIT (Staff Geologist, West Yost)
Others	Diane Johnson
	Jan Hendrickx
	Jessica Clabaugh
	Kathy Dice
	Leanne Crow
	Shannon Smith (Watermaster Board member)

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Review results of Task 2 – *Model Recalibration to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield* (begins at 04:30 in the [meeting recording](#))

West Yost staff presented on the methods and results of Task 4 – *Redetermine the Sustainable Yield* (see Agenda Package). TAC discussion and questions included:

- A discussion regarding the validation of the Farm Process (FMP) using OpenET included:
 - Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe stated that he believes evapotranspiration (ET) from OpenET is more reliable than the ET estimated by the FMP, with METRIC model being used by the Upper Colorado River Commission.
 - Jim Bennett noted that the decline in evapotranspiration (ET) as simulated by the FMP from 2016 to 2022 may be reflective of the known decrease in pumping and irrigation that has occurred in the Basin, but that OpenET does not appear to measure.
 - Jan Hendrickx described potential reasons for the differences between FMP-estimated and OpenET-estimated ET and expressed concerns about using a calibration approach that adjusts crop coefficients. Jan Hendrickx also explained that reviewing the daily data would correct OpenET. SEBAL and METRIC provide the crop coefficient value (called reference ET fraction). To obtain the actual ET in the model calibration, the reference ET fraction should be used directly in the model.
 - Trey Driscoll recommended comparing OpenET directly to metered pumping.
- John Peterson recommended more highly weighing static groundwater-level measurements and wells with a long time-series of pumping.
- Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe recommended prioritizing wells with long-period of record of groundwater elevations, and also recommended including the wells showing increase in groundwater levels.
- Trey Driscoll recommended to compare the recalibrated BVHM results and statistics to the Initial BVHM (i.e., the version of the BVHM used to prepare the Groundwater Management Plan).

IV. Status Update: 5-Year Groundwater Management Plan Assessment Report (begins at 01:14:59 in the [meeting recording](#))

Samantha Adams provided a status update on the 5-Year Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) Assessment Report. TAC discussion and questions included:

- The recalibrated BVHM will be used to estimate the change in storage in the Basin and may also be used to revise Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives.
- Tom Watson recommended simplifying the groundwater storage figure.
- Jim Bennett recommended comparing metered pumping to the pumping allowances defined as the Measurable Objectives in the GMP to track progress towards reaching the Sustainability Goals.
- John Peterson cautioned that not all groundwater-elevation measurements, and wells, are considered equal.

V. Public Comments (begins at 01:57:36 in the [meeting recording](#))

Mr. Malone asked for final TAC and public comments. Comments included:

- Groundwater quality will be addressed in the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report.

- The Recalibrated BVHM (developed under Task 4 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield) should be used to establish certain Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives.

VI. Future TAC Meetings

The next TAC meeting will be scheduled for August 2024. The proposed agenda items include:

- Discuss projection scenarios and methods for Task 5 – *Determine the Sustainable Yield*
- Status Update: 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.