



**Grantee Name:** Borrego Water District  
**Grant Agreement No.:** 46-14652  
**Progress Report No.:** PR #6  
**Reporting Period:** 4/1/2024 TO 6/30/2024  
**Prepared:** 8/15/2024

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**Project:** Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Subbasin

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## 1. Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

**CATEGORY (A) COMPONENT ADMINISTRATION.** The work performed for this task includes monthly project management of the tasks included in Component 6 and preparation of quarterly grant progress reports for submittal to the Borrego Water District (BWD).

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Completed the fifth quarterly grant progress report and reimbursement request for the January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024 period.
- Performed project management to review scope, schedule, and budget progress.
- Updated budget status table.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Quarterly grant progress report #5
- Reimbursement request #5

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- Project commenced later than anticipated due to the delay in BWD and DWR executing the grant master agreement; and subsequently the subgrantee agreement between BWD and Watermaster. Though the project commenced later than anticipated, the schedule for all tasks was updated and the project is planned to be completed by March 31, 2025. The schedule delay did not result in any change orders for the project.

**CATEGORY (B) and (C)** are not applicable to this component.



**CATEGORY (D) MONITORING, ASSESSMENT.** The work performed for this task includes the monitoring and reporting portion of the Component 6 tasks.

**Task 1 – Review and Analysis of Existing Data**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- None. This task is complete.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

**Task 2 – Existing Fallowed Farmland and Reference Natural Habitat Field Study**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Processed, classified, and analyzed drone imagery.
- Performed field visits to all reference sites to collect data.
- Prepared draft report for Task 2: *Existing Retired Farmland and Natural Habitat Field Study*

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Task 2 Draft Report - *Existing Retired Farmland and Natural Habitat Field Study*

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period (beyond overall project schedule delay described for Category (A).

**Task 3 – Brush Pile Wildfire Sand Fence Case Study**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Coordinated with Watermaster on selection of a contractor to construct the Sand Fence Study.
- Selected and hired a contractor (Fredericks Construction) to construct sand fences.

- Performed a field visit and kick-off meeting between landowner representatives and contractor (Fredericks Construction).
- Purchased monitoring equipment for the Sand Fence Study, including dust samplers and rods.
- Performed seed collection, cleaning, and testing for later experimental additions.
- Performed field work to set up wind monitoring equipment on tree fence rows at one study location.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Task 3. Sand Fence Subcontractor Agreement

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- Fewer contractors than anticipated submitted bids to construct the sand fences, in part due to the grant requirements and remoteness of the work site. This has resulted in a delay in the schedule and costs that are higher than included in the budget. However, due to completing Category (d) Task 2 *Existing Fallowed Farmland and Reference Natural Habitat Field Study* under budget, it is anticipated that the remaining Task 2 budget will be utilized to cover the additional contractor costs and complete Task 3.

**Task 4 – Farmland Fallowing Rehabilitation Strategies**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Compiled field soil and plant data collected in Task 2 for individual landowners that participated in the study by allowing access to their land and distributing it to the individual landowners.
- Developed fallowing strategies.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period (beyond overall project schedule delay described for Category (A)).



### **Task 5 – Farmland Following Prioritization**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- No work performed in this reporting period.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period (beyond overall project schedule delay described for Category (A)).

**CATEGORY (E) STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH.** The work performed for this task includes stakeholder outreach activities to support the implementation and communication of the Component 6 tasks.

### **Task 6 – Conduct Environmental Working Group (EWG) Meetings**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- No work performed in this reporting period.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period (beyond overall project schedule delay described for Category (A)).



## 2. Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update

**CATEGORY (A) COMPONENT ADMINISTRATION.** The work performed for this task includes monthly project management of the tasks included in Component 7 and preparation of quarterly grant progress reports for submittal to the Borrego Water District (BWD).

*The work performed during the invoice period includes:*

- Corresponded with BWD staff on grant reimbursement status and report reviews.
- Performed monthly project management to review scope, schedule, and budget progress.
- Updated budget status table.
- Completed the fifth quarterly grant progress report and reimbursement request for the January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024 period.
- Updated the payment status and total amount requested from the first five grant reimbursement requests.
- Requested and reviewed quote from the contractor for the first task to perform well rehabilitation and secure abandoned wells and initiated task order agreement between West Yost and contractor to perform work on the conversion of abandoned wells.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Quarterly grant progress report #5
- Reimbursement request #5

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- Based on spending projections for the remainder of the grant period, the remaining Category (a) budget is projected to be surplus to what is needed to complete project management tasks defined in the grant agreement. A request to amend the grant agreement to use the surplus funding from Category (a) to cover efforts in Category (d), specifically the increased cost of semi-annual monitoring events due to success in adding new monitoring locations as a result of public outreach efforts. The amendment request was submitted to DWR on July 15, 2024 and is pending approval.



**CATEGORY (B) PLANNING, DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL.** The work to be performed for this task includes the planning, design, and environmental review portion of the Component 7 tasks. Component 7 includes one design task – conversion of abandoned wells.

**Task 1 - Environmental Documentation/Permitting**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- This task is complete.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

**Task 2 – Design Plans and Specifications**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Prepared memo summarizing plan for converting identified abandoned wells into monitoring stations.
- Prepared figures of the expansion of the groundwater monitoring program, highlighting the abandoned wells anticipated to be incorporated into the network pending outcomes of conversion analysis.
- Held kick-off meeting with contractor, Well Tec, to discuss schedule, budget, and deliverables for preparing specifications for well conversions and provided them with materials to support development of the scope and cost estimates for well conversions.
- Communicated with well owners regarding potential wells that could be converted to monitoring wells.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- The well conversion project commenced later than anticipated due to the delay in BWD and DWR executing the grant master agreement; and subsequently the subgrantee agreement



between BWD and Watermaster. Though the project commenced later than anticipated, the schedule for all tasks was updated and the project is currently planned to be completed by March 31, 2025. However, there is a potential that all the planned conversions cannot be completed before the end of the grant period. At this time there is no indication that all work can't be completed, but is worth noting that the availability of contractors is unpredictable. The schedule delay did not result in any change orders for the project.

**CATEGORY (C) CONSTRUCTION, IMPLEMENTATION.** The work performed for this task includes the construction and implementation portion of the Component 7 tasks. Component 7 includes one task in the grant agreement – conversion of abandoned wells.

### **Task 3 - Construction Management**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Hired a subcontractor, Well Tec, to perform the well conversions.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Notice of Award.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

### **Task 4 - Construct New Monitoring Facilities (Surface Water Station)**

This task has been omitted pursuant to the grant amendment approved by DWR on February 26, 2024.

### **Task 5 – Identify and Address Improperly Abandoned Wells**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- No work performed during this period.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*





- As noted for Category (b), the well conversion project commenced later than anticipated due to the delay in BWD and DWR executing the grant master agreement; and subsequently the subgrantee agreement between BWD and Watermaster. Though the project commenced later than anticipated, the schedule for all tasks was updated and the project is currently planned to be completed by March 31, 2025. However, there is a potential that all the planned conversions cannot be completed before the end of the grant period. At this time there is no indication all currently planned work can't be completed, but is worth noting that the availability of contractors is unpredictable. Additionally, the cost to complete the conversions is lower than anticipated due a number of wells only requiring "simple" conversions. Thus, a request to amend the grant agreement to use a portion of the Category (c) budget to cover efforts in Category (d), specifically the higher cost of semi-annual monitoring events due to success in adding new monitoring locations as a result of public outreach efforts. The amendment request was submitted to DWR on July 15, 2024 and is pending approval.

**CATEGORY (D) MONITORING, ASSESSMENT.** The work performed for this task includes the monitoring and reporting portion of the Component 7 tasks.

#### **Task 6 - Groundwater Pumping Monitoring**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

##### ***Monthly Collection and Processing of Meter Read Data***

- Collected, compiled, and managed all Basin pumping data to ensure compliance with pumping Rampdown, including:
  - Cataloged and processed monthly meter reads for March 2024 through May 2024.
  - Calculated pumping by well for March 2024 through May 2024.
  - Performed QA/QC of March 2024 through May 2024 pumping data.
  - Completed summary of pumping for the first six months of WY 2024 and developed a summary report of mid-year pumping.
  - Reviewed mid-year pumping summary to identify parties at risk of overproduction.

##### ***Annual Meter Verification***

- Researched status of a newly identified pumping well so it can be added to the meter program.
- Communicated with the well owners regarding meter status of a well and to identify steps to achieve compliance.
- Requested historical certificate of calibration and state date of groundwater pumping from a well owner.
- Recorded result of a meter accuracy test for the well and communicated with the well's owners to identify steps to achieve compliance.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.





*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

### **Tasks 7 and 8 - Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Program**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

#### ***Semi Annual Monitoring Events -***

- Finalized preparation of entry agreements for owners of wells newly participating in the groundwater monitoring program.
- Communicated with well owners to modify and execute entry agreements.
- Printed field forms and entry permits for the Groundwater Monitoring Program semi-annual event. Updated the pre-route checklist, photos, maps, and contact sheet. Compiled all information into a field binder that is used by field technicians to execute the semi-annual monitoring program.
- Prepared for the spring 2024 semi-annual monitoring event, which included: coordinating with well owners to develop monitoring schedule, organized and prepared the water quality sample bottles received from the Clinical laboratory, scheduling appointments with well owners, booking accommodations, inventorying field supplies, preparing field forms, and developing schedule of monitoring activities that will occur over the five-day monitoring event.
- Performed the spring 2024 semi-annual field monitoring event from April 14 to April 18, 2024, which included visiting and monitoring wells across the Basin to collect groundwater level and quality data. Following each event, all field forms were scanned, and all data logger files were saved to the project directory.
- Prepared for and performed a well canvassing effort to identify active wells to add to the groundwater level and monitoring programs. This included: preparing a summary spreadsheet and map of the active wells to canvass, executing entry permits, scheduling appointments with well owners, conducting site inspections to determine the feasibility of incorporating the well into the groundwater monitoring program, collecting groundwater-quality samples and groundwater-level measurements, and analyzing results.
- Prepared outreach materials to communicate monitoring results with owners of private wells sampled for the first time in April 2024. Emailed well owners groundwater-quality results and groundwater-level measurements.
- Reviewed outcomes of the spring 2024 semi-annual monitoring event and discussed the next steps to add suitable wells identified during the canvassing effort to the monitoring network.
- Received, cataloged, processed into standard formats, and loaded to HydroDaVE (Watermaster's data management system) datasets collected in the field by Watermaster Staff in April 2024. All data were checked for quality assurance and control. The datasets included:
  - Manual water level measurements
  - Transducer water level data

- Field water quality parameters
- Laboratory water quality parameters for samples collected in the field by Watermaster Staff.
- Prepared Spring 2024 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Semi-Annual Report of Groundwater Level and Quality Results: Spring 2024.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- Due to success in adding new monitoring locations as a result of public outreach efforts, expenses related to the semi-annual monitoring events are greater than initially budgeted-for in the grant agreement. To cover the increased costs of groundwater-level and groundwater-quality, a grant amendment was submitted, which requested funding from Category (a) and Category (c) be re-allocated to Category (d). This amendment was submitted by BWD to DWR on July 15, 2024. This change is pending approval.

**Task 9 - Maintain and Enhance the Data Management System**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Cataloged, processed into standard formats, performed QA/QC, and loaded to HydroDaVE laboratory water quality parameters for samples collected in the field by BWD field staff at BWD wells in April 2024.
- Digitized and loaded well construction information for two private wells to DMS.
- Updated database with new information, photos, and sketches obtained for wells sampled and canvassed in the field during April 2024.
- Processed and uploaded historical groundwater elevation data for a private well in the Basin received from the well owner.
- Submitted spring 2024 groundwater level data to the DWR Monitoring Network Module (MNM).

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- Spring 2024 groundwater level data submitted to SGMA MNM.
- Spring 2024 groundwater level and quality data uploaded to HydroDaVE.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.



*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

#### **Task 10 - Annual Reporting to the Court and DWR**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

##### ***Annual Water Rights Accounting***

- No work performed during this reporting period.

##### ***Annual Report to the Court and DWR***

- No work performed during this reporting period.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

#### **Task 11 - Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield of the Borrego Springs Subbasin**

*The Borrego Springs Watermaster approved a scope-of-work to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2025. The scope-of-work includes five tasks, which are referenced below. The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Continued work on Task 4 – *Model Recalibration*, including:
  - Developed an approach to use OpenET as a validation check on the Farm Process's (FMP) ability to estimate evapotranspiration (ET) in the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM), including:
    - Developed scripts to download ET data from OpenET, post-process FMP results, and compare OpenET to FMP-estimated ET.
    - Applied the proposed OpenET approach to check results of the Pre-Calibrated version of the BVHM.
    - Prepared figures and tables to support the comparison of ET from OpenET to FMP-estimated ET.
  - Completed calibration of the FMP, including:
    - Reviewed FMP input files and FMP documentation to identify parameters to adjust during validation of the FMP-estimated ET.
    - Developed scripts to generate batch files during model recalibration, replace FMP parameters in input files, generate figures comparing Actual pumping to



- FMP-estimated pumping and FMP-estimated ET to OpenET-estimated ET, and summarize total irrigated acreage in FMP input files.
- Prepared figures and tables to support the comparison of ET from OpenET to FMP-estimated ET and FMP-estimated pumping to Actual pumping for water years 2021 and 2022.
- Distributed results of FMP calibration to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) via email for review.
- Continued performing recalibration of the BVHM, including:
  - Replaced FMP with the calibrated FMP.
  - Assigned Pilot Points Pilot Points and generated kriged surfaces of aquifer properties to calibrate.
  - Assigned scalar multipliers to calibrate subsurface inflows.
  - Configured PEST settings and prepared input files for PEST.
  - Performed model recalibration with PEST and ran thousands of model simulations.
  - Reviewed results of model recalibration simulations, including reviewing statistics, objective function, and observation target residuals.
  - Developed script to generate hydrographs comparing model-simulated vs. measured groundwater elevations to include recalibration statistics.
  - Began preparation of figures and tables to present results of BVHM recalibration.
  - Began preparation of a draft technical memorandum (TM) on the methods and results of Task 4.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.

**Task 12 – Prepare the 2025 GMP Update**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

- Set up word document templates for each chapter in the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) Assessment Report based on the draft report outline.
- Prepared summary of the Sustainable Management Criteria in the GMP and continued to work to compare current basin conditions to the criteria, including preparation of figures and tables.



- Began analysis of land subsidence in the Basin since 2014, including performing a literature review, reviewing InSAR data, developing a raster of subsidence, and preparing a map of historical subsidence in the Basin.

*Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:*

- None.

*Impediments to Completion of Task:*

- None.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- When the grant application was initially prepared, Watermaster assumed that its 5-year assessment and GMP update would be due in January 2025, as the initial alternative plan (which is comprised of the Judgment and GMP) was submitted in January 2020. Since the time of the grant application, DWR has informed Watermaster that (1) the 5-year assessment is not due until June 2026 and (2) that it will not accept or review an assessment for an alternative plan that has not been approved by the DWR. To date, the DWR has not provided input to the Watermaster on its findings related to the alternative plan submission for the Borrego Springs Subbasin. Therefore, Watermaster will not be able to complete the 5-year assessment and GMP update under the remaining timeframe of the grant, which ends March 31, 2025. In acknowledgement of this, BWD submitted a grant amendment to DWR on July 15, 2024 which proposed to use the grant funding to prepare a framework document for the 5-year assessment and a recommended scope of work to complete the assessment (assuming input from DWR received before the grant deadline). The framework document can be used as a template for future 5-year assessment updates and will include development of standard figures and table templates that can be used to assess sustainability based on basin conditions and Sustainable Management Criteria. The deliverable would be a draft and final framework document and the standard graphics to demonstrate progress towards sustainability. This change is pending approval.

**CATEGORY (E) STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH.** The work performed for this task includes stakeholder outreach activities to support the implementation and communication of the Component 7 tasks.

**Task 13 - Interested Party Outreach**

*The work performed for this task during the reporting period included:*

***Technical Advisory Committee Meetings\****

\*Note: all TAC meetings were held remotely during the reporting period.

- Prepared for and held public Ad-Hoc TAC working meeting on May 1, 2024.



- Prepared technical information and presentation materials for the May 1, 2024 Ad-Hoc TAC working meeting.
- Prepared and sent a report-out of the May 1, 2024 Ad-Hoc TAC meeting to the TAC members via email. All TAC meeting documents and recordings are available on the Watermaster's website.
- Began preparing for a public TAC working meeting on July 1, 2024.

#### ***Stakeholder Open House***

- Prepared for, attended, and presented at the April 3, 2024 BWD Town Hall. The attendee was Samantha Adams.
- Produced outreach materials and PowerPoint Presentation for the May 9, 2024 Borrego Springs Watermaster Open House.
- Conducted Open House on May 9, 2024 at the Borrego Springs Library from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Open House was run by Andy Malone, Samantha Adams, and Clay Kelty.

#### ***Maintain Website and Grant Communications***

- Updated TAC resources page on the Watermaster website to provide information on the Redetermination the Sustainable Yield.

#### ***Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted:***

- May 1, 2024 Ad-Hoc TAC meeting agenda, presentation, and meeting report-out.
- May 9, 2024 Stakeholder Open House Meeting: meeting notice, outreach materials, PowerPoint, and meeting summary.

#### ***Impediments to Completion of Task:***

- No impacts to report for this period.

*Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.*

- No impacts to report for this period.



### **3. Activities for Next Reporting Period:**

#### **Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands**

Work to be completed during the next invoice period (July through September 2024) includes:

##### **CATEGORY (A) COMPONENT ADMINISTRATION**

- Manage staff and report on project progress.
- Prepare quarterly invoices and quarterly progress report for submittal to BWD and DWR for the reimbursement period of April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
- Perform monthly project management tasks including budget, schedule, and scope of work progress evaluations.

**CATEGORY (B) and (C)** are not applicable to this component.

##### **CATEGORY (D) MONITORING, ASSESSMENT**

###### **Task 1 – Review and Analysis of Existing Data**

- This task is complete.

###### **Task 2 - Existing Fallowed Farmland and Reference Natural Habitat Field Study**

- Finalize and publish Habitat Field Study Report.

###### **Task 3 - Brush Pile Wildlife Sand Fence Case Study**

- Complete construction of sand fence samples and install monitoring equipment.
- Collect preliminary data from sand fence samples.

###### **Task 4 - Farmland Fallowing Rehabilitation Strategies**

- Synthesize results from Task 1 (literature review), Task 2 (habitat study), and preliminary results from Task 3 (sand fences) to begin preparation of recommendations to update the fallowing standards.

###### **Task 5 - Farmland Fallowing Prioritization**

- No activity planned.

##### **CATEGORY (E) STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH MONITORING, ASSESSMENT**

###### **Task 6 - Conduct Environmental Working Group (EWG) Meetings**

- Prepare for an EWG Meeting to be held in July 2024 to discuss results of the draft report on the Existing Fallowed Farmland and Reference Natural Habitat Field Study (Task 2).





## **Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update**

Work to be completed during the next invoice period (July through September 2024) includes:

### **CATEGORY (A) COMPONENT ADMINISTRATION**

- Prepare quarterly invoices and quarterly progress report for submittal to BWD and DWR for the reimbursement period of April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
- Perform monthly project management tasks including budget, schedule, and scope of work progress evaluations.

### **CATEGORY (B) PLANNING, DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL**

#### **Task 1 – Environmental Documentation/Permitting**

- No work planned.

#### **Task 2 – Design Plans and Specifications**

- Develop draft and final conversion plans for wells being converted to monitoring stations. Conversion activities may include: repairing well casings, constructing concrete bases, and adding stick-ups to ground surface.

### **CATEGORY (C) CONSTRUCTION, IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **Task 3 - Construction Management**

- Perform site visit to document well conditions prior to conversion activities.

#### **Task 4 - Construction of New Monitoring Facilities (Surface Water Station)**

- No work planned. This task has been omitted pursuant to the grant amendment approved by DWR on February 26, 2024.

#### **Task 5 – Identify and Address Improperly Abandoned Wells**

- Continue to identify owners of abandoned wells.
- Perform outreach to well owners to request permission to perform well conversions by preparing and sending well-specific outreach materials.
- Execute data confidentiality agreements for owners of inactive/abandoned wells participating in the groundwater monitoring program.

### **CATEGORY (D) MONITORING, ASSESSMENT**

#### **Task 6 - Groundwater Pumping Monitoring**

##### ***Monthly Collection and Processing of Meter Read Data***

- Collect and process monthly meter reads for June, July, and August 2024.
- Complete monthly calculation of pumping data for all metered wells for June, July, and August 2024.



***Annual Meter Verification***

- No work planned.

**Tasks 7 and 8 - Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring**

***Semi-Annual Monitoring Events***

- Begin scheduling logistics for the Fall 2024 monitoring event.

***Prepare Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update***

- This task is complete.

**Task 9 - Maintain and Enhance the Data Management System**

- Collect and process any available cooperator data.

**Task 10 - Annual Reporting to the Court and DWR**

***Annual Water Rights Accounting***

- No work planned.

***Annual Report to the Court and DWR***

- No work planned.

**Task 11 - Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield of the Borrego Springs Subbasin**

- Continue and complete work on model recalibration (Task 4 of approved scope-of-work).
- Estimate the *Preliminary* Sustainable Yield based on results of Task 4.
- Prepare technical memorandum on the methods and results of performing Task 4 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield – *Model Recalibration*.
- Begin work on Task 5 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield – *Determine the Sustainable Yield*, including:
  - Hold meetings with pumpers in the Basin to discuss future groundwater pumping and Carryover plans to inform the development of projection scenarios to use in the Basin.
  - Extend the calibrated BHVM through the projection period and update input files.

**Task 12: Prepare the 2025 GMP Update**

- Continue preparation of figures, texts, and tables of the 5-year GMP Assessment Report.



## **CATEGORY (E) STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH**

### **Task 13 - Interested Party Outreach**

#### ***Technical Advisory Committee Meetings***

- Conduct a working meeting of the TAC in July 2024 to discuss and obtain feedback on i) the methodology and preliminary results of performing Task 4 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield – *Model Recalibration* and, ii) a status update on the 5-year GMP Assessment Report
- Conduct an Ad-Hoc working meeting of the TAC in August 2024 to discuss and obtain feedback on the results of model recalibration performed as part of Task 4 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield.

#### ***Stakeholder Open House***

- No work planned.

#### ***Maintain Website and Grant Communications***

- Update Watermaster website with latest documents.



#### 4. Project Cost Update:

##### Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST INCURRED THIS REPORTING PERIOD:	\$60,757.35
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST INCURRED TO DATE:	\$408,565.83

##### Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST INCURRED THIS REPORTING PERIOD:	\$179,052.89
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST INCURRED TO DATE:	\$1,125,244.25



## 5. Other Major Issues:

### Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

Fewer contractors than anticipated submitted bids to construct the sand fence study under Category (d) Task 3 – Brush Pile Wildfire Sand Fence Case Study, in part due to the grant requirements and remoteness of the work site. The difficulty in identifying and hiring a contractor has resulted in a delay in the schedule and an increased cost due to the contractor selected. However, due to completing Task 2 ahead of budget, it is anticipated that any remaining budget will be repurposed to complete Task 3. The sand fences are anticipated to be completed a few months later than initially planned, therefore reducing the period in which monitoring can occur. However, discussion is underway to have research students from the University of California Irvine (UCI) continue monitoring the sand fence sites after the end of the grant period. UCI has proposed to create research questions to be studied by a small group (3 to 4 student) of second year Masters students in their capstone project for their degree at UCI in the Masters in Conservation and Restoration Science. The cost to perform the monitoring and work will be covered by UCI.

### Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update

In the initial grant agreement, the surface water monitoring station implementation was deemed infeasible to complete at the present time because there is insufficient time in the remaining grant period to address access agreements with the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and limited time to perform the monitoring within the grant period. An amendment was submitted by BWD to modify the scope of work to remove and adjust tasks and associated budgets (as described previously) on July 27, 2023. This change was approved by DWR on February 26, 2024. The Progress Report has been updated to reflect the approved changes to the grant agreement.

On July 15, 2024, BWD submitted another amendment to DWR requesting to i) transfer portions of the budgets of Category (a) and Category (c) to Category (d) and, ii) reduce the scope *Category (d), Task 12. Prepare the 2025 GMP Update*. The reasons for these modifications are described in their respective Categories of this report. This change is pending approval.

**Component 6. Quarter 2 - Watermaster Monitoring Reporting and GMP Update****Cat. (a) Component Administration**

Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Component Administration	2058297	4/30/2024	\$ 248.00
West Yost	Component Administration	2058659	5/31/2024	\$ 55.25
West Yost	Component Administration	2059259	6/30/2024	\$ 355.50
Land IQ	Component Administration	6009	4/30/2024	\$ 1,991.99
Land IQ	Component Administration	6079	5/31/2024	\$ 1,497.50
Land IQ	Component Administration	6123	6/30/2024	\$ 1,221.50
<b>Component Administration Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 5,369.74</b>

**Cat. (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design**

Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
<b>Environmental/Engineering/Design Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ -</b>

**Cat. (c): Implementation/Construction**

Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
<b>Implementation/Construction Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ -</b>

**Cat. (d): Monitoring/Assessment**

Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Task 2: Habitat Field Study	2058297	4/30/2024	\$ 600.00
West Yost	Task 3: Sand Fence Case Study	2058297	4/30/2024	\$ 552.50
West Yost	Task 3: Sand Fence Case Study	2059259	6/30/2024	\$ 158.00
Land IQ	Task 2: Habitat Field Study	6009	4/30/2024	\$ 9,465.00
Land IQ	Task 4: Following Rehab Strategies	6009	4/30/2024	\$ 821.25
Land IQ	Task 3: Sand Fence Case Study	6009	4/30/2024	\$ 2,403.00
Land IQ	Task 2: Habitat Field Study	6079	5/31/2024	\$ 7,088.76
Land IQ	Task 3: Sand Fence Case Study	6079	5/31/2024	\$ 3,946.84
Land IQ	Task 4: Following Rehab Strategies	6079	5/31/2024	\$ 1,273.75
Land IQ	Task 2: Habitat Field Study	6123	6/30/2024	\$ 9,865.76
Land IQ	Task 3: Sand Fence Case Study	6123	6/30/2024	\$ 18,058.00
Land IQ	Task 4: Following Rehab Strategies	6123	6/30/2024	\$ 48.75
<b>Monitoring/Assessment Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 54,281.61</b>

**Cat. (e): Engagement/Outreach**

Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Task 6: EWG Meetings	2058659	5/31/2024	\$ 316.00
West Yost	Task 6: EWG Meetings	2059259	6/30/2024	\$ 790.00
<b>Engagement/Outreach Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 1,106.00</b>

**COMPONENT GRAND TOTAL \$ 60,757.35**

Component 7. Quarter 2 - Watermaster Monitoring Reporting and GMP Update				
Cat. (a) Component Administration				
Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Component Administration	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 5,746.25
West Yost	Component Administration	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 5,549.75
West Yost	Component Administration	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 2,257.25
<b>Component Administration Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 13,553.25</b>
Cat. (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design				
Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Task 1/2: Documentation, Design Plans and Specifications	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 4,614.00
West Yost	Task 1/2: Documentation, Design Plans and Specifications	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 974.50
<b>Environmental/Engineering/Design Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 5,588.50</b>
Cat. (c): Implementation/Construction				
Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Task 5: Identify and Address Improperly Abandoned Wells	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 233.25
<b>Implementation/Construction Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 233.25</b>
Cat. (d): Monitoring/Assessment				
Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring - Annual Meter Verification	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 385.50
West Yost	Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring - Monthly Meter Reading	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 2,750.00
West Yost	Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring - Monthly Meter Reading	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 5,969.75
West Yost	Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring - Annual Meter Verification	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 579.50
West Yost	Task 7/8: Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Program - Semi Annual Monitoring Events	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 31,096.89
West Yost	Task 7/8: Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Program - Semi Annual Monitoring Events	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 6,970.75
West Yost	Task 10: Maintain and Enhance Data Management System	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 1,602.00
West Yost	Task 10: Maintain and Enhance Data Management System	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 2,332.50
West Yost	Task 12: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 15,438.75
West Yost	Task 12: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 27,788.25
West Yost	Task 13: Prepare the 2025 GMP Update	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 373.50
West Yost	Task 13: Prepare the 2025 GMP Update	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 5,641.75
West Yost	Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring - Annual Meter Verification	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 110.50
West Yost	Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring - Monthly Meter Reading	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 853.25
West Yost	Task 7/8: Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Program - Semi Annual Monitoring Events	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 2,875.50
West Yost	Task 10: Maintain and Enhance Data Management System	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 221.00
West Yost	Task 12: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 36,524.50
West Yost	Task 13: Prepare the 2025 GMP Update	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 2,422.50
<b>Monitoring/Assessment Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 143,936.39</b>
Cat. (e): Engagement/Outreach				
Invoice Description(VENDOR)	Notes/Description	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
West Yost	Task 14 Outreach - TAC Working Meetings	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 1,590.50
West Yost	Task 14: Outreach - Stakeholder Open House	2058295	4/30/2024	\$ 2,362.50
West Yost	Task 14: Outreach - Stakeholder Open House	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 4,046.25
West Yost	Task 14 Outreach - TAC Working Meetings	2058658	5/31/2024	\$ 2,195.50
West Yost	Task 14 Outreach - TAC Working Meetings	2059258	6/30/2024	\$ 5,546.75
<b>Engagement/Outreach Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 15,741.50</b>
<b>COMPONENT GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 179,052.89</b>