

MEETING MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting
Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

Andy Malone (Lead Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m., at which time he confirmed the meeting was being recorded.

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:

Technical Advisory Committee Members	Bob Wagner, PE (Principal Water Resources Engineer, Wagner & Bonsignore) – <i>representing AWARE</i>
	Bob Abrams (Principal Geologist, Aquilogic), alternate for Tom Watson – <i>representing T2 Borrego</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>
Watermaster Staff	Dr. Russell Detwiler (University of California, Irvine) – <i>representing the Borrego Springs Community</i>
	Andy Malone, PG (Principal Geologist, West Yost)
	Samantha Adams (Executive Director, West Yost)
	Eric Chiang, PhD (Principal Engineer, West Yost)
Others Present	Lauren Salberg, GIT (Staff Geologist, West Yost)
	Leonardo Urrego (Wagner & Bonsignore)
	Leanne Crow (Board Alternative - County of San Diego)
	George Peraza (DWR)
	Cathy Milkey (T2 Rams Hill)

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Discuss results of Task 4 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield – *Model Recalibration* (begins at 05:42 in the [meeting recording](#))

West Yost staff presented the *Preliminary Sustainable Yield* and the results of the sensitivity analysis performed for Task 4 – *Model Recalibration*. TAC discussion and questions included:

- Discussion on the boundary and model cells included in the calculation of the water budget for the portion of the model overlying the Borrego Springs Subbasin. Mr. Malone described that the Basin-only water budget is calculated for only the cells within the red boundary shown on [meeting presentation slides 4 and 5](#).
- The TAC requested a two-week period to review the Task 4 memo, once distributed.
- West Yost staff committed to releasing a detailed schedule to the TAC for the remainder of activities to complete the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield.

IV. Discuss pumping projections for Task 5 – *Redetermine the Sustainable Yield* (begins at 33:24 in the [meeting recording](#)). West Yost staff presented on the objectives and methods for performing Task 5 to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield – *Determine the Sustainable Yield*. TAC discussion and questions included:

- The majority of the discussion was focused on the topic of re-evaluating Minimum Thresholds and Undesirable Results during the process to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield. The discussion included:
 - Trey Driscoll informed staff that re-establishing Sustainable Management Criteria, such as Minimum Thresholds and Undesirable Results, requires a comprehensive stakeholder process. Mr. Driscoll expressed concern for attempting to re-establish the Sustainable Management Criteria while performing the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield because: i) there is not enough time to perform an involved stakeholder engagement process and meet the January 1, 2025 deadline, and ii) it is premature to reassess these metrics prior to receiving comments from DWR. Ultimately, Mr. Driscoll recommended that the Sustainable Management Criteria be re-evaluated after the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield.
 - West Yost staff clarified that only the Sustainable Management Criteria for groundwater-level and groundwater storage would be re-evaluated during the process of Redetermining the Sustainable Yield.
 - West Yost staff described that the need to revisit Sustainable Management Criteria during the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield is to ensure future groundwater conditions are assessed to identify whether Undesirable Results may occur as a result of the Redetermined Sustainable Yield.
 - Trey Driscoll described the process for setting the Minimum Threshold and Undesirable Result for groundwater storage using the 20th percentile results from the Monte Carlo Simulation.
 - Trey Driscoll recommended to review and describe how Undesirable Results are described qualitatively in the GMP.
 - If Sustainable Management Criteria are re-established, they would be updated in the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) as part of the 5-year assessment.
 - The 5-Year GMP Assessment is due in June 2026; however, work is currently being performed to maximize use of SGM grant funding.
 - West Yost staff clarified that the Judgment does not require that Sustainable Management Criteria be re-evaluated as part of the process to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield.

- Overall, the TAC expressed the need for additional clarity on the motivation for re-evaluating Sustainable Management Criteria during the process to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield.
- West Yost staff described examples of Project and Management Actions (PMAs), which could be proposed as a mitigation measure if Undesirable Results occur under the Sustainable Yield. Trey Driscoll provided an example of a PMA in the GMP related to domestic wells adjacent to BWD's infrastructure.
- During the performance of developing pumping projections, West Yost staff has not analyzed the amount of Carryover available to Parties in need of lease or transfer. Mr. Driscoll noted that he and BWD are planning to perform an analysis to estimate how much Carryover may be available in the future for lease or transfer amongst Parties.

Public comment included:

- Cathy Milkey stated that if there are changes to Carryover, the changes would not apply retroactively (*i.e.* Carryover that has already been purchased and accrued would not be impacted).

V. Update: 5-Year Groundwater Management Plan Assessment Report (begins at 01:44:21 in the [meeting recording](#)). Mr. Malone presented the preliminary results of the subsidence analysis in the Borrego Springs Subbasin. TAC comment included:

- Trey Driscoll noted that the InSAR data has an accuracy of 0.06 feet. Additionally, he has data for three GPS stations in Borrego Springs, which show a similar total amount of subsidence as indicated by InSAR. Mr. Driscoll offered to share the data and analysis.

At 1:03 pm, Mr. Malone asked TAC members if they could stay past the scheduled 1pm meeting time. Multiple TAC members indicated they had conflicts and had to leave the meeting. The second portion of Agenda Item V was postponed.

VI. Public Comments (begins at 01:52:01 in the [meeting recording](#))

Mr. Malone asked for public comments and any public comments. Public comment included:

- Concern regarding asking the Judge for a schedule extension to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield.
- Concern if Carryover rules need to be evaluated at the same time as the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield, given that the maximum Carryover is known (2x of BPA).

VII. Future TAC Meetings

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

- Pumping projections scenarios to use during Task 5 – *Redetermine the Sustainable Yield*
- Status update on the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.