

MEETING MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

Andy Malone (Lead Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 following individuals were present at the meeting:

Technical Advisory Committee Members	Bob Wagner, PE (Principal Water Resources Engineer, Wagner & Bonsignore) – <i>representing AAWARE</i>
	Tom Watson, PG (Principal Geologist, Aquilogic) – <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>
	Dr. Russell Detwiler (University of California, Irvine) – <i>representing the Borrego Springs Community</i> – arrived later in the meeting
Watermaster Staff	Andy Malone, PG (Principal Geologist, West Yost)
	Samantha Adams (Executive Director, West Yost)
	Eric Chiang (Principal Engineer, West Yost)
	Lauren Salberg, GIT (Staff Geologist, West Yost)
Others Present	Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe (Wagner & Bonsignore)
	Leanne Crow (Board Alternative – County of San Diego)
	Diane Johnson (Borrego Water District Board member)
	Geoff Poole (Borrego Water District)
	George Peraza (DWR)
	Aileen (<i>last name unknown</i>)

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Review Board and Public Comment on the Redetermination of the 2025 Sustainable Yield.

West Yost staff summarized Board and public comments made on the 2025 Sustainable Yield during the November 2024 Board Meeting and Stakeholder Open House (also included in the Agenda Package). TAC discussion included:

- Mr. Peterson stated his overall takeaway from November 2024 Board Meeting was that the recommended Sustainable Yield should be rounded because this value does not imply a level of accuracy to the nearest acre-foot.
- All TAC members present verbally stated they did not have additional comments on the 2025 Sustainable Yield and they did not plan to change their recommendations in the draft TAC Recommendation Report.

IV. Scope of Work to Support the Redetermination of the 2030 Sustainable Yield.

West Yost staff presented potential tasks and workflows that could be recommended as part of the 2030 Scope of Work to redetermine the Sustainable Yield. The TAC was asked to provide verbal recommendations and prioritization of the tasks presented. TAC discussion and questions included:

- TAC members provided verbal recommendations/prioritizations of new data and information that should be reviewed during the first two years of the scope of work (see [meeting presentation slide 23](#))
- What are examples of new information that would be reviewed in water year (WY) 2026 – 2027? An example of new data/information to review are the results from the DWR’s Airborne Electromagnetic Survey (AEM).
- Is monitoring included in the 2030 Scope of Work? No, the data collected from the Watermaster’s Groundwater Monitoring Program will be used in the 2030 Scope of Work, but the monitoring program is a separate effort driven by the Watermaster’s Groundwater Monitoring Plan, which will likely be discussed at future TAC meetings.
 - Three members of the TAC (John Peterson, Trey Driscoll, and Bob Wagner) emphasized the importance of continuing to collect monitoring data (e.g., groundwater-level and groundwater-pumping data).
- General agreement amongst the TAC of implementing a workflow process in the scope of work, where the level of effort of future tasks is determined by the results from prior tasks.
- Hesitation in making recommendations on a scope before data are reviewed (*i.e.* results of the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem [GDE] study). West Yost clarified that the first step in the proposed workflow is to identify *which* data to review, perform the review, and use the results to inform TAC recommendations for the next step(s) of the scope.
- TAC members expressed difficulty in recommending a scope of work for the next four years due to: i) uncertainty in what data to review and comparison of the data to model results, ii) lack of a detailed scope of work, and iii) lack of detailed cost estimates (due to scope uncertainty).
- Discussion on the task for reviewing new information related to natural inflows to the Basin. There was confusion regarding what this task would entail. Comments included:
 - Concerns with making physical measurements of streamflow in the Basin due to i) access to sites in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and ii) the difficulty of measuring streamflow in the Basin. Four TAC members recommended against performing physical measurements due to the level of difficulty.
 - Mr. Driscoll recommended that the inflows estimated by the Basin Characterization Model (BCM) be investigated as part of an effort for evaluating inflows since the current methods of estimating inflows from the BCM cannot be reproduced.

- The prioritization of a future scope of work should consider how the work could influence the Basin-wide water budget and, therefore, the Sustainable Yield. Tasks with the most influence should be prioritized higher than tasks with minimal or localized influence on the water budget.
- A suggestion to recommend a basic scope that states that, at minimum, the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) should be used to estimate the 2030 Sustainable Yield and a more detailed scope will be developed after more data has been collected and reviewed.
- Concerns that the cost estimates are too expensive and, potentially, unrealistic. West Yost described that the cost estimates are high-level estimates that will be refined once a detailed scope is developed. The costs for the first two years of the scope (costs associated with evaluating the data) are more certain than costs associated with the latter two years of the scope. The costs associated with the scope for the last two years will be dependent on the results from earlier tasks and may not be performed if not recommended by the TAC and the Board.

Following the discussion, West Yost committed to preparing updated deliverables to share with the TAC for their review and consideration in recommending a 2030 Scope of Work.

V. Analysis of Carryover Rules.

West Yost gave a presentation on: i) the definition of Carryover in the Judgment, ii) results of the preliminary analysis of Carryover Rules, and iii) the Technical Consultant's preliminary recommendation on the analysis of Carryover Rules. TAC comments and questions included:

- Request by the TAC for West Yost to distribute the meeting presentation slides for further review by the TAC.
- The analysis of Carryover assumes a Party exercises 100% of their Carryover. This assumption is based on conversations with the Party on their future pumping plans.
- Pumping projections and simulations of future Carryover will only include projections for Parties who have expressed plans to use Carryover in the future.
- Recommendation to consider the use of all potential BPA through 2070, not just the evaluation of one Party.

VI. Storage Change Calculation - Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 – *Deferred to the December TAC meeting.*

VII. Public Comments.

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

- Mr. Peterson requested that a status update on the expansion of the Groundwater Monitoring Program be presented at the December TAC meeting. West Yost committed to discussing this topic during the agenda item on the 2030 Scope of Work at the December TAC meeting and distributing a summary on this topic ahead of the December TAC meeting.
- The Board has not asked the TAC or the Technical Consultant to review the results of the GDE study.

VIII. Future TAC Meetings

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2024 at 10:00 am. The proposed agenda items include:

- Storage Change Calculation – Spring 2023 to 2024
- Review of Board and Public comments on the Redetermination of the 2025 Sustainable Yield (if applicable)
- Review comments on the draft 2030 Scope of Work for the redetermination of the Sustainable Yield
- Analysis of Carryover Rules
- Pumping Projections to support the GMP Assessment Report

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.