Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

December 5, 2024

I. Opening Procedures

******This meeting is being recorded***

A. Call to Order and start meeting recording
B. Pledge of Allegiance
C. Roll Call
D. Approval of Agenda

II. Public Correspondence

II.A – Written Correspondence

- November 18, 2024 email from Travis Huxman (UCI)

II.B – Public Comment

Instructions for Public Comment

The public may address the Board on items within the Watermaster's Jurisdiction that are included or not included on the meeting agenda.

To address the Board on items that are not included on the meeting agenda, the public may request to speak during ***Agenda Item III – Public Correspondence***. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker.

To address the Board on items that are included on the meeting agenda, the Board Chairperson will call for public comments immediately following the agenda item's staff report presentation and prior to Board discussion.

The Board may direct staff to include topics brought forward during Public Correspondence and Comment on a future meeting agenda. No action or discussion is otherwise taken by the Board.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – November 7, 2024

B. Receive and file 2024 Q3 Grant Reimbursement Request Report (#7)

Note: Due to timing of this early December meeting, November 2024 Financials will be included in the December Special Meeting agenda for Approval

IV. Closed Session

V.A Redetermination of 2025 Sustainable Yield

Recommended Actions:

Redetermine the 2025 Sustainable Yield.

Alternative Action: Direct Watermaster Staff to continue discussion on the 2025 Sustainable Yield with the TAC at their upcoming December 9, 2024 TAC meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

None. The WY 2025 budget includes funds to Redetermine the 2025 Sustainable Yield.

Process to Redetermine the 2025 Sustainable Yield

- Executed a scope of work to improve and recalibrate the BVHM → water-budget results from *Recalibrated BVHM* was used to calculate Sustainable Yield
  - **Sustainable Yield = Natural Inflows – Natural Outflows**
- TAC and Technical Consultant prepared *draft* Recommendation Reports on the 2025 Sustainable Yield
  - Distributed to Board and Stakeholder distribution list
  - Discussed at November 7th Open House and Board Meeting
  - Written comments accepted through November 14th (none received)
- Board and public comments discussed at November 19th TAC meeting
- Final Recommendation Reports were prepared and in your agenda packet

TAC Recommendation

- TAC Recommendation Report is unchanged since November Board meeting
- *Majority TAC Recommendation:* The 2025 Sustainable Yield should be set at **7,952 afy**
  - TAC member recommendations ranged from **7,800 to 7,952 afy**
- Table 1 of the TAC Recommendation Report summarizes the recommendations and considerations for each TAC member

Technical Consultant Recommendations

Based on Board comments and questions, the TC Recommendation Report was **updated to include a description of how 'best available science' was used** to make the recommendation:

1. The 2025 Sustainable Yield should be set at **7,900 afy.** This value utilizes "best available science" because it considers all relevant scientific information, including:
   - Results of the *Calibrated BVHM* (7,952 afy)
   - Range of uncertainty in the Sustainable Yield from the uncertainty analysis (7,600 – 8,100 afy)
   - Average Sustainable Yield from the uncertainty analysis (7,800 afy)
2. Use the BVHM to simulate projection scenarios to assess future groundwater conditions under the Rampdown to the 2025 Sustainable Yield

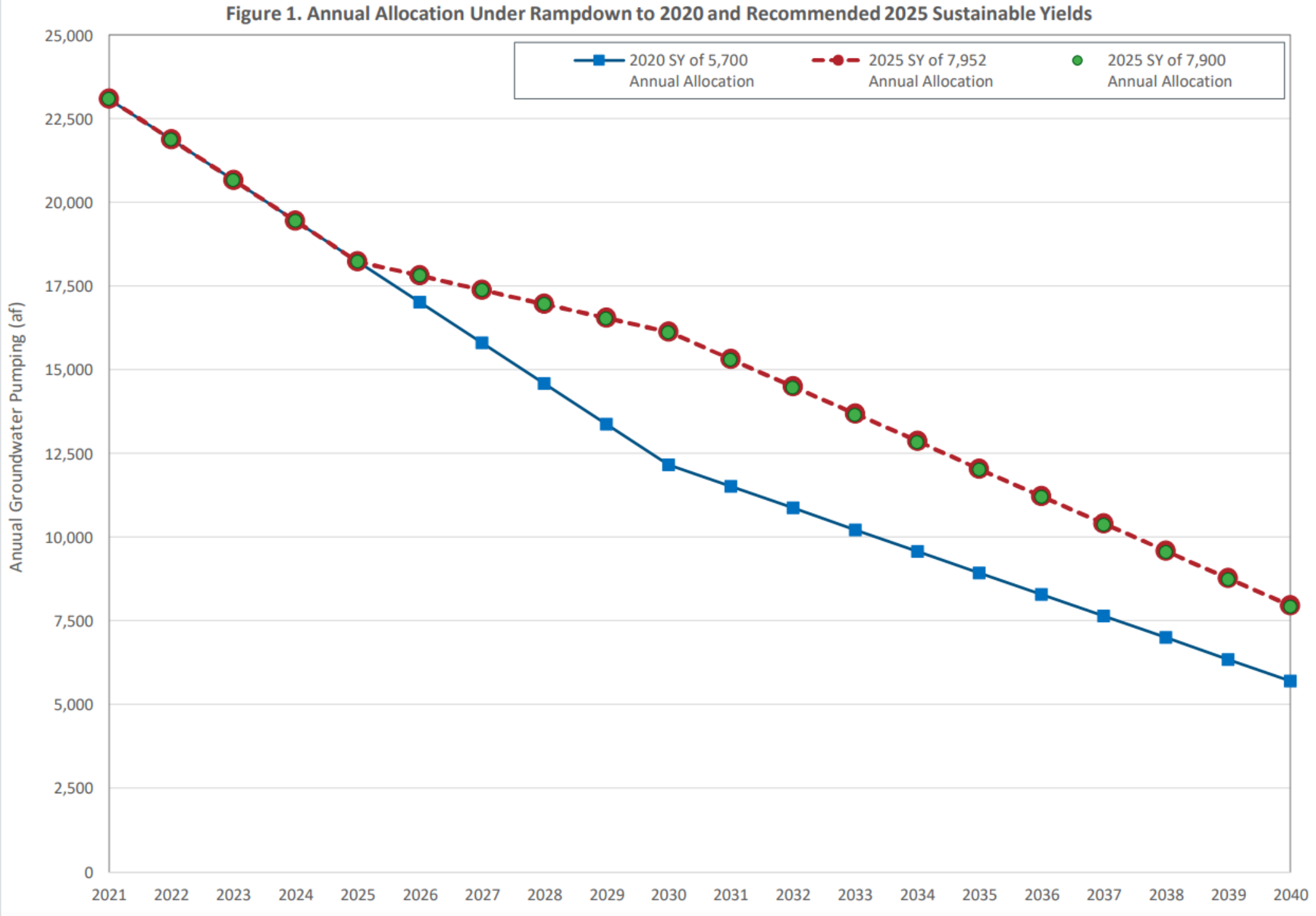
Rampdown under 2025 Sustainable Yield

- The Judgment provides guidance on how to modify the Pumping Rampdown if the 2025 Sustainable Yield is greater than or less than the 2020 Sustainable Yield.
- Judgment states

  "If the revised estimate of Sustainable Yield for the Second Five-Year Period exceeds or falls below 5,700 AFY, the Rampdown Rate will be reduced or increased, and **the 2030 Target will be increased** or reduced, proportional to the percentage that the revised estimate of Sustainable Yield exceeds or falls below 5,700 AFY, thus **achieving a cumulative quantity of all Pumper's Annual Allocation equal to the mid-point between the revised estimate of Sustainable Yield and the cumulative quantity of all Pumper's BPA by Water Year 2029-2030**" (emphasis added).

Rampdown under Recommended 2025 Sustainable Yields

- 2030 Target increases for either recommendation
- New Rampdown rate for next five years is ~1.75% per year to reach 2030 Target



Next Steps

If adopted today:

- Legal Counsel will report the redetermined Sustainable Yield to the Court as part of the February 2025 Status Conference report
- Watermaster staff will prepare notice to Parties, including tables describing new pumping allocations

If deferred today:

- December 9, 2024 – TAC meeting to discuss Board comments. The TAC may revise their recommendation report.
- December 19, 2024 - Board meeting to consider adoption of 2025 Sustainable Yield
- Above noted steps following adoption

V.A Redetermination of 2025 Sustainable Yield

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.B Entry Agreement with BWD for Access to the Viking Well

Recommended Action:

Provide direction to Watermaster Staff to execute an Entry Agreement with BWD to allow Watermaster Staff site access for (i) converting the Viking Well to a monitoring well and (ii) conducting future groundwater monitoring activities.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Viking Well

- Former abandoned well in the NMA near Coyote Creek → converted to monitoring well by USG through BWD's efforts
- Groundwater Monitoring Plan identified the Viking Well as a preferred candidate to expand the Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program
- Minor modifications are needed for monitoring well coversion
  - Modifications will be funded by the SGM grant
- Board was presented with various options to obtain access to Viking Well during prior Board meetings
- Board directed Staff to work with BWD to obtain access via a standard Entry Agreement

Viking Well – Draft Entry Agreement

- BWD prepared a draft Entry Agreement
- Watermaster Legal Counsel reviewed draft Entry Agreement and concluded it is:
  - Similar to other agreements executed with other well owners in the Basin
  - In substantial compliance with template included in the Judgment (Exhibit 8)

Next Steps

- With Board direction, execute Entry Agreement with BWD to obtain access to Viking Well
- Perform well modifications during a future field campaign
- Add well to groundwater-level monitoring network

V.B Entry Agreement with BWD for Access to the Viking Well

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.C Scope of Work to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield

Recommended Actions

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

The total cost is dependent on the work ultimately approved by the Board.

2030 Sustainable Yield Scope of Work

- The Judgment requires the Board to approve a scope of work for WY 2026-2029 to redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield by January 1, 2030
  - Scope of work should rely on best available science
- Scope will be used by the Board to establish budget priorities for WY 2026-2029

2030 Sustainable Yield Scope of Work

- Work Completed To-Date:
  - TAC discussed potential tasks to include in a scope-of-work at its October TAC meeting
  - TAC reviewed and commented on draft TM describing potential scope options
    - Main feedback → hesitant to recommend further work because the results of tasks are unknown
  - Revised potential scope options into a “workflow” concept and discussed at Nov. TAC meeting
  - Published a revised TM and asked for TAC recommendations
  - Prepared draft TAC Recommendation Report for TAC review
  - Prepared draft Technical Consultant Report

Minimum Required Scope of Work

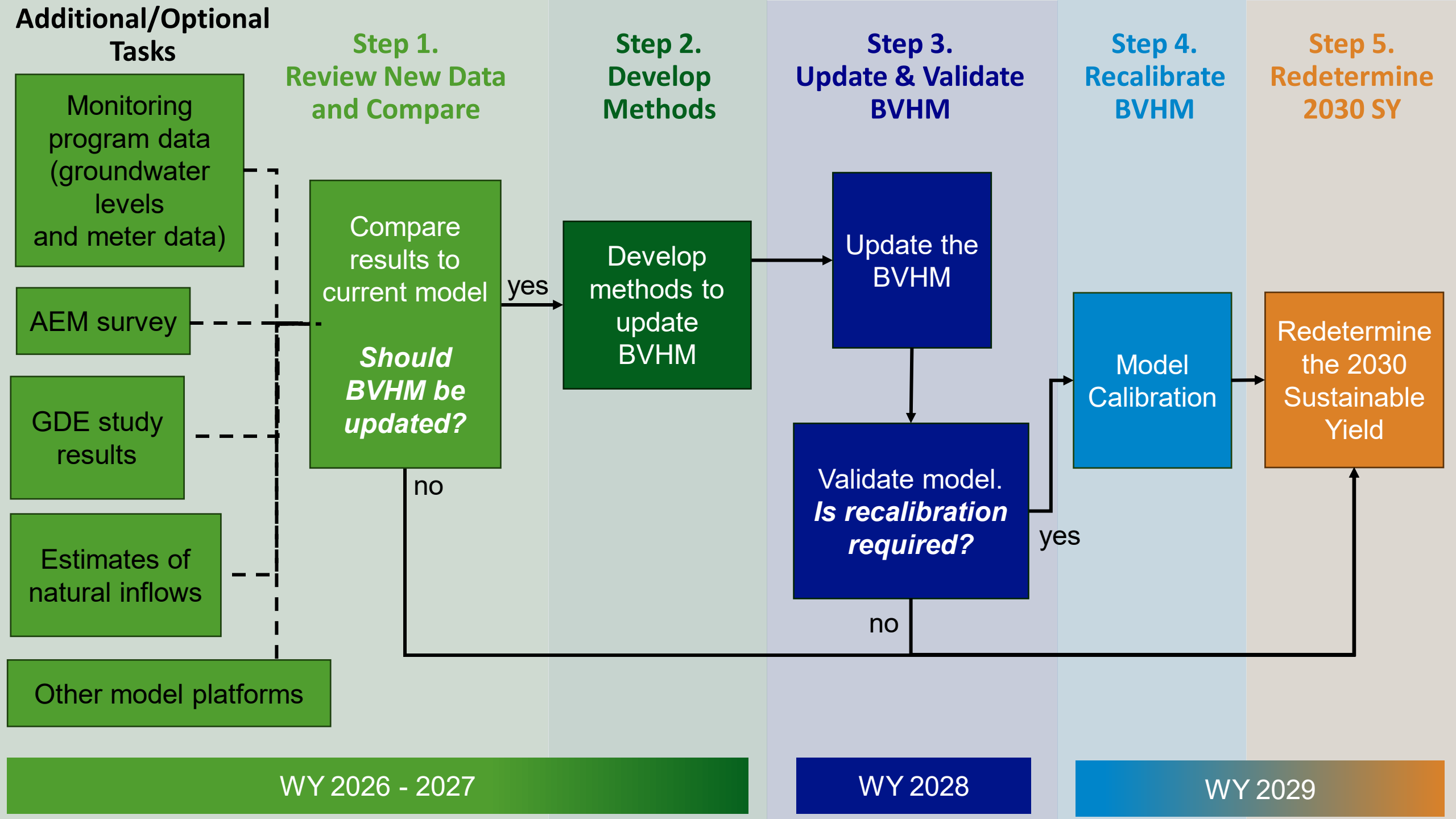
- **Objective:** Determine 2030 Sustainable Yield ***efficiently*** and at the ***lowest cost***
  - No further improvements to the BVHM
  - Use the same "water-budget" methods that were used to determine the 2025 Sustainable Yield
- **Steps:**
  1. Extend BVHM through WY 2028 (using updated data: metered pumping, land use, precipitation, ET). This involves no model improvements, just adding data to run the model through WY 2028.
  2. Use historical water budget from the BVHM to calculate the Sustainable Yield (natural inflows – natural outflows)
- **Limitation:** This scope may not be considered relying on "Best Available Science"

Additional/Optional Tasks Considered by TAC

- These are optional tasks that *could be* implemented to improve the BVHM and its ability to estimate the water budget
- The additional/optional tasks are focused on reviewing/evaluating/incorporating new data and information
- The evaluation of new data/info *might* necessitate the update and recalibration of the BVHM, but that need is unknown until the data/info are evaluated
- Introduced workflow concept to show steps that might follow the evaluation of the new data/information

Additional/Optional Tasks Considered by TAC

- **Task 1. Airborne Electromagnetic Survey (AEM) Results** → Should the hydrogeological conceptual model (HCM) be updated to improve the structure and aquifer properties assigned in the BVHM?
- **Task 2. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study Results** → Should improvements be made to the BVHM to improve its ability to simulate the evapotranspiration of shallow groundwater?
- **Task 3. Monitoring Program Data (groundwater-levels and metered pumping)** → Should improvements be made to the BVHM to improve its ability to estimate pumping and/or simulate groundwater levels?
- **Task 4. Estimates of Natural Inflows** → Should new, reproducible methods be developed to estimate the natural inflows to the Basin?
- **Task 5. Other Model Platform** → Should the current model platform be upgraded?


Additional/Optional Tasks
Monitoring program data (groundwater levels and meter data)
AEM survey
GDE study results
Estimates of natural inflows
Other model platforms
Step 1. Review New Data and Compare
Compare results to current model
Should BVHM be updated?
yes
no
Step 2. Develop Methods
Develop methods to update BVHM
Step 3. Update & Validate BVHM
Update the BVHM
Validate model. Is recalibration required?
yes
no
Step 4. Recalibrate BVHM
Model Calibration
Step 5. Redetermine 2030 SY
Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield
WY 2026 - 2027
WY 2028
WY 2029

Additional/Optional Tasks – Cost Estimates

- Costs are reported as a range because exact scope is not yet determined
- Cost of Step 1 is considered most certain → task will be performed first in WY 2026/27
- Total costs of Step 1 range from $40,000 to $260,000, depending on number of optional tasks selected

Additional/Optional Tasks	Cost Estimate for Step 1 in WYs 2026 and 2027
AEM Results	$55,000
GDE Study Results	$40,000
Monitoring Program Data	$55,000
Estimates of Natural Inflows	$50,000
Other Model Platforms	$60,000

Additional/Optional Tasks – Rough Cost Estimates for Subsequent Workflow

- Total costs of Steps 2-5 range from **$100,000 to $460,000**, depending on number of optional tasks selected and the outcomes of Step 1 – *Review New Data/Information*

Table 1. Cost Estimate for Additional/Optional Tasks

Step 2. Develop Methods		+	Step 3. Update & Validate	+	Step 4. Recalibrate the BVHM	+	Step 5. Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield
AEM Results	$30,000						
GDE Study Results	$30,000						
Monitoring Program Data (groundwater-level and metered pumping)	$30,000		$50,000 - $75,000		$100,000 - $230,000		$5,000 - $100,000
Estimates of Subsurface Inflow and Stream Inflow	$30,000						
Other Model Platforms	$30,000						
	$30,000 - $150,000		$50,000 - $75,000		$100,000 - $230,000		$5,000 - $100,000

Preliminary TAC Recommendation:

All TAC members recommend performing Optional/Additional Tasks:

Task No.	Task	Cost Estimate for Step 1	TAC Member Recommendations (Y/G/N)?[1]						Tally of TAC Member Recommendations		
			AAWARE	Borrego Springs Community	BWD	County of San Diego	Rams Hill	Roadrunner Club	Yes	Yes, if Grant Funded	No
1	AEM Results	**$55,000**	N	G	Y	Y	Y	G	3	2	1
2	GDE Study Results	**$40,000**	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	0	0
3	Monitoring Program Data	**$55,000**	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	0	0
4	Estimates of Natural Inflows	**$50,000**	N	G	Y	N	N	N	1	1	4
5	Other Model Platforms	**$60,000**	G	G	N	N	Y	G	1	3	2
	Total Cost of Tasks	**$260,000**	**$95,000**	**$95,000**	**$200,000**	**$95,000**	**$210,000**	**$95,000**			

Y = "Yes"
G = "Yes, but only if grant-funding available"
N = "No"

Technical Consultant Recommendation:

Scope of Work that relies on Best Available Science

- **Do not perform the Minimum Required Scope of Work** → scope does not consider new data/information and may not be considered best available science
- **Perform Step 1 of Additional/Optional Tasks 1, 2, and 3** → this scope considers new data/information
  - Task 1. AEM data (WY 2026)
  - Task 2. GDE study results (WY 2026)
  - Task 3. Groundwater Monitoring Program Data (WY 2027)
- The need for Steps 2-4 will be based on results of Step 1
- All other Additional/Optional Tasks (Tasks 4-5) should only be considered if grant funding is available

Next Steps

- **December 9, 2024:** TAC meeting to discuss *draft* TAC Recommendation Report and TAC and Board comments on the potential Scope of Work. The TAC may decide to revise Recommendation Report based on discussion/feedback from Dec. 5th Board meeting.
- **December 10, 2024:** TAC comments due on the *draft* TAC Recommendation Report
- **December 12, 2024:** *Final* TAC and Technical Consultant Recommendation Reports published
- **December 19, 2024:** Board meeting to consider approval of the Scope of Work

V.C Scope of Work to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.D Analysis of Carryover Rules

Recommended Actions:

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Carryover Rules (Judgment Section)

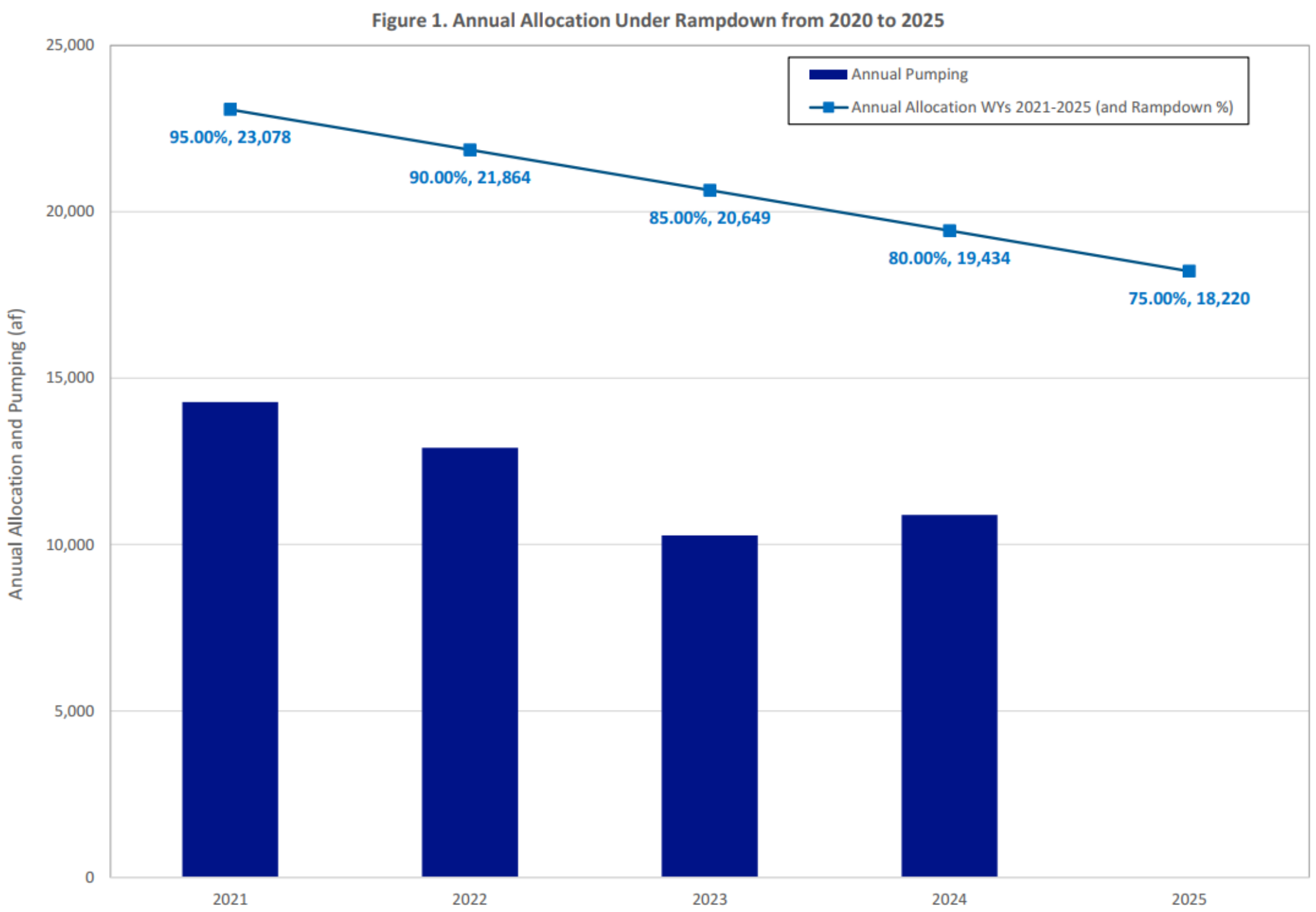
- **Carryover Definition.** Any portion of a Party's Annual Allocation not Pumped in the Water Year in which it is allowed, which may be accrued and produced in future Water Years, provided that the Party complies with the provisions of Section III.B (I.A)
- **Carryover Limits:** A Party can accrue Carryover up to two times their current Baseline Pumping Allocation (BPA) (III.B)
- **Carryover Elections.** During the water rights accounting process, each Party is given the opportunity to purchase unused Annual Allocation as Carryover. Carryover is paid for in the Annul Pumping Assessment as thought is was pumped in the prior year. Parties not in good standing are not eligible to purchase Carryover (IV.E.3)
- **Accounting of Carryover towards Pumping and Overproduction.** The first water pumped each year is Carryover. When calculating a Party's annual water use, any Carryover is applied first, followed by any leased Annual Allocation, and then the Party's current Annual Allocation. If Overproduction occurs, Carryover is applied first to offset the Overproduction (Section III.G)

Carryover Rules (Judgment Section)

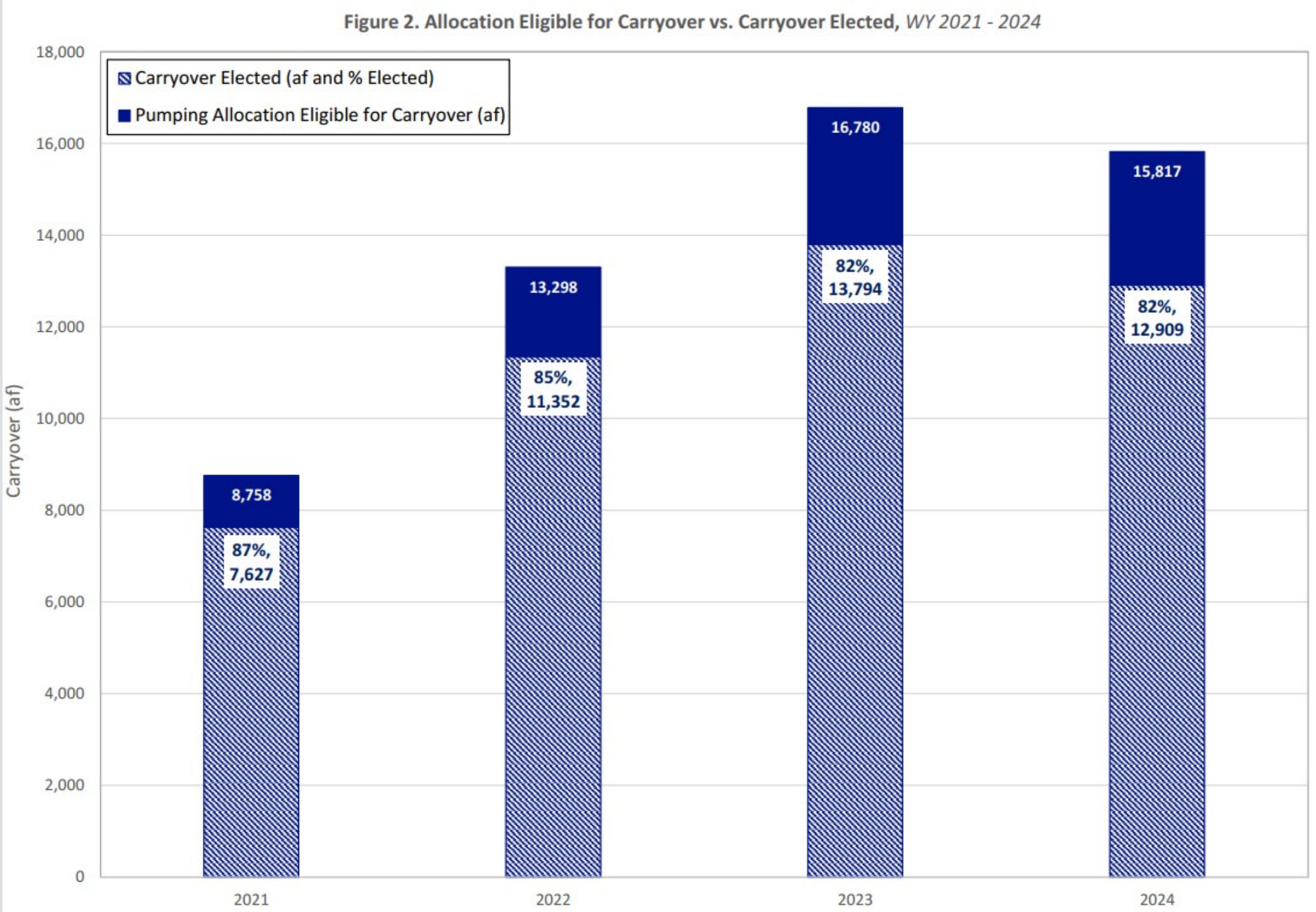
- **No Adjustments of Accrued Carryover:** Once Carryover has been accrued under the existing rules, those rules cannot be retroactively changed in a way that affects previously accumulated Carryover (III.B)
- **Duration of Carryover.** The Judgment does not specify an expiration date on accrued Carryover, other than to require that Carryover be accounted as the first water pumped each year
- **Evaluation of Carryover:**
  - Carryover will be re-evaluated by January 1, 2025, by Watermaster, with consultation of the TAC (III.B)
  - If Watermaster determines that it is necessary to adjust the amount of individual Carryover or the duration that Carryover may be held within the Basin to prevent Undesirable Results, the Watermaster shall advise the Court through a noticed motion for a subsequent order amending the Judgment (III.B)

Annual Allocation vs. Total Pumping

- Parties are ahead of Rampdown
- Unused Allocation available to purchase as Carryover

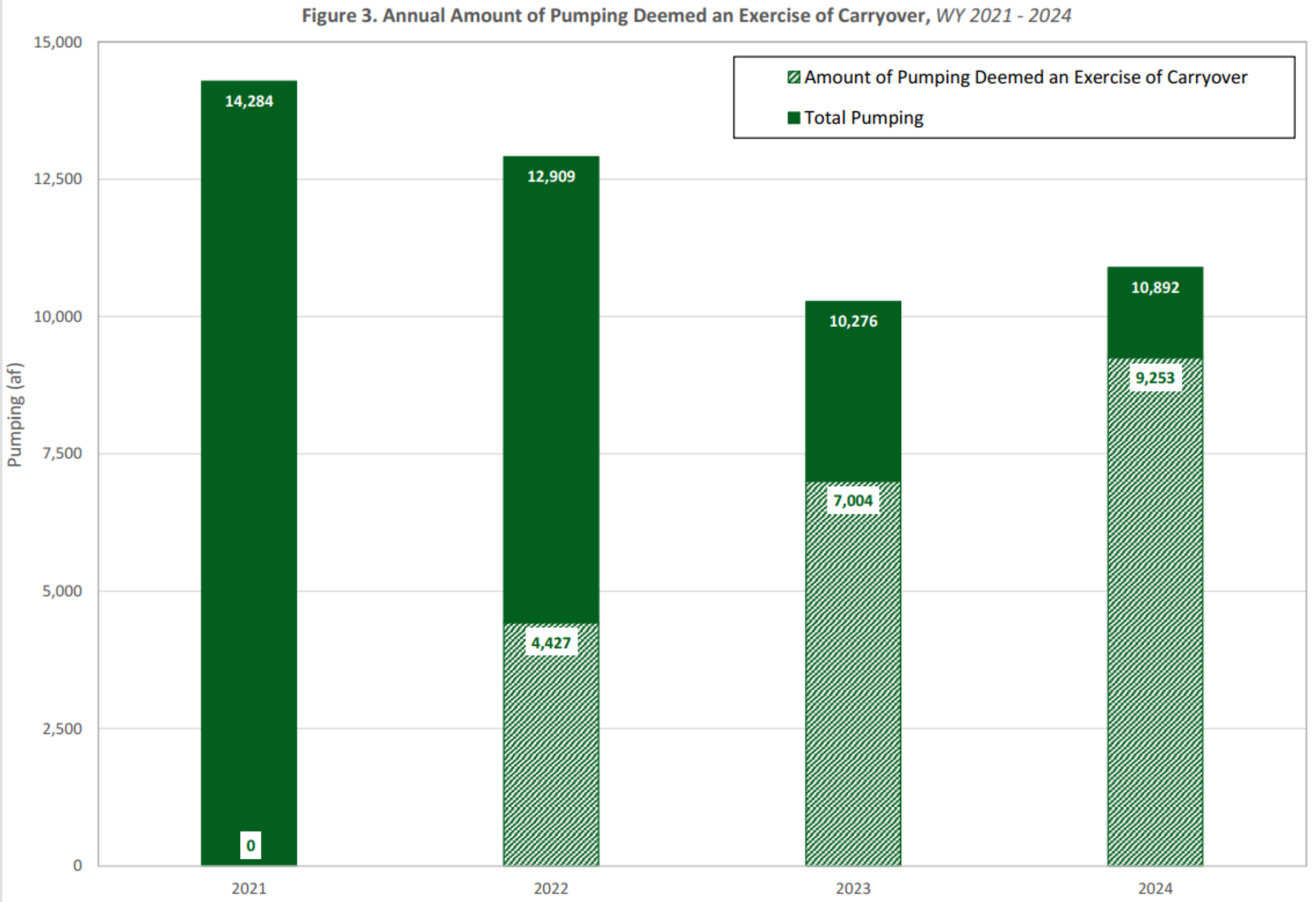


Most Carryover is Elected

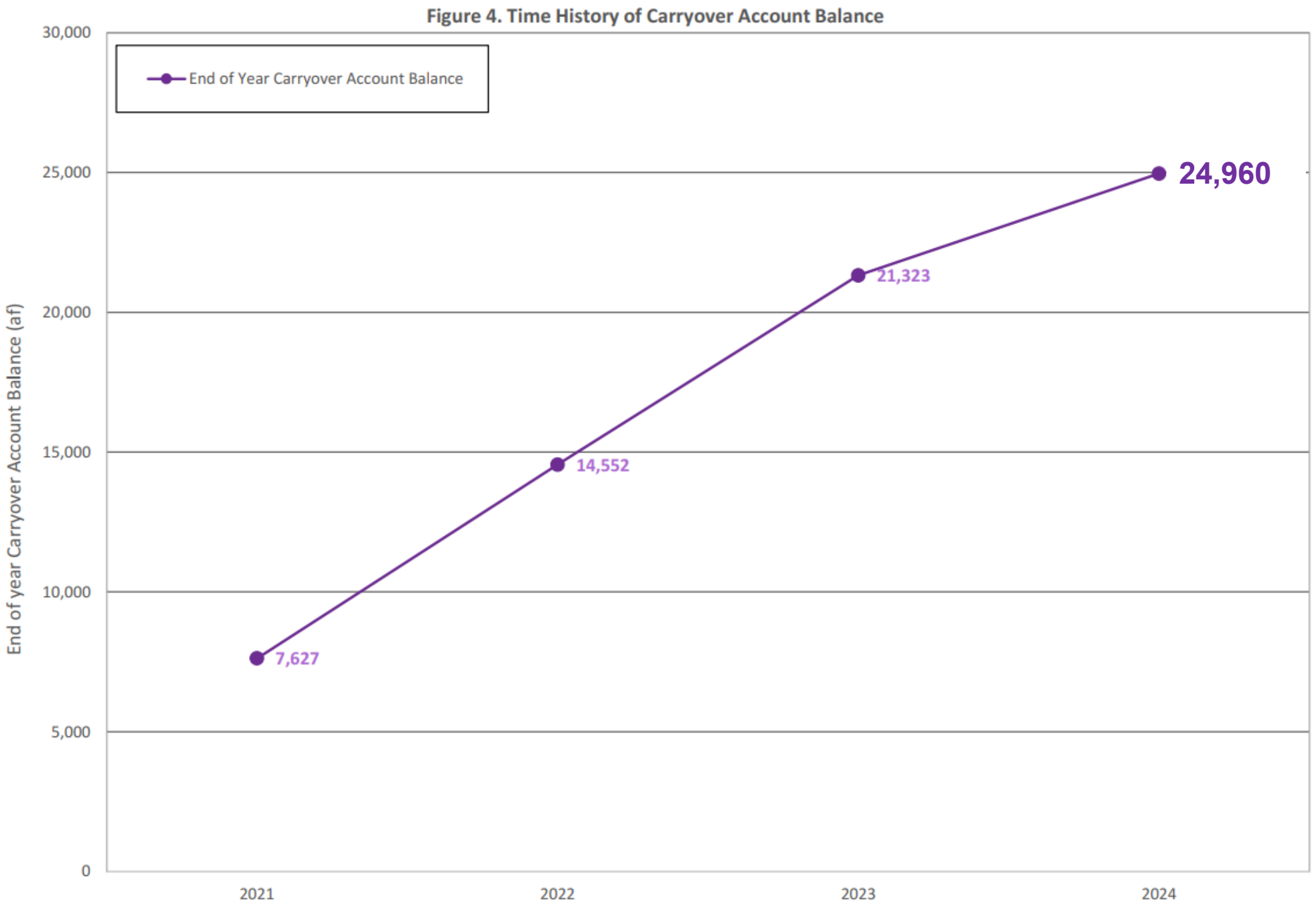


Increasing Amount of Annual of Pumping is Deemed Exercise of Carryover

- Carryover is 1st water pumped
- Less Annual Allocation is pumped and becomes eligible to purchase as Carryover



Rate of increase in the amount of Carryover accrued is slowing



Questions to Consider in Evaluating Carryover Rules

OBJECTIVE: Perform a ***simple analysis*** of the Carryover rules to make a recommendation to the Board, and obtain Board approval, by January 1, 2025.

Carryover rules should only be changed if they prevent the Watermaster Parties from achieving sustainability by 2040 and beyond by causing Undesirable Results that cannot be mitigated.

Questions to Consider:

- Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?
- If yes, will this lead to Undesirable Results? (Modeling required to answer this question)

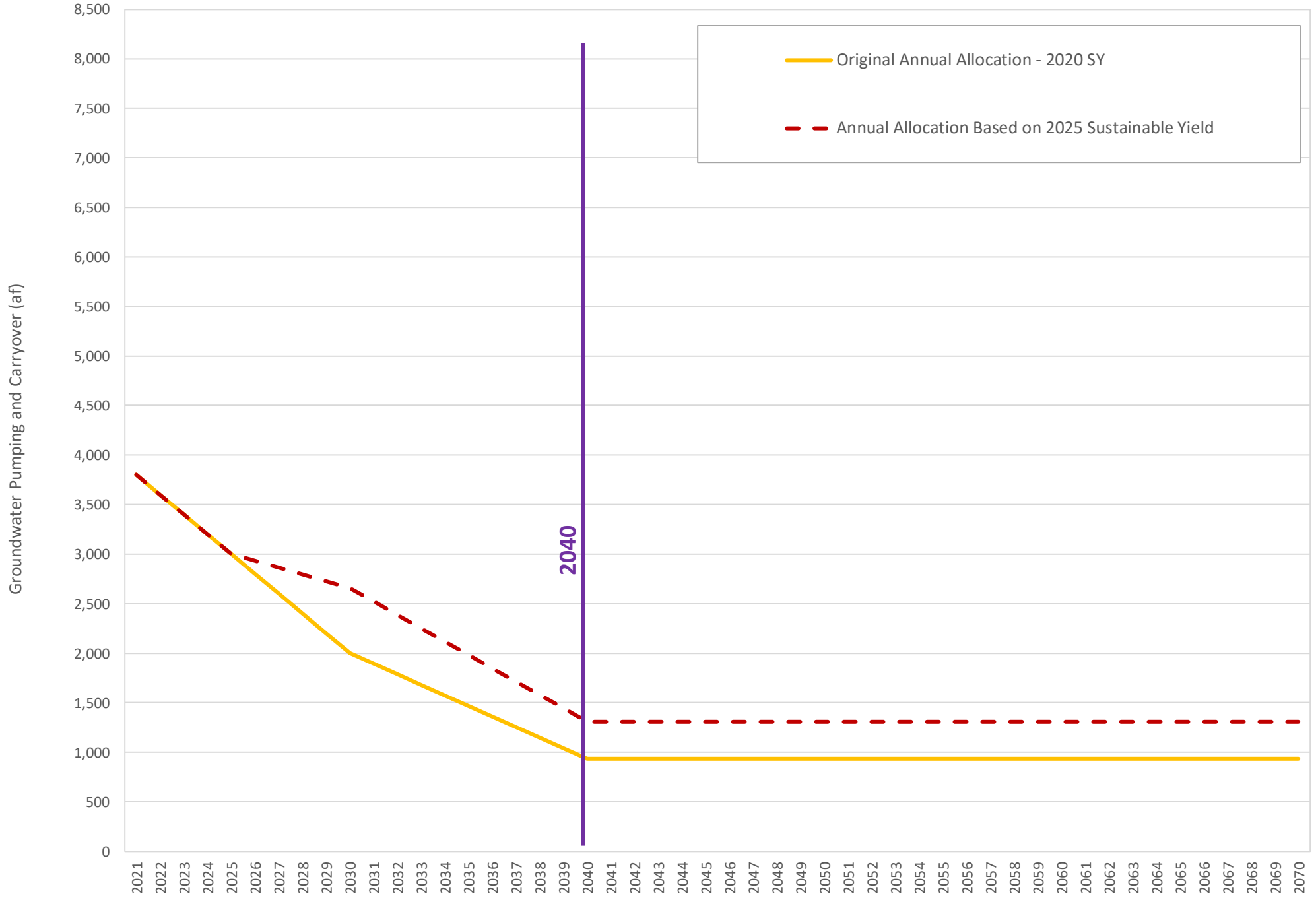
Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?

- Performed a simple analysis based on subset of pumping projections
- To set up projections for evaluating future pumping under the 2025 Sustainable Yield, staff reached out to all actively pumping Parties to understand future pumping plans
- Common Party responses:
  - Desire to remain active pumpers and adjust operations to comply with Rampdown
  - Intend to Rampdown using a “stepwise” approach
  - Maximize use of Carryover to support stepwise approach
  - Ability to remain in operation will be influenced by several factors, including future revisions to the Sustainable Yield (2025, 2030, and 2035) and external economic/market factors, so pumping projections are **preliminary only**

Example Pumping Projection and Carryover Accounting

- Developed an example pumping projection and Carryover accounting to answer question #1 above
- The example projection should be considered a generalized representation of the planned pumping of a subset of Parties with a combined BPA of about 4,000 af
- The BPA and pumping were rounded to anonymize this analysis, as it is not important to this analysis or its conclusions which Parties the example represents
- The example is realistic and representative of how pumping could change over time under the step-wise rampdown.
- The analysis makes the simplifying assumption that this subset of Parties will all make their stepwise operational adjustments at the same time

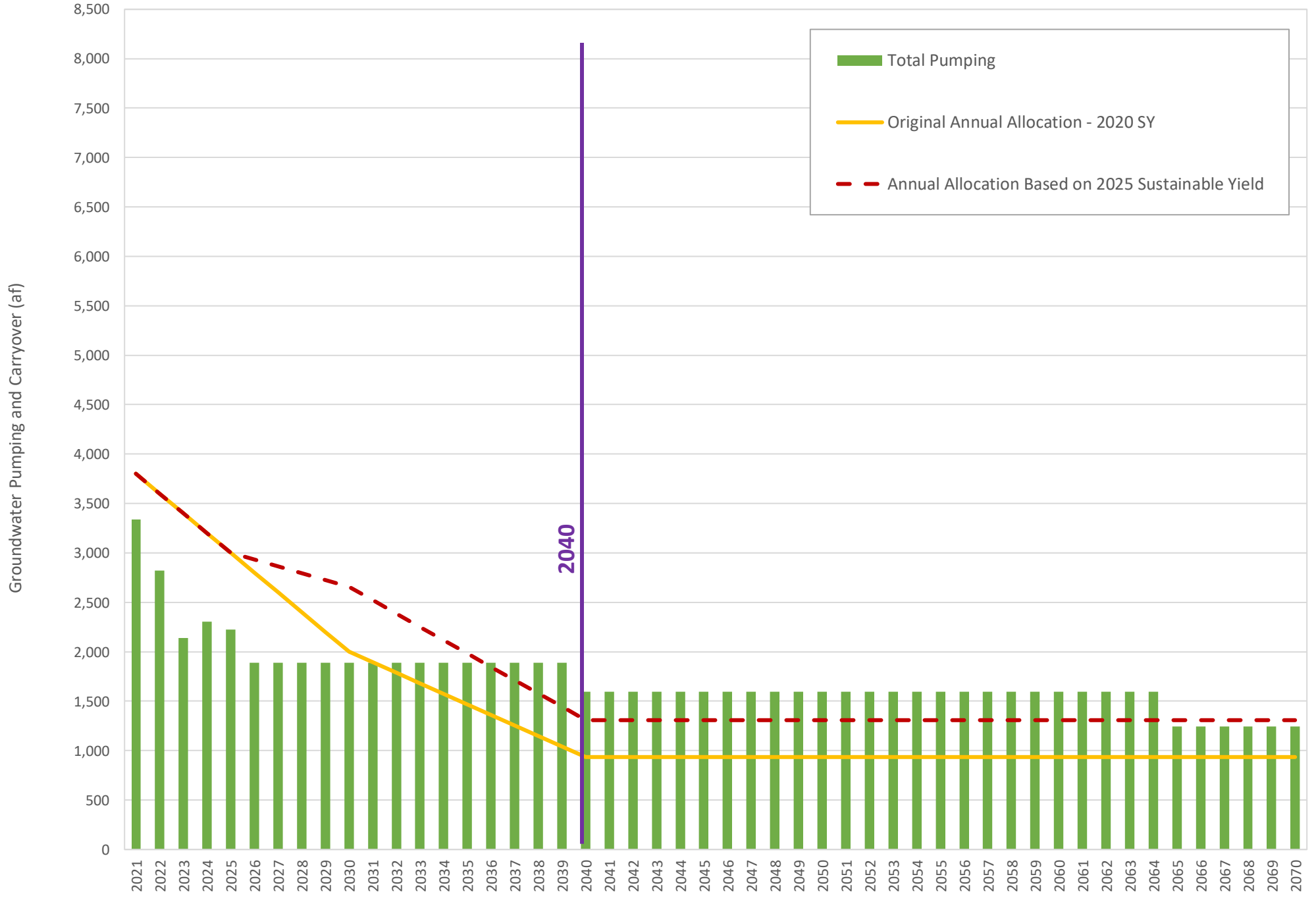
Figure 5. Example Future Pumping Projection utilizing Carryover per Judgment Rules, *WY 2021 - 2070*



Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?

- Example Projection based on a subset of BPA rights equal to 4,000 acre-feet
  - Approximates aggregate plans of several Parties who have provided details
- Rampdown Schedule
  - 2020 SY
  - 2025 SY

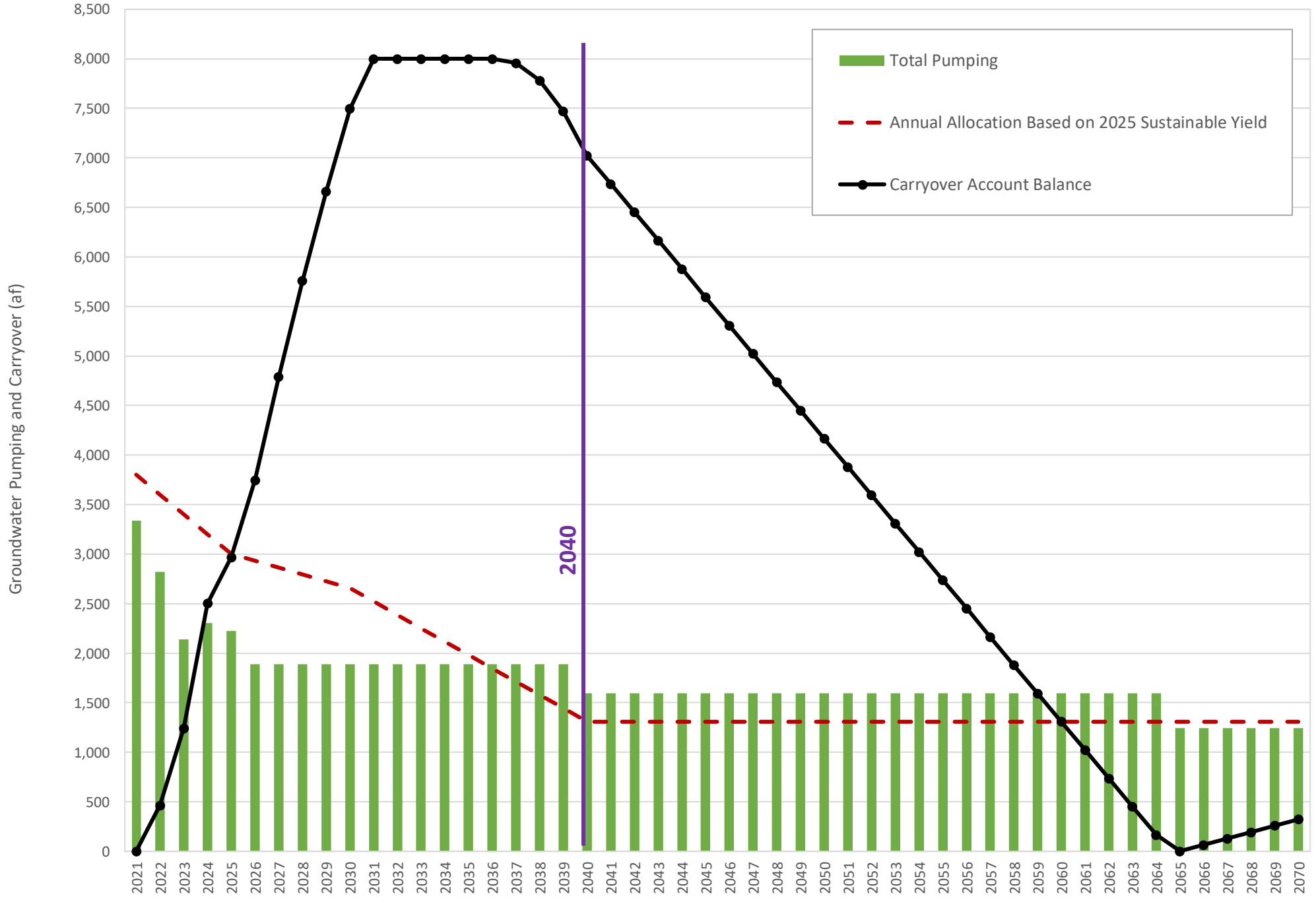
Figure 5. Example Future Pumping Projection utilizing Carryover per Judgment Rules, *WY 2021 - 2070*



Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?

- Example Projection based on a generalized subset of BPA rights equal to 4,000 acre-feet
- Rampdown Schedule
  - 2020 SY
  - 2025 SY
- Projected Pumping
  - Ahead of schedule
  - Step-wise Rampdown consistent with pumper plans

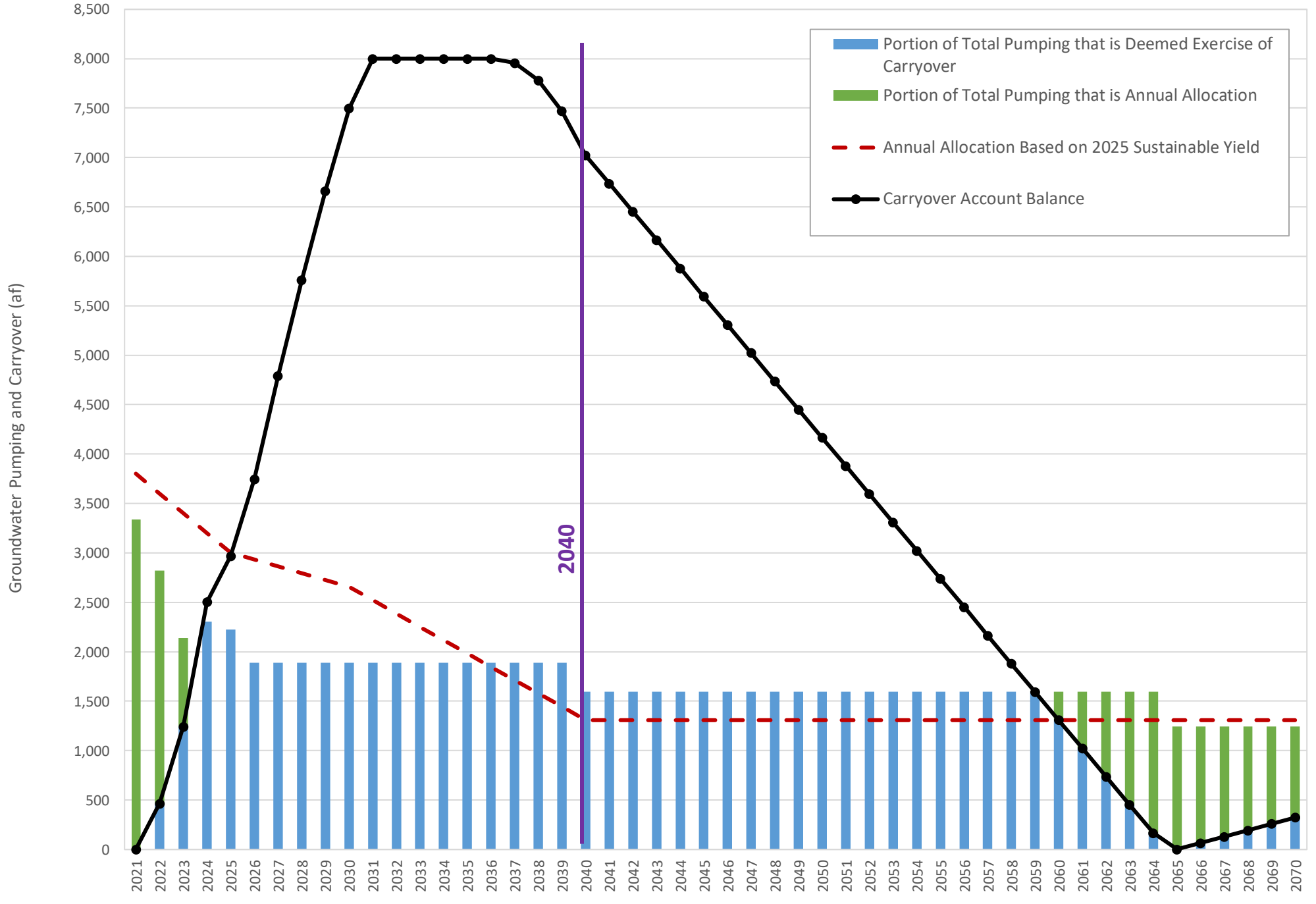
Figure 5. Example Future Pumping Projection utilizing Carryover per Judgment Rules, *WY 2021 - 2070*



Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?

- Example Projection based on a generalized subset of BPA rights equal to 4,000 acre-feet
- Rampdown Schedule
  - 2020 SY
  - 2025 SY
- Projected Pumping
  - Ahead of schedule
  - Step-wise Rampdown
- Carryover Accounting
  - Account Balance

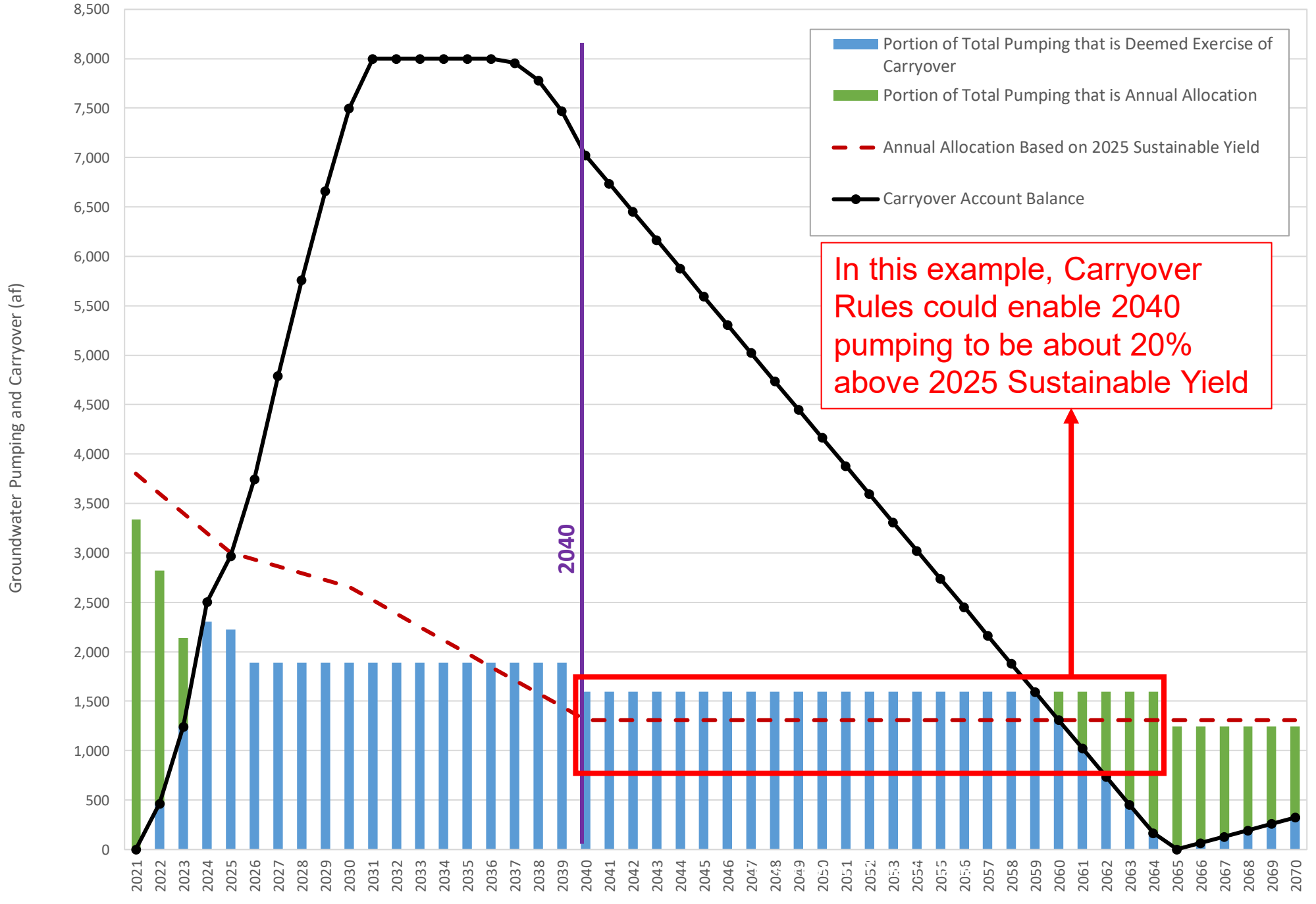
Figure 5. Example Future Pumping Projection utilizing Carryover per Judgment Rules, *WY 2021 - 2070*



Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?

- Example Projection based on a generalized subset of BPA rights equal to 4,000 acre-feet
- Rampdown Schedule
  - 2020 SY
  - 2025 SY
- Projected Pumping
  - Ahead of schedule
  - Step-wise Rampdown
- Carryover Accounting
  - Account Balance reaches max
  - Carryover Pumped

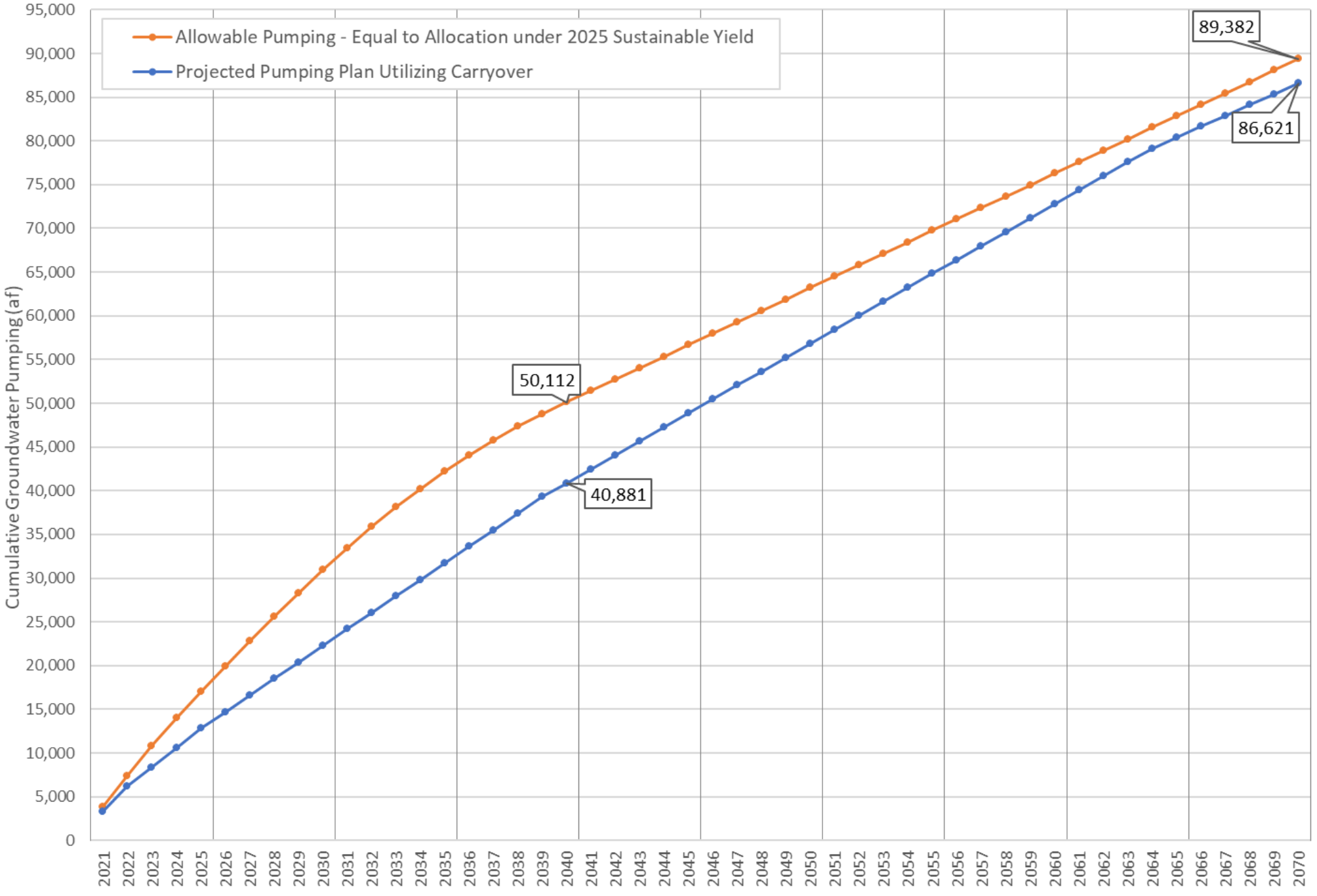
Figure 5. Example Future Pumping Projection utilizing Carryover per Judgment Rules, *WY 2021 - 2070*



Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040?

- Example Projection based on a generalized subset of BPA rights equal to 4,000 acre-feet
- Rampdown Schedule
  - 2020 SY
  - 2025 SY
- Projected Pumping
  - Ahead of schedule
  - Step-wise Rampdown
- Carryover Accounting
  - Account Balance
  - Carryover Pumped

Figure 6. Comparison of Cumulative Pumping: Annual Allocation vs. Projected Pumping Utilizing Carryover, *WY 2021 - 2070*



Will pumping in excess of SY lead to Undesirable Results (UR)?

- Example Projection based on a generalized subset of BPA rights equal to 4,000 acre-feet
- Through 2070, pumping is less than allowable rights under Rampdown allocations, even if greater than SY beyond 2024
- Through 2040, pumping is significantly less than allowable under Rampdown
- Modeling is necessary to assess long-term potential for URs

Questions to Consider in Evaluating Carryover Rules

Could Carryover rules enable Parties to pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield beyond 2040? If yes, will this lead to Undesirable Results?

- Yes, there is a potential for pumping to exceed the Sustainable Yield for some Parties based on current pumping plans of the Parties under existing Carryover Rules
- In the short term (through 2040), there are unlikely to be Undesirable Results as Parties are ahead of schedule on the required Rampdown
- Modeling is needed to assess potential for long-term Undesirable Results – this will be done as part of pumping projections analysis (to be completed by March 2025)

Limitations of Analysis

- Although there is a demonstrated potential for pumping to exceed Annual Allocations of WY post 2040, it is still early in the Rampdown implementation and Parties are uncertain as to exactly how things will change in the next 5-10 years

Draft Recommendations

- It is too soon to make a definitive finding that existing Carryover rules could lead to Undesirable Results beyond 2040
- Use model to assess the long-term sustainability of the current Carryover rules under Parties' current best guess of future pumping:
  - What are the water level and storage outcomes if parties pump in excess of the Sustainable Yield as enabled by the Carryover rules?
- Carryover Rules should be revisited in 2030 as part of the 2030 Sustainable Yield update process when there is more certainty of future pumping plans

Next Steps

- **December 9, 2024:** TAC meeting to discuss Carryover analysis and Board comments
- **December 16, 2024:** Final memo published on Carryover analysis (part of Board package)
- **December 19, 2024:** Board meeting to consider approval of the Carryover analysis

V.D Analysis of Carryover Rules

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

VI.A – Legal Counsel Report

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

- Change in Groundwater Storage from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024
- Transducers installed in the TSS Monitoring Wells
- 5-year Assessment of the GMP
- Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Project
- Abandoned Wells Conversion Project

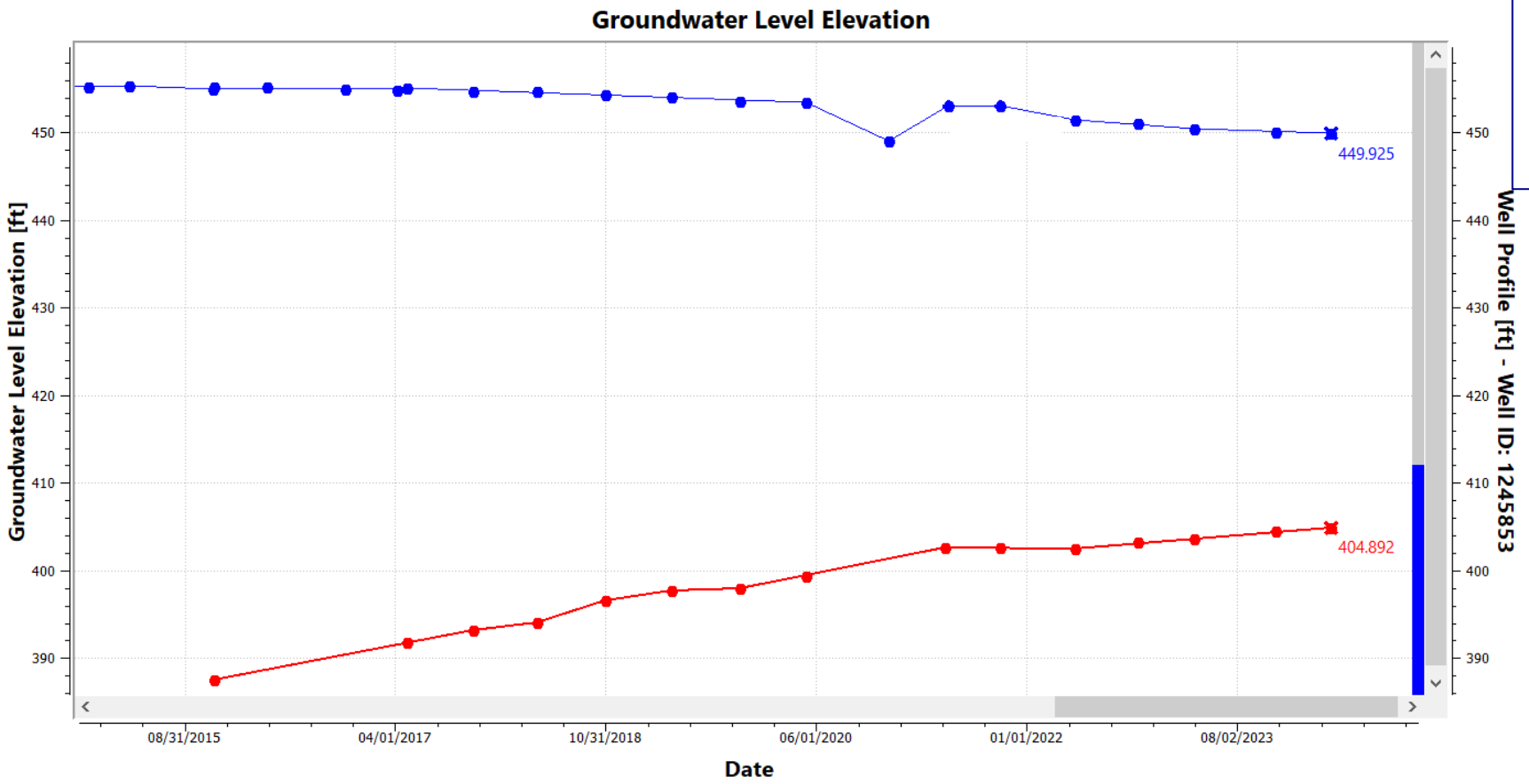
Change in Groundwater Storage

Spring 2023 to Spring 2024

Choosing static groundwater-elevation data for Spring 2024

Groundwater Level Time Series [Well Collection #1]

Chart



Wells

Data

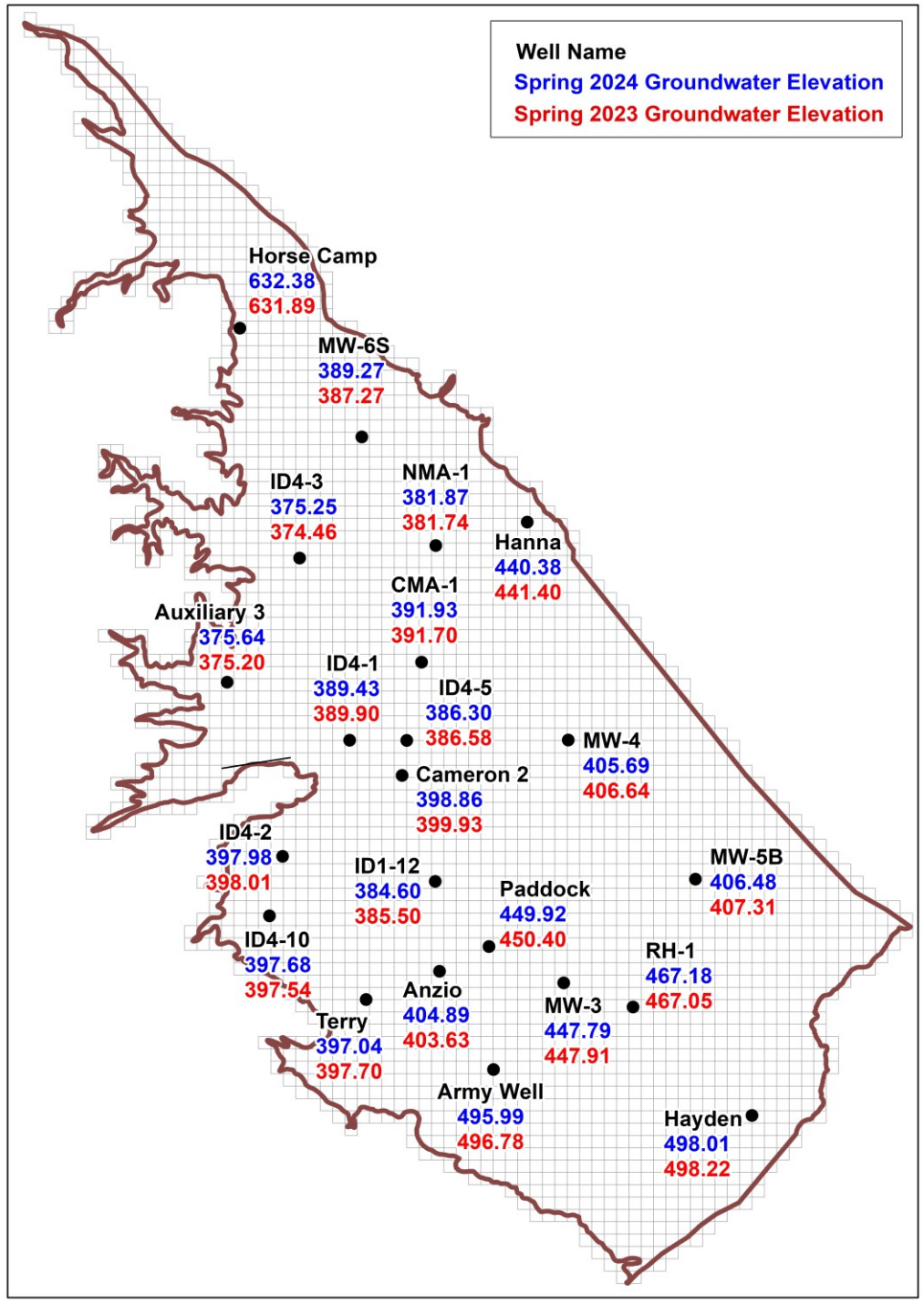
Line Color	Symbol	Symbol Color	Well ID	State Well ID	Well Name	Longitude	Latitude	WL Measurement Frequency	Owner	Ground Surface Elevation [ft]	Reference Point Elevation [ft]	Well Depth [ft]	
☑	Circle		1245853	011S006E2...	Anzio/Yaqui Pass	-116.347150	33.206040	Semi_Annual	Borrego Water District	662.00	663.63	500.00	250.(
☑	Circle		1245903	011S006E2...	Paddock	-116.334036	33.211593	Semi_Annual	Unknown	536.47	537.10	430.00	185.(

Dubious Data ☐ Dynamic WL ☑ EDD Marks ☑

Pan To | Zoom To | Options | More Actions | Close

Monitoring wells and groundwater-elevation data that were used to compute annual change in storage

Spring 2023 to Spring 2024



Method to Estimate Annual Storage Change in the Subbasin

1. Change in storage is calculated at the grid-cell level using the following equation:

$$Change\ in\ Storage_i = \left(GWE_i^{t1} - GWE_i^{t0}\right) \times S_{y_i} \times A$$

i represents a unique cell within the storage change calculation grid

GWE is the interpolated groundwater elevation at cell i

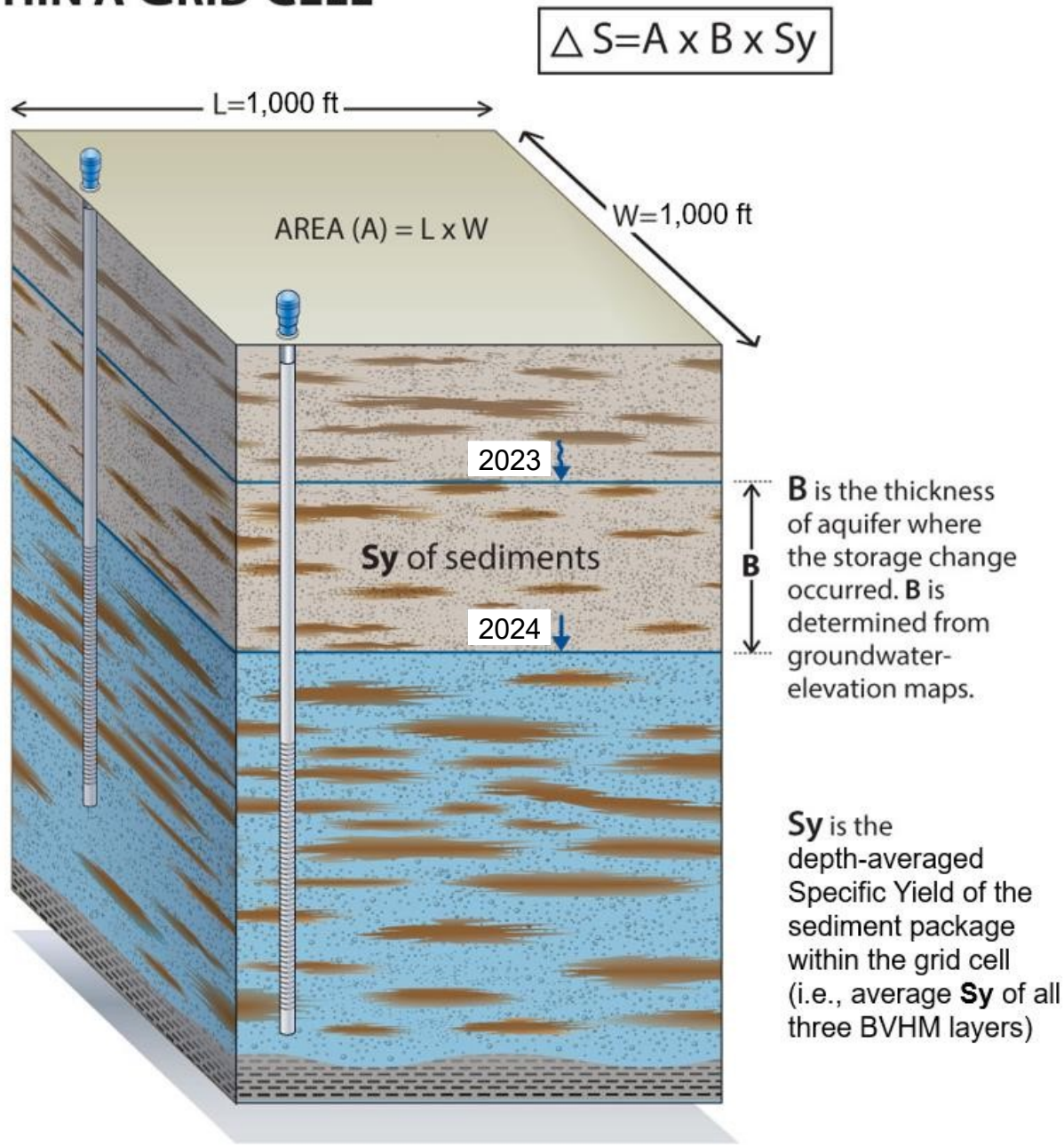
Sy is the specific yield defined at cell i *(from the BVHM)*

A is the area of each cell

$t1$ and $t0$ are the two years between which storage change is calculated

2. The sum of the change in storage values by grid cell provide an estimate of the total annual change in storage in the Subbasin.

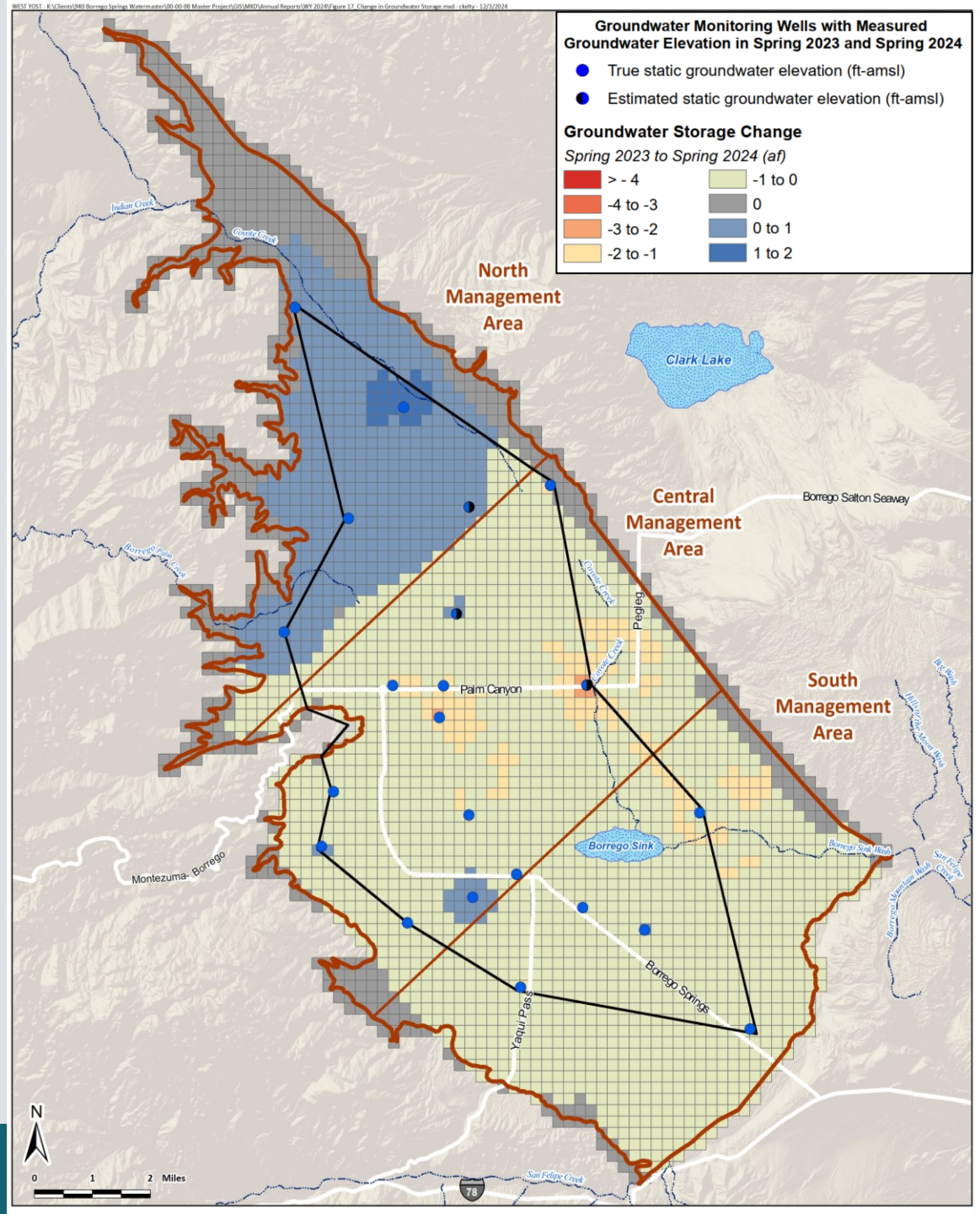
ESTIMATION of STORAGE CHANGE WITHIN A GRID CELL



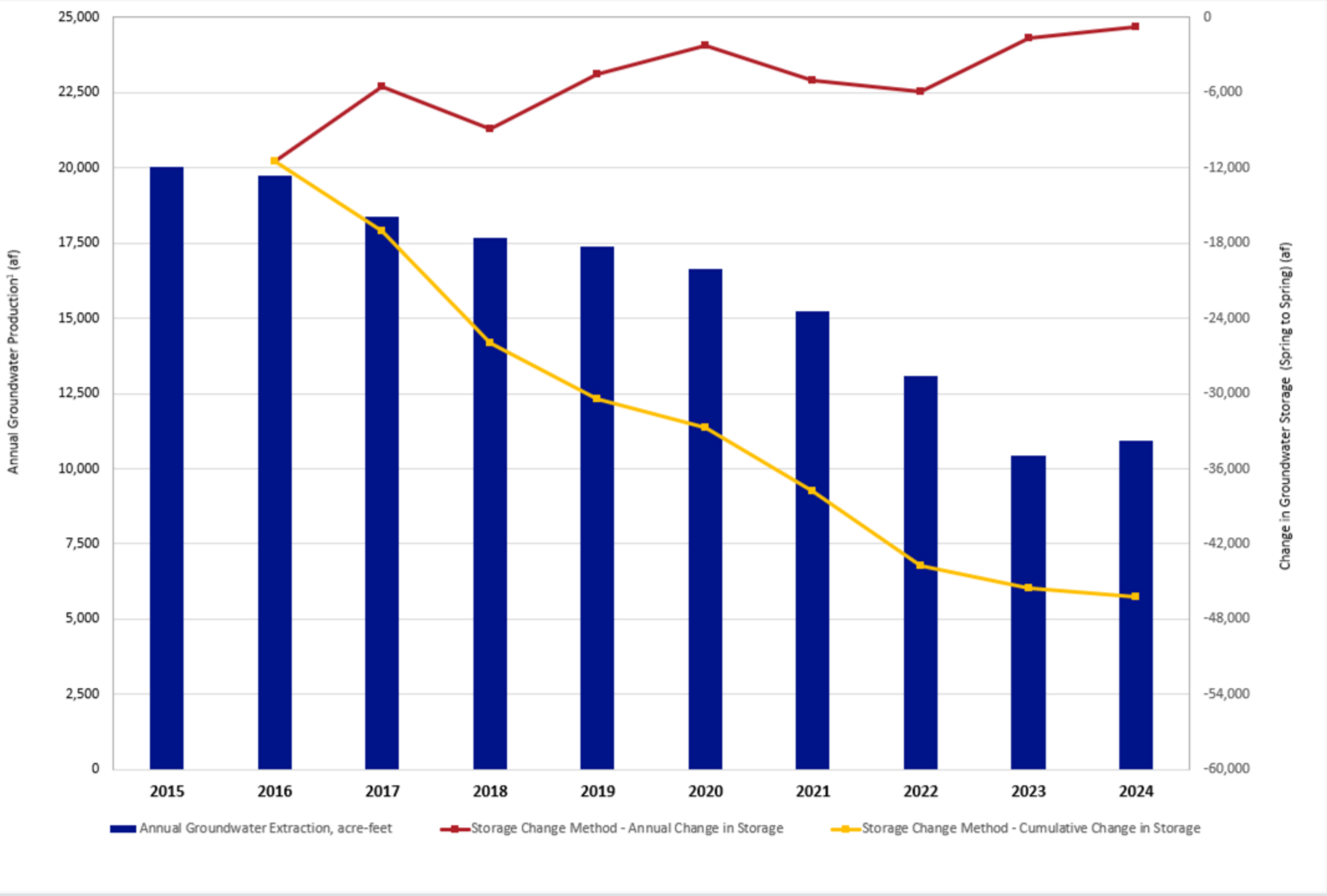
Storage Change Results
Spring 2023 to Spring 2024

- The change in groundwater storage from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 was a ***decrease*** of approximately ***789 af***.

- Storage change calculation is made for two areas:
  - Entire Basin = **-789 af**
  - Within mask (where data are present) = **-467 af**



Change in Storage vs. Groundwater Production



Conclusions

This Year (Spring 2023 to Spring 2024):

- Storage increased in the North Management Area
  - Due to relatively wet conditions → increased recharge and decreased pumping
- Storage declined most in the Central and South Management Areas

Since Monitoring Began (2015 to 2024):

- Storage has continuously declined. Total loss = 46,300 af
- Rate of storage decline has gradually decreased → mainly due to declines in pumping

Next Steps

- **December 9, 2024:** Present results to TAC at TAC Meeting
  - Incorporate TAC recommendations and feedback, if any, into the storage-change calculations
- **January 23, 2025:** Publish storage change results in draft WY 2024 Annual Report
- **End of March 2025:** Update historical estimates and methods used to estimate the change in storage for the 5-year GMP Assessment
- **April 1, 2025:** Report the storage-change calculation in the 2024 Annual Report and submit to the DWR

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Transducers installed in the TSS Monitoring Wells

- DWR installed transducers in MW-6S and MW-6D on December 2, 2024
- Staff will request transducer data from DWR and continue to collect manual measurements during semi-annual monitoring events

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands project

- Task 3 – Brush-pile sand fence construction is behind schedule
  - On BWD property, 2 of 4 treatments fully installed (mulch rows and scattered trees)
    - Monitoring equipment installed, where possible
  - All other treatments on BWD and T2 Borrego property partially installed/not yet started
  - Subcontractor reports schedule delay is due to more work than expected to clear dead trees. They have become more efficient over time.
  - Landowners aware of schedule delay
  - Land IQ is attempting to work with subcontractor to ensure field work is completed per scope
  - New schedule:
    - Complete construction in January 2025
    - Field monitoring from January 2024 through March 2025 (grant funded)
    - Field monitoring will continue in April-May 2025 (not grant funded, covered by UCI)

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands project

- Task 4 – Draft report on Farmland Fallowing Rehabilitation Strategies published and discussed at the November 20th EWG meeting
  - December 13, 2024 - Written comments accepted on the draft report
  - January 2025 – EWG meeting to discuss comments on draft Task 4 Report
  - February 2025 – draft Final Report and key findings presented to Board
  - March 2025 – Final report presented to Board
- Task 5 – draft Fallowing Prioritization Map will be released in early 2025
  - February 2025 – Draft map and key findings presented to Board
  - March 2025 – Final map presented to Board

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands project

Task 6 – EWG Meetings

- November 20th EWG Meeting:
  - Review of Task 4 report
    - "Decision Tree" for rehabilitation strategies
    - Study results may cause Board to consider changes to the "minimum fallowing standards" in the Judgment
  - Field trip to sand fence study site
- Upcoming EWG Meetings:
  - January 2025:
    - Review EWG comments on the draft Task 4 TM
    - Update from UCI on the monitoring and data collection
  - Late May/early June 2025: Update from the UCI student group on the monitoring and data collection from the sand fences

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Conversion of Abandoned Wells Project

- DWR has recently had issues with entry agreements for monitoring at private wells and asked to review Entry Agreements
- BWD sent all executed Entry Agreements to DWR for review and waiting direction on how to proceed → **has resulted in schedule delay**
- Two potential outcomes of DWR review of Entry Agreements:
    1. Entry Agreements are acceptable/need minor modifications and grant funding can be used to perform conversions → Field work will begin in January 2025
    2. Entry Agreements are not acceptable and DWR will not allow grant funding to be used → a budget transfer will be requested so funding can be reallocated to other work

VI.C – Executive Director Report

Financials and Pumping Assessments:

- November 2024 financial report will be included in December Special Board Meeting agenda package
- Invoices for 1st installment of WY 2025 Pumping Assessment due December 31, 2025

BPA and Party Updates:

- 3 entities have filed to intervene into the Judgment
  - All 3 transfers represent full transfer of BPA property and wells
  - Hearing scheduled for February 13, 2025 at 2pm

VI.C – Executive Director Report

SGM Grant Status

- Status of Reimbursement Requests:
  - Request #4: Approved and Paid (2-months behind schedule)
  - Request #5: Approved and Paid (1-month ahead of schedule)
  - Request #6: Submitted in August 2024, under review (payment expected by 3/2025)
  - Request #7: Submitted to DWR on November 30, 2024
- DWR is still reviewing Entry Agreements
- There may be a final opportunity to transfer budget between grant categories
  - For example, budget from well conversions used for additional monitoring in spring 2025

VI.C – Executive Director Report

DWR Review of the Judgment and GMP:

- No updates

Upcoming Activities:

- Annual Meter Verification Process
  - Final year grant funding will be available to cover costs
  - Verification process will run from November 2024 to January 2025
  - All Parties have been notified and have begun scheduling tests

VI.D – Chairperson's Report

VII. Establishing Agenda for December 19, 2024 Special Board Meeting

Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for December 19, 2024 Special Board Meeting

Process:

1. Review the initial December agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the January and February tentative topics planned by Staff and previously requested items by Board members, as listed below
3. List out additional items that have arisen during the December 5, 2024 Board meeting
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the December 2024 or other future agenda
5. Consider motion(s) to approve the agenda (the agenda can be approved in a single motion or multiple motions to cover each item).

Note: The Agenda/items are approved by majority vote (3 of 5 directors)

Initial Agenda for December Special Meeting

1. Consideration of Approval of Scope and Budget for the Redetermination of the 2030 Sustainable Yield
2. Consideration of Approval of Carryover Analysis Findings
3. Consideration of Approval of EWG agenda in January 2025
4. Consideration of Approval of WY 2025 Budget Amendment Carry Forward Unspent Budget from WY 2024 for certain Grant-funded Work
5. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)

Tentative Topics for January and February Meetings

January

1. Review WY 2024 Annual Report Status and Schedule
2. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)
3. Status report on 5-year Assessment of GMP
4. Land IQ Presentation on Biological Restoration Project Results to-Date
5. 1st Quarter WY 2025 Budget Status Review
6. Fall 2024 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

February

1. Hearing to review and receive comments on the draft WY 2024 Annual Report
2. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)
3. Status report on 5-year Assessment of GMP
4. Land IQ Presentation on Biological Restoration Project

Set Agenda for December Special Meeting

1. Consideration of Approval of the Redetermination of the 2025 Sustainable Yield
2. Consideration of Approval of Scope and Budget for the Redetermination of the 2030 Sustainable Yield
3. Consideration of Approval of Carryover Analysis Findings
4. Consideration of Approval of WY 2025 Budget Amendment Carry Forward Unspent Budget from WY 2024 for certain Grant-funded Work
5. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)

VII. Establishing Agenda for January 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

VIII. Board Member Comments

IX. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Special Board Meeting – December 19, 2024
- Regular Board Meeting – January 15, 2025

- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – December 9, 2024

X. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!