

# Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

March 19, 2025

# 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 – *None received*

## 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 – February 19, 2025
- B. Approval of February 2025 Financial Report
- C. Receive and file Land IQ Staff invoices from November & December 2024
- D. Receive and file 2024 Q4 Grant Reimbursement Request Report

## **IV.A Consideration of Approval of WY 2024 Financial Audit**

### **Recommended Actions:**

Approve the WY 2024 Financial Audit prepared by C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs and include with the Water Year 2024 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin

### **Fiscal Impact:**

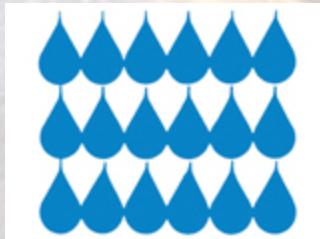
None.

# **Borrego Springs Watermaster**

## **Presentation of the 2024 Audit Report**

**Board Meeting**  
**March 19, 2025**

**C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs**



# THE AUDIT PROCESS

- **Interim Fieldwork – Assess the Watermaster’s Internal Controls and Effectiveness**
  - **Gain and Understanding of the Watermaster’s Control Framework**
  - **Test of Controls Testing – Accounting Cycles**
- **Final Fieldwork**
  - **Agree Balance to Supporting Documentation**
  - **Perform Analysis of Key Account Relationships**
- **Consideration of Fraud per AU-C Section 240, “Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit”**
  - **Professional Skepticism**
  - **Interview of Board and Management**

# THE REPORTS

## Independent Auditor's Report

- **Unmodified “CLEAN” Opinion**
  - In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Borrego Springs Watermaster as of September 30, 2024.

# MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Our communication of control deficiencies:
  - No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Condensed Statements of Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>Assets:</b>			
Current assets	\$ <u>1,829,591</u>	<u>1,852,783</u>	<u>(23,192)</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1,829,591</u>	<u>1,852,783</u>	<u>(23,192)</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Current liabilities	<u>716,675</u>	<u>797,074</u>	<u>(80,399)</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>716,675</u>	<u>797,074</u>	<u>(80,399)</u>
<b>Net position:</b>			
Unrestricted	<u>1,112,916</u>	<u>1,055,709</u>	<u>57,207</u>
<b>Total net position</b>	<u>\$ 1,112,916</u>	<u>1,055,709</u>	<u>57,207</u>

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

	2024	2023	Change
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Operating revenues	\$ <u>1,408,222</u>	<u>1,541,949</u>	<u>(133,727)</u>
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>1,408,222</u>	<u>1,541,949</u>	<u>(133,727)</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Operating expenses	<u>1,285,873</u>	<u>952,850</u>	<u>333,023</u>
Non-operating expense	<u>65,142</u>	<u>28,826</u>	<u>36,316</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>1,351,015</u>	<u>981,676</u>	<u>369,339</u>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<u>57,207</u>	<u>560,273</u>	<u>(503,066)</u>
<b>Net position, beginning of year</b>	<u>1,055,709</u>	<u>495,436</u>	<u>560,273</u>
<b>Net position, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 1,112,916</u>	<u>1,055,709</u>	<u>57,207</u>

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

### **In 2024:**

- The Watermaster received an unmodified “CLEAN” opinion
- Net position increased by \$57,207
- Total revenues decreased by \$133,727 primarily due to a decrease in administrative assessments of \$191K, which was offset by an increase in grant revenues of \$58K.
- Total expenses increased by \$369,339 primarily due to a increases in grant expenditures and legal fees compared to the prior year.

# QUESTIONS

## IV.A Consideration of Approval of WY 2024 Financial Audit



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## **IV.B Consideration of Approval of WY 2024 Annual Report**

### **Recommended Actions:**

Approve the Water Year 2024 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin and file it with the Court and DWR.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None.

# WY 2024 Annual Report

## Appendix H. Response to Comments

- Draft Final Annual Report updated to address comments received:
  - During February 19, 2025 Board meeting hearing
  - Written comments through February 28, 2025
- Appendix H. added to Annual Report to document comments received and how they were addressed
- Some comments were outside the scope of the Annual Report to address and no changes to the report resulted from these comments.

# Appendix H. Response to Comments – Comments not addressed with changes to Report

- Descriptions of work completed outside of the reporting period, such as:
  - Approval of 2025 Sustainable Yield, report is written consistent with the Sustainable Yield during the reporting period (5,700 afy) with footnotes describing the timing (completed in Dec 2024)
  - Analysis of Carryover rules (completed in Dec 2024)
  - Conclusion from the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands project (completion due Mar 2025)
- Details not required by the Annual Report or not part of Staff's approved scope of work/budget, such as:
  - Evaluation of land subsidence (part of GMP assessment report)
  - Describing the reason(s) for changes in pumping volume by sectors
  - Quantifying the impact of land fallowing on the reduction of groundwater pumping

## **Appendix H. Response to Comments – Comments not addressed with changes to Report**

- Technical recommendations unrelated to reporting (such as changing transducer frequency)
- Useful recommendations on improvements to figures in the Annual Report that were not addressed at this time due to schedule and budgetary constraints. These comments will be considered to improve future annual reports or other reporting efforts

# Process and Schedule to Complete Water Year 2024 Annual Report

**December 5, 2024 - COMPLETED**

- Report on Draft Change in Storage at Regular Board Meeting

**January 29, 2025 - COMPLETED**

- Post Annual Report to Website and Notice Hearing

**February 19, 2025 - COMPLETED**

- Hearing to receive comments and recommendations for changes

**February 28, 2025 - COMPLETED**

- Written comments due to Watermaster staff

**March 7, 2025 - COMPLETED**

- Release revised Annual Report with Response to Comments as an appendix

**March 19, 2025 – TODAY!**

- Board Meeting to review and adopt final Annual Report

**April 1, 2025**

- File Annual Report with the Court and DWR

## IV.B Consideration of Approval of WY 2024 Annual Report



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.C Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

### Recommended Actions:

Board discussion.

### Fiscal Impact:

None. This project is funded by DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

## IV.C - Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

- Task 1. *Review and Analysis of Existing Data* - **Complete**
- Task 2. *Existing Fallowed Farmland and Natural Habitat Study* - **Complete**
- Task 3. *Sand Fence Case Study* – **Complete**
  - Sand fences construction and dust-control equipment completed in March 2025
  - UCI students will continue monitoring sites after grant expires (through May 2025)
- Task 4. *Farmland Fallowing Rehab Strategies* & Task 5. *Farmland Fallowing Prioritization* – **Nearly Complete**
  - Draft report describes results of fallowing strategies evaluated in the project and was presented to the Board at Feb. 2025 Board meeting
  - One set of comments was received from AAWARE, which are being used to update and finalize the draft report

## Next Steps

- Final Report will be submitted to Watermaster and DWR ahead of March 31, 2025 grant deadline
- Watermaster Board may consider changes to the GMP and/or Judgement, or other policy actions consistent with the Judgment

## IV.C Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.D DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

### Recommended Actions:

Board discussion and provide direction to staff to publish a Judgment and GMP as an Alternative to a Group of Orders. This will allow DWR's approval of the Borrego

### Fiscal Impact:

TBD.



## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

- On February 25, 2025 DWR approved the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan (Judgment/GMP)
  - Shared with Sub-committee in a call with DWR Staff
  - Letter and DWR Staff Assessment included in Agenda Package
  - Letter contained both praise for success to date, and recommendations for improvement
- On February 26, 2025 DWR filed notice to the Court of its approval and Recommended Corrective Actions (“RCAs”)

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

- Staff Assessment Report – 42-page assessment of findings
- This is the first Alternative management plan pursuant to an adjudication action approved by the State under SGMA

*“the Borrego Alternative represents a substantial, locally driven, technical, legal, and policy effort. The enforceable and locally funded management framework it establishes has already accomplished significant milestones, changes, and improvements in Subbasin management and conditions. Management under the Borrego Alternative has initiated and implemented management actions with documented beneficial outcomes in this Subbasin faster than some other basins where a GSP has been adopted”*

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

### Factors for Approval

- *“the Stipulated Judgment ... establishes a robust and enforceable procedure to reduce overdraft.. Therefore, one of the major challenges facing this critically overdrafted basin has been addressed and is off to a very good start”*
- *“Almost all extractions (about 95 percent) in the Subbasin are currently metered and reported to the Watermaster”*
- *“The Watermaster has a functioning and enforceable fee structure in place to raise funds necessary to implement the Subbasin’s management program”*
- *“There have been no major controversies regarding implementation of the management program since the Judgment was entered...”*
- *“The deadline for resubmission of the Borrego Alternative is June 25, 2026, at which time the Department will be able to reassess management in the Subbasin with sufficient time to trigger state intervention, if necessary, to allow for full SGMA compliance within statutory timeframes”*

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

- DWR provided 7 Recommended Corrective Actions

*“to ensure that the requirements of SGMA, especially sustainable groundwater management, are likely to be achieved within 20 years in the Subbasin”*

*“... staff’s recommended corrective actions are geared towards broadening the focus of management under the Borrego Alternative to encompass quantified definitions of sustainability that will allow for better management and monitoring of progress towards achieving sustainability as defined by SGMA.”*

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

### RCAs (summarized)

1. Clarify the rationale for creating management areas (MA) and how the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) are appropriate to each MA.
2. Describe how the mitigation measures, projects and management actions (PMAs), and SMC would avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users, specifically domestic well owners. Provide more details as to mitigation measures, including who will bear the responsibility and costs to mitigate the undesirable result.
3. Discuss the impacts to beneficial uses and users, including de minimis users, at the established minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives for each sustainability indicator in each management area, as applicable. Clarify expected impacts, and monitoring to track progress.

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

### RCAs (summarized)

4. Provide more information regarding the minimum threshold and measurable objective for groundwater in storage, including quantified values for this sustainability indicator as they relate to the BVHM projected conditions.
5. Quantify SMC related to protection of agriculture uses, and discuss how those limits will be used to track progress in the Subbasin and the associated impacts to beneficial uses and users of the Subbasin at those limits.
6. Monitor for land subsidence and evaluate, at least every five years, whether land subsidence is interfering with property interests and surface uses or otherwise impacting beneficial uses and users, and describe the amount of land subsidence/impacts that would be significant and unreasonable and therefore cause or constitute undesirable results in the basin.

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

### RCAs (summarized)

7. Eliminate inconsistencies or ambiguities between the Stipulated Judgment and GMP, and resolve/clarify the intended role of the GMP in management and make appropriate amendments to the GMP and/or Stipulated Judgment (as needed) to clearly and expressly reflect (and enforce) that intent, especially, but not limited to:
  - Application and use of the GMPs SMC to determine the sustainable yield and making management decision to avoid undesirable results
  - Reconcile inconsistencies between the process and factors for updating sustainable yield
  - Reconsider and clarify the role of the GMP in guiding Watermaster and Court decisions in implementing the Alternative Plan
  - Document Watermaster or Court decisions (sustainable yield, Judgment amendments, other orders of consequence) that impact basin management

## IV.D - DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan

### Next Steps

- Take a moment to share this big win – Draft Press Release in agenda package for your consideration
- Board discuss next steps in determining how to address DWR comments and RCAs, provide direction to staff on what to bring to a April meeting
- Budget Note - We have about \$35k of budget available that could be used for this effort:
  - TAC related budgets (meetings and Ad Hoc requests): \$27,492
  - As-needed implementation of Judgment: \$7,200

## IV.D DWR Comments on the Borrego Springs Alternative Plan



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.E Next TAC Meeting Agenda

### **Recommended Actions:**

Approve the agenda for the next TAC meeting, with any recommended changes.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None. TAC meetings were included in the approved Water Year 2025 budget.

## IV.E – Recommended Agenda for the Next TAC Meeting

- TAC meeting to be scheduled for April 2025
- Agenda items:
  1. Discuss DWR Comments on the 2020 GMP
  2. **NEW!** Potential discrepancy in the BVHM (more details in TC Report)
  3. WY 2026-27 Draft Scope and Budget to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield

## IV.E Next TAC Meeting Agenda



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.F Progress Towards Completion of 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

### **Recommended Actions:**

Board discussion.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

The work through March 31, 2025 is grant funded. Additional work is required to complete this effort, largely related to addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCA). The DWR comments were only just received and so the cost to address the RCAs is to be determined following Board discussions.

## IV.F – 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

- Title 23 § 356.4 of the California Code of Regulations requires an assessment of GSPs once every five years, including plans submitted to the DWR as alternatives to GSPs
- Watermaster obtained funding to support the development of the Periodic Evaluation of its Alternative Plan
- Staff have been referring to this evaluation as the “5-Year Assessment of the GMP”
- In Coordination with the TAC, an annotated outline for a 5-Year Assessment Report to meet the regulatory requirements

## IV.F – 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

- Several factors led to not being able to fully complete the 5-Year Assessment, namely the absence of DWR input on the Alternative Plan, and the fact that an Assessment will not be accepted if the Plan is not approved
- Now that the Plan is approved, the Plan is due by June 25, 2026
- We have completed about 60-75% of the technical work and writing needed to complete the Assessment Report. The two remaining gaps:
  - Items related to the DWR's seven RCAs
  - Inclusion of data from the Spring 2025 and Fall 2025 monitoring events

## IV.F – 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

- The deliverable to DWR to meet grant requirements will be presented as a “Framework to Complete the 5-Year Assessment”
  - An annotated outline
  - Description of the technical analysis done on each section
  - examples of charts, tables, and maps displaying results
  - List of the remaining work to complete the assessment by the June 25, 2026 deadline
- Table 1 summarizes report contents, section objectives, percent complete estimates by March 31, 2025 (expiration of grant funding)

<b>Assessment Report Section Title</b>	<b>Section Reporting Objective</b>	<b>% Complete by March 31, 2025</b>	<b>Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025</b>
Executive Summary	Provides an overview of the entire report, including highlighting key findings and recommendations.	0%	Since this section is a summary of the entire report and its key highlights, it cannot be completed until all other sections have been finalized.
Introduction to Borrego Springs Watermaster	Provides introductory information on the Watermaster, Judgment, and GMP.	95%	No anticipated changes are expected to be needed to the section, other than addressing edits recommended during report comment period.
Administration, Engagement, and Coordination Activities	<p>Provides background information about Watermaster's authorities and activities pursuant to the Judgment, how Watermaster makes decisions and engages with interested stakeholders, and any coordination activities with local agencies (such as the County of San Diego).</p> <p>Describes key activities during the reporting period, including any policies or procedures that were adopted related to administration, engagement, or coordination activities.</p>	95%	No anticipated changes are expected to be needed to the section, other than addressing edits recommended during report comment period.
Recommended Corrective Actions to the Judgment/GMP	Describes each of the seven RCAs listed in the DWR's Staff Assessment Letter and documents how the Watermaster has or plans to address each RCA.	0%	The RCAs were not provided by DWR until February 25, 2025 and have yet to be discussed with the Board. Thus, no work on this section could be performed. This section will be developed following discussions with the Board on how to address each of the RCAs. A portion of the work will likely be done in coordination with the TAC.

<b>Assessment Report Section Title</b>	<b>Section Reporting Objective</b>	<b>% Complete by March 31, 2025</b>	<b>Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025</b>
Status of Projects and Management Actions	<p>Describes each PMA and progress to date on implementing each, including a discussion of how implementation has benefited the Basin and contributed to achieving sustainability.</p> <p>To the extent that any PMA will be modified to address an RCA, the changes would be <u>discussed</u> and the status would be presented relative to the revised PMA.</p>	70 – 90%	<p>All of the PMAs in the GMP, and how they map to the Judgment, have been summarized, and the implementation status and outcomes to date have been described.</p> <p>Some of the DWR RCAs relate to the PMAs and it may be necessary to clarify and/or modify one or more PMAs. Changes to PMAs have not been discussed yet by the Board.</p> <p>PMAs are a policy decision and thus must be vetted through a Board process, following receipt of technical recommendations from Watermaster staff and/or the TAC or EWG. This section will be updated after changes have been approved by the Board, if any.</p> <p>If no changes to the PMAs are made, then no anticipated changes are needed to the section, other than addressing edits recommended during the report comment period.</p>
New Information	Describes all significant new information available to the Watermaster during the reporting period, how the new information is used by Watermaster, and how it informed any recommended changes to the management program.	90%	<p>This section is nearly complete. The only potential updates would be to include more detail on new information that becomes available before publishing the report.</p> <p>If no additional new information is made available, no anticipated changes are expected to be needed to the section, other than addressing edits recommended during the report comment period.</p>

<b>Assessment Report Section Title</b>	<b>Section Reporting Objective</b>	<b>% Complete by March 31, 2025</b>	<b>Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025</b>
Basin Setting Based on New Information	<p>Provides an evaluation of the basin setting based on new information developed/received during the reporting period and how any changes to the basin setting may impact the management program.</p> <p>For example, this section describes the updates to the BVHM, the history of pumping and storage changes in the Basin, the revised 2025 Sustainable Yield, and updated model projections under the Rampdown to the 2025 Sustainable Yield.</p>	90%	<p>No anticipated changes are expected to be needed to the section, other than addressing edits recommended during report comment period.</p> <p>The lower percent complete relative to sections with a similar status is due to an assumption that this section will generate more review comments than other sections.</p>
Monitoring Networks	<p>Describes the monitoring networks, improvements that have been made to the monitoring network over the reporting period, identifies data gaps, and provides recommendations for improvements to the monitoring network.</p>	90%	<p>This section is nearly complete. The only major item to address is to finalize the list of Representative Monitoring Wells in coordination with the TAC.</p> <p>Other potential updates would be to include any changes to the monitoring network that arise out of the spring or fall 2025 monitoring events.</p>

<b>Assessment Report Section Title</b>	<b>Section Reporting Objective</b>	<b>% Complete by March 31, 2025</b>	<b>Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025</b>
Basin Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria	<p>For relevant sustainability indicators, this section characterizes current basin conditions relative to groundwater levels, groundwater storage, and groundwater quality and compares the conditions to the associated Sustainable Management Criteria, including minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives.</p> <p>Also assesses land subsidence over the reporting period to reaffirm that it is not a relevant sustainability indicator.</p>	60-85%	<p>Watermaster staff have analyzed all available data through Fall 2024 and generated charts, tables, and maps depicting the data and trends. The charts tables and maps will be updated to include the results of monitoring events through Fall 2025 once the data is available. The templates are set up to compare the groundwater level, storage, and quality information to the relevant SMCs, which may change from what is in the current GMP.</p> <p>The DWR RCAs recommend improvements to the SMCs, particularly adding quantifiable metrics for several of the sustainability indicators. This has also been a recommendation of Watermaster staff. All technical information to support the update of the SMCs will be complete by March 31, 2025. The establishment of SMCs requires TAC and stakeholder input. The TAC and Stakeholder input will be obtained through the TAC and Open House process, following discussions with the Board on how to address the DWR RCAs.</p> <p>The DWR RCAs also recommend development of SMCs or other similar criteria for land subsidence. More work may be needed to complete the land subsidence portion of this section depending on direction to address this RCA. This work will need to be in coordination with the TAC.</p>
Summary and Recommended Changes to the Judgment/GMP	Provide a summary of key findings and description of any recommended changes to the Judgment or GMP, if any	0%	Since this section is a summary of the entire report and contains recommendations on changes to the Judgment or GMP (if any), it cannot be completed until the remaining report sections are complete and changes have been discussed with and approved by the Board.

## IV.F – 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

### Next Steps

- The cost to complete the 5-Year Assessment effort will be determined following discussions with the Board on how to address RCAs, and how that will impact the assessment report
- The goal would be to finalize the scope and cost by May, so that any costs that need to be incurred in water year 2026 will be included in the Watermaster budget package
  - Note the WY 2025 Budget included a projection of future costs that included assumption of work to address DWR comments (assumed \$30k) as a place holder
- As noted in prior agenda item - \$35k of approved budget available to support ongoing work this year to address DWR comments and/or advance the assessment

## IV.F Progress Towards Completion of 5-Year GMP Assessment Report



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

# V.A – Legal Counsel Report

## **V.B – Technical Consultant Report**

### **TAC Meeting Report-Outs:**

- February 25, 2025 TAC Meeting
- March 18, 2025 Ad-Hoc TAC Meeting

# V.B – Technical Consultant Report

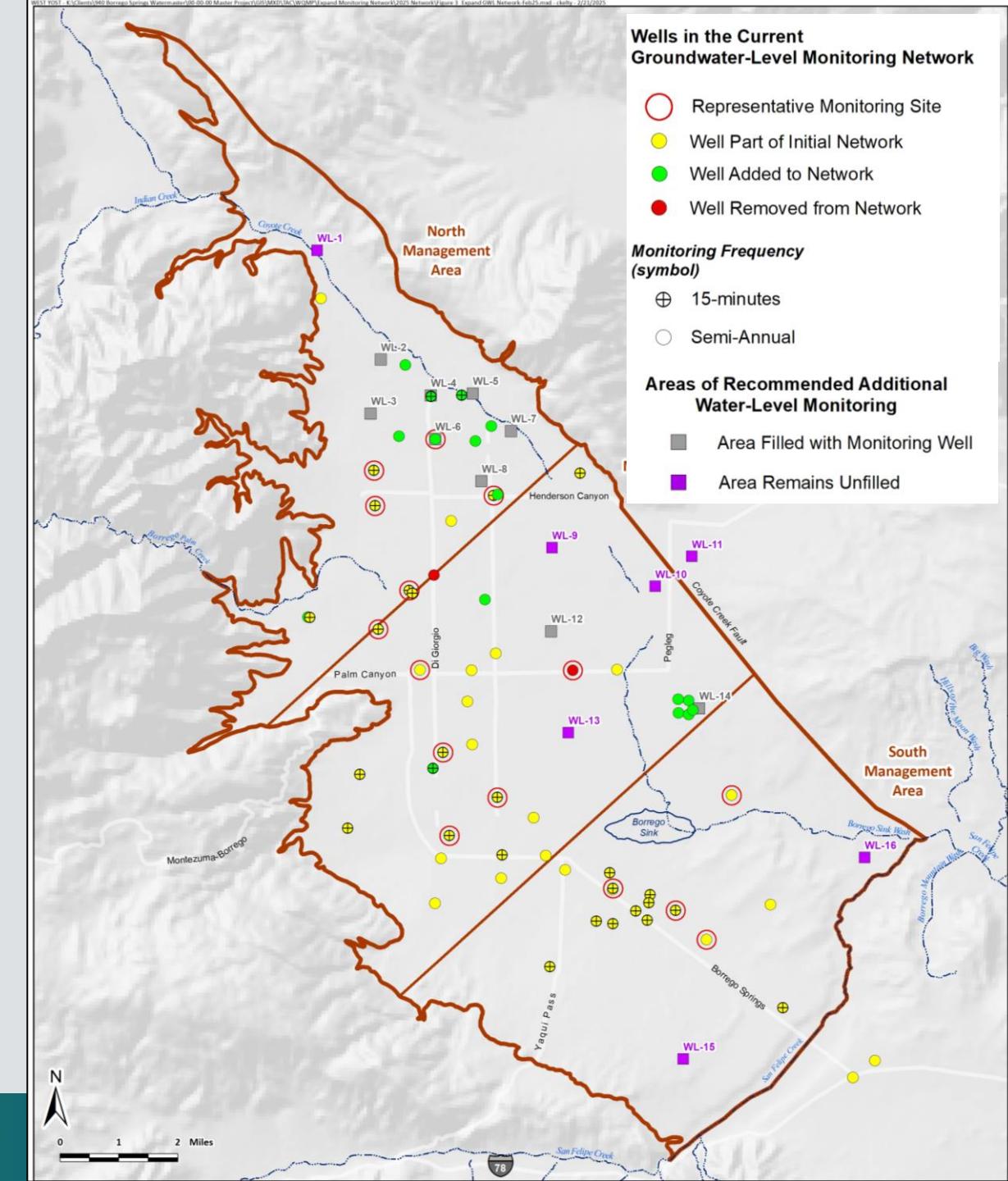
## February 25, 2025 TAC Meeting Report Out

### Meeting Agenda:

- Status Update: Monitoring Network Data Gaps and the Inactive/Abandoned Wells Conversion Program
- Pumping Projections to Support the GMP Assessment Report
- Discussion of Sustainable Management Criteria

# Expansion of Groundwater Monitoring Program

- Summarized efforts to expand monitoring networks and fill data gaps identified in GWMP
- **17 wells added to Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program**
  - 7 data gaps remain
- **18 wells added to Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Program**
  - 9 data gaps remain



# Pumping Projections to Support the GMP Assessment Report

- Pumping projections are to be used in BVHM projection scenarios to assess sustainability of the 2025 Sustainable Yield of **7,952 afy**

## Aggregate Basin-wide Pumping Plan (afy)

WY	Total BPA + Non-De Minimis Right	Annual Allocation per Rampdown	Planned Pumping
2025	24,335	18,285	10,400
2030		16,021	8,768
2035		12,078	8,581
2040		7,996	7,797

# Discussion of Sustainable Management Criteria

- Discussed methods for how to evaluate the BVHM results to assess sustainability
  - Are trends in groundwater levels and storage predominantly stable or increasing by 2040 and thereafter?
  - Are future groundwater levels at sufficient elevations to not cause undesirable results (i.e., inability to pump enough water to serve the beneficial use)?
- Described rationale (and potential methods) for updating Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) in the GMP
- Solicited TAC feedback → Particularly on the potential methods to update the SMC
  - We received excellent written feedback from TAC members

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### March 18, 2025 Ad-Hoc TAC Meeting Report Out

#### Meeting Focus: BVHM Simulation of Future Groundwater Conditions

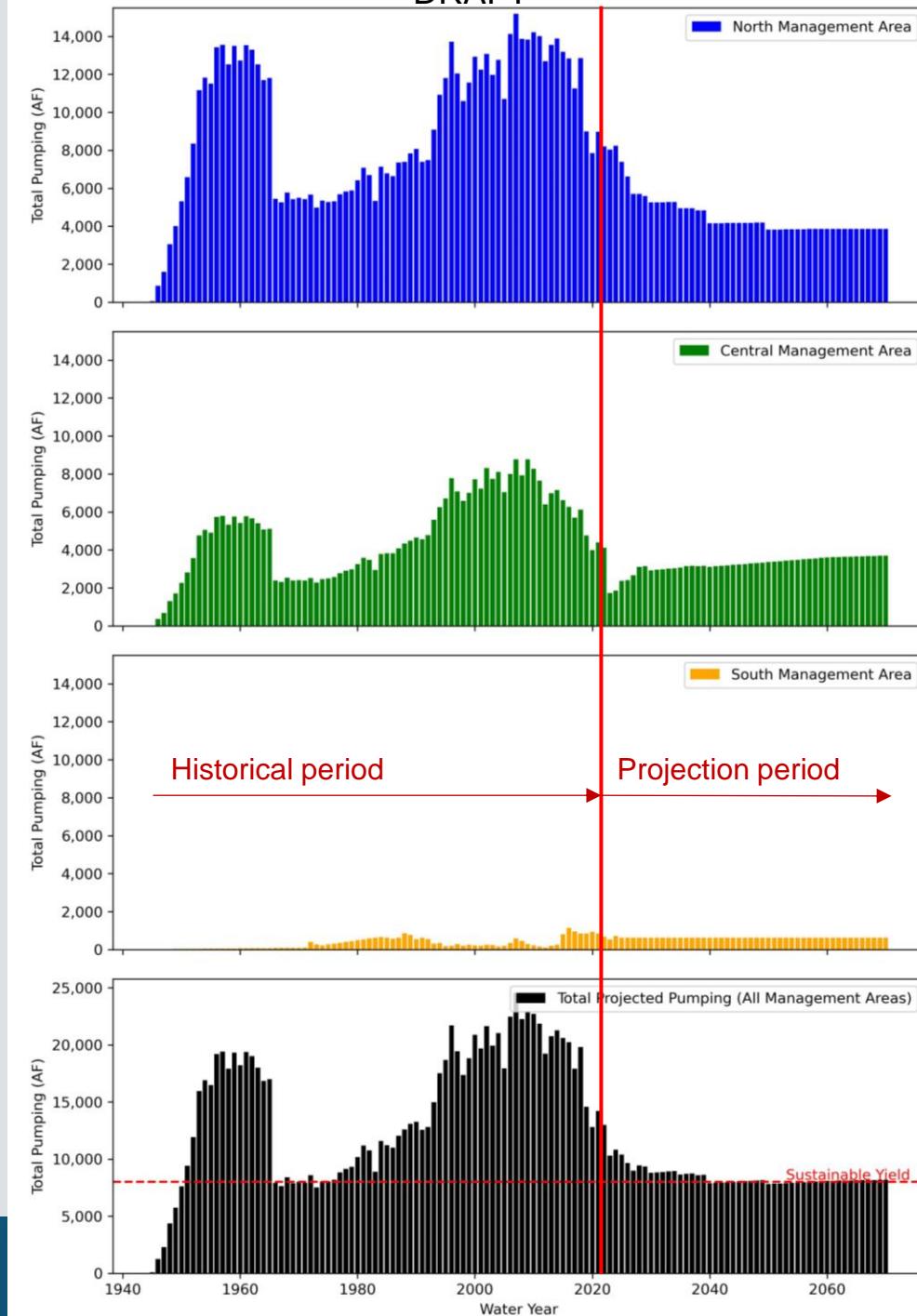
- Ran the BVHM through WY 2070, simulating:
  - Pumping Rampdown to 2025 Sustainable Yield by 2040
  - *Repeated Hydrology:* 47-year climate period of WY 1975-2022 was repeated for WY 2023-2070
- Reviewed model results:
  - Identified general trends in groundwater-levels by Management Area
  - Identified a potential discrepancy in BVHM → Inability of model wells to pump their assigned rates in southern portion of the CMA and deep wells in the SMA

# DISCLAIMER

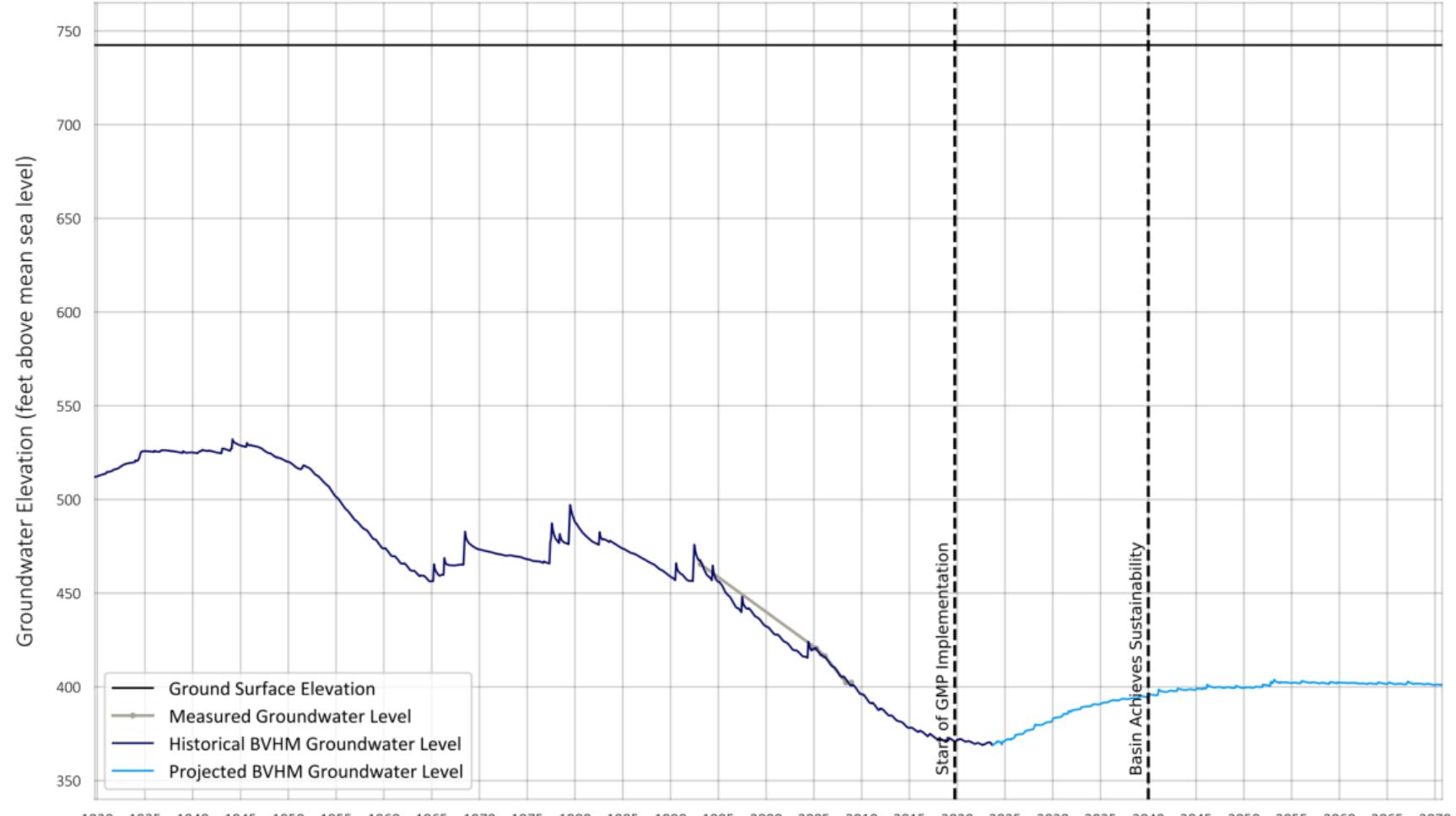
- All of the model results presented herein are draft. They should be considered preliminary information only and should not be used to make any conclusions about sustainability or the need for altered management plans until the work is further refined

# Pumping Projections

- North Management Area – Pumping **Decreases**
  - Reduction in pumping for irrigation due to increased fallowing
- Central Management Area – Pumping **Increases**
  - Driven by increased municipal and recreational demands
- South Management Area – Pumping **Constant**
  - Demands in SMA are expected to increase, but the increased pumping was assigned to wells in CMA
  - Though constant, relative to history, current and future pumping in SMA is greater from the deeper aquifer system
- Borrego Springs Subbasin – Total pumping **Decreases** to about equal to the Sustainable Yield by 2040



# North MA: Groundwater levels begin to recover during GMP implementation and then stabilize after 2040



Prepared by:

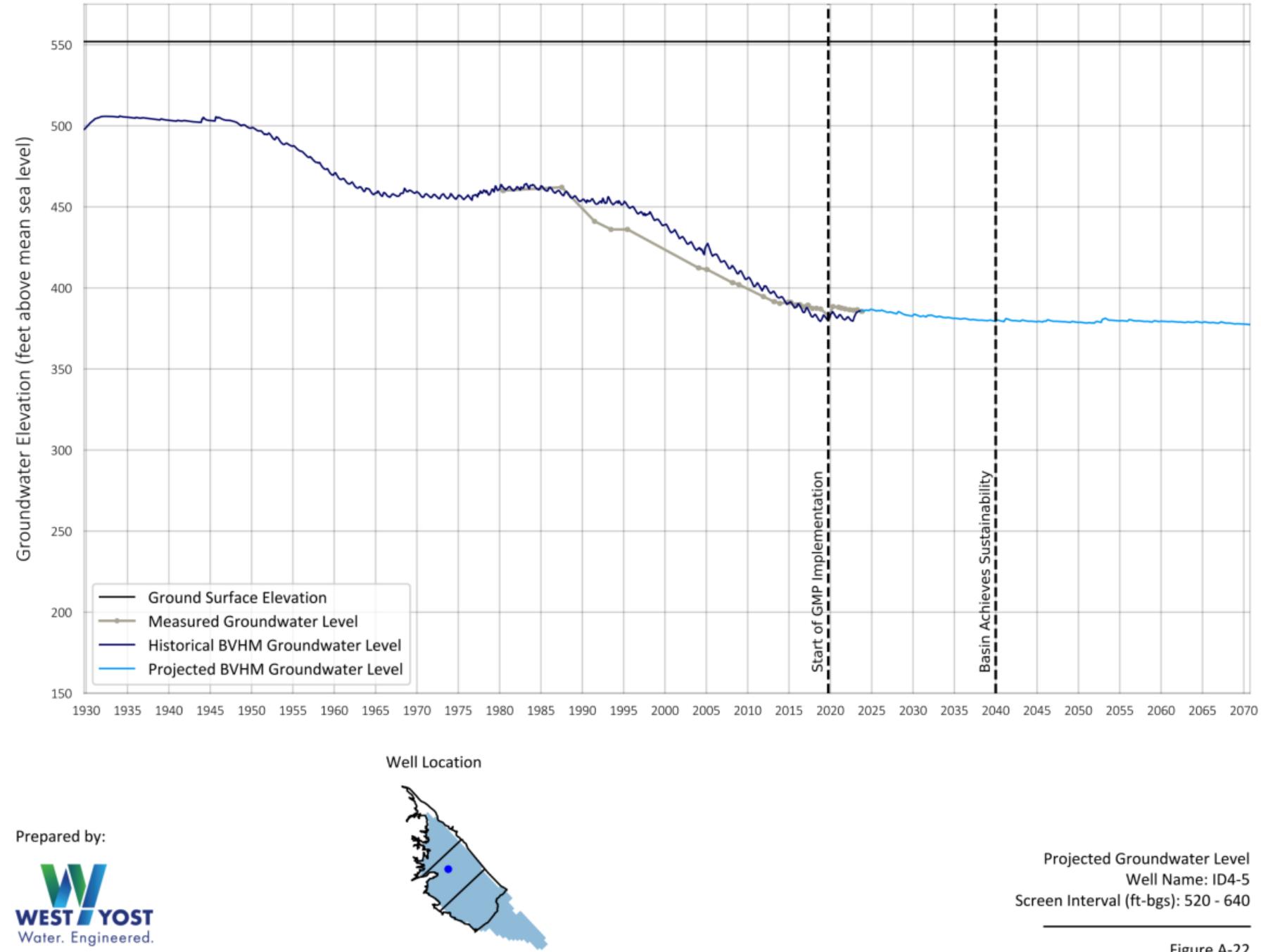


Projected Groundwater Level  
Well Name: Viking  
Screen Interval (ft-bgs): 360 - 700

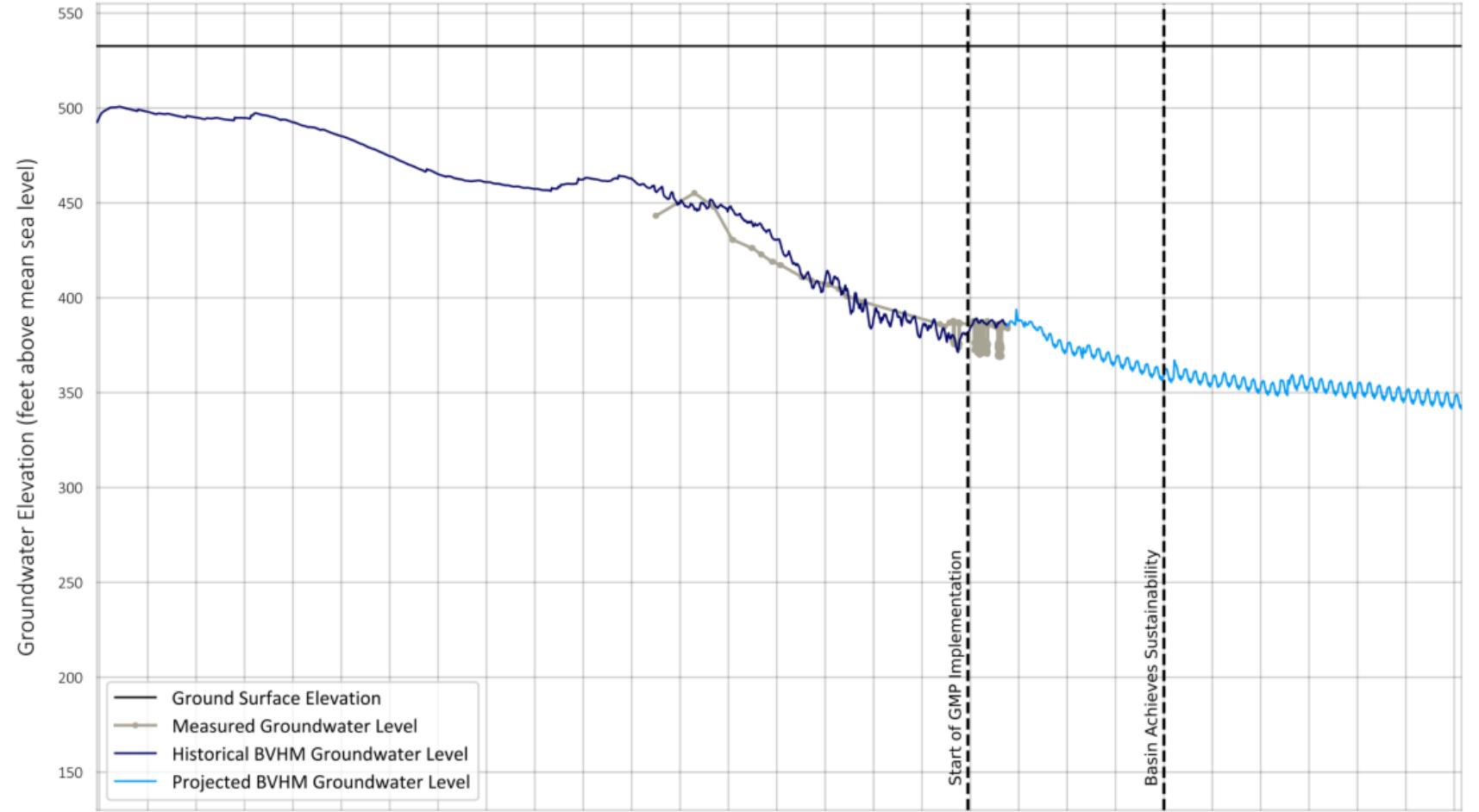
Figure A-39

**Northern portion of the Central MA:**  
Groundwater levels continue to gradually decline during GMP implementation and then mainly stabilize after 2040

WEST YOST



# Southern portion of the Central MA: Groundwater levels continuously decline through 2070



Prepared by:



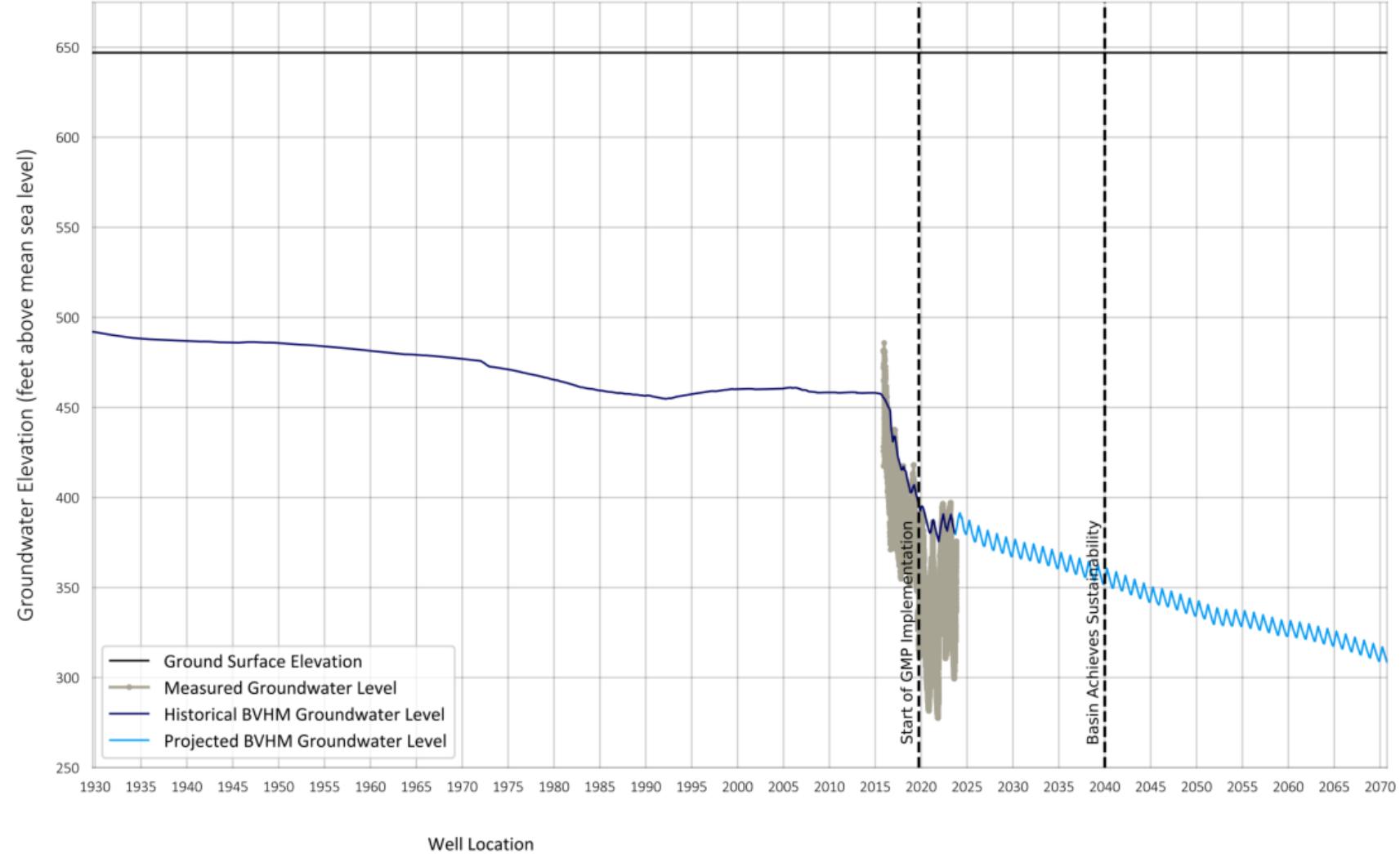
Well Location



Projected Groundwater Level  
Well Name: ID1-12  
Screen Interval (ft-bgs): 248 - 568

Figure A-12

# South MA: Groundwater levels continuously decline through 2070



Prepared by:



Well Location



Projected Groundwater Level  
Well Name: RH-6  
Screen Interval (ft-bgs): 238 - 938

Figure A-37

# Potential Discrepancy in BVHM

- Several model wells in Central and South Management Area were unable to pump their assigned rates
  - Currently, the cause of these greater drawdowns and pumping reductions is unknown, but could be related to inaccurate aquifer properties, model bugs, etc.
  - We **DO NOT** believe this deficiency impacts the 2025 redetermination of the Sustainable Yield as the primary problem is related to pumping, and the Sustainable Yield is an estimate of long-term recharge
  - We are investigating the cause(s) of under-pumping by the MNW2 package

# Next Steps

- With these model results, we can meet our DWR obligations for the SGM grant
- Develop a proposed scope/budget for WY 2026
  - Will likely include:
    - Review of the GDE Study
    - Complete the GMP Assessment Report
  - Scope/budget could be informed by the results of our investigation into the potential BVHM discrepancy
- Conduct TAC meeting in April 2025

## VI.C – Executive Director Report

### SGM Grant Status

- Status of Reimbursement Requests:
  - Request #6: **Payment received by BWD!** Signed check en route to West Yost to pay down balance
  - Request #7: Under review (payment assumed June 2025)
  - Request #8: Submitted to DWR on February 14, 2025 and is under review (payment assumed September 2025)
- Staff completed and submitted draft “Grant Completion Report” on December 31, 2024
- Staff submitted budget amendment to transfer budget between grant categories and components on January 16 - No formal approval, but questions answered

## VI.C – Executive Director Report

### WY 2025 Pumping Assessments

- Nearly all WY 2025 Pumping Assessments have been paid (99%)
- 3 Parties still have outstanding balance, totaling \$105.99
- Staff has sent reminders to all Parties with outstanding balances

### Annual Meter Verification Process

- Final year grant funding will be available to cover costs
- Verification testing almost complete → 90% of the 56 wells were tested
  - 6 wells still need to be tested and are scheduled to be complete before grant expires

## VI.C – Executive Director Report

### BPA Party Updates

- Only 1 Party remains out of compliance with the Judgment and is not in contact with the Watermaster. The Party has not:
  - Metered its wells (that we know of)
  - Paid any assessments owed, totaling \$358.13
- Board members have requested for the Watermaster to take action to resolve this non-compliance.
  - Alternate Director Dax may be able to assist with communications with the Party
- Request to have this added to a future Board agenda for discussion

## V.D – Chairperson's Report

# VI. Establishing Agenda for April 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

## Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for April 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

## Process:

1. Review the initial April agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the May and June 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 March Board meeting
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the April 2025 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 April Regular Meeting

1. Final BPA Party out of Compliance
2. Final Overview of Work Completed with SGM Implementation Grant Funding
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter WY 2025 Budget Status Review
4. WY 2026 Budget Scoping
5. Assessment Report and Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP (new standing item)

## Future Agenda Items

### May

1. Draft WY 2026 Budget
2. WY 2025 Mid-Year Pumping Report
3. Assessment Report and Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP

### June

1. Draft Final WY 2026 Budget
2. Spring 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
3. Assessment Report and Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP

# Set Agenda for April Regular Meeting

1. Final BPA Party out of Compliance
2. Final Overview of Work Completed with SGM Implementation Grant Funding
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter WY 2025 Budget Status Review
4. WY 2026 Budget Scoping
5. Assessment Report and Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP
6. Presentation of GDE report

## VI. Establishing Agenda for April 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## VII. Board Member Comments

## VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Regular Board Meeting – April 16, 2025 (In-Person)
- Regular Board Meeting – May 21, 2025
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – April 2025 (date TBD)

## IX. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!