

# Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

May 21, 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 – April 16, 2025
- B. Approval of April 2025 Financial Report
- C. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from February 2025 (RWG, Land IQ, West Yost)
- D. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from March 2025 (RWG, Land IQ, West Yost)
- E. Receive and file 2025 Q1 Grant Reimbursement Request Report (#9)

## IV.A Renew Watermaster Insurance Policy

### Recommended Actions:

Approve insurance expenditure and direct staff to renew insurance policy with Inland Counties Insurance Services Inc.

### Fiscal Impact:

The quote for liability insurance coverage is \$47,352.19 for one year. The cost is within the assumed WY 2025 budget (on an accrual basis)

### Cost increase since 2024:

- In May 2024, Watermaster renewed insurance policy from Inland Counties Insurance Services for \$42,954.50
- Renewal is \$4,397.69 more than last year for the same level of coverage
- Increase is driven by inflation, increasing costs in CA insurance market

## IV.A Renew Watermaster Insurance Policy



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.B Draft WY 2026 Budget

### Recommended Actions:

Provide direction to staff on how to finalize a Water Year (WY) 2026 Budget for consideration of approval at the June 2025 Board meeting.

### Fiscal Impact. Draft WY 2026 budget includes:

- Expenditures of \$736,018
- Revenues of \$356,304, funded by pumping assessments and payment on pass-through expenses
- Vendor financing will be fully paid off in WY 2026 as the remaining DWR SGM grant reimbursements are paid out
- Cash reserves maintained at or near the standard reserve policy of **nine months** of operating expenses.
- Assumes Board approves staff's recommendation to advance completion of the 5- Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), by beginning to address the DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) utilizing available time and budget in the remainder of WY 2025

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget

- Staff Memo covers:
  - Background and Judgment Requirements
  - Use of the Watermaster Financial Planning Model
  - Overview of the Draft WY 2026 Budget
  - Scope of Work Considerations for finalizing the WY 2026 Budget
  - Discussion Prompts for Board Feedback

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget

- **Exhibit 1:** Draft line-item operating budget (revenues, expenditures, liabilities, cash reserves) for:
  - Approved and Projected Actual for WY 2025
  - Proposed for WY 2026
  - Projection period of WY 2027-2030
- **Attachment A:** Description of Routine Annual Administrative and Technical Services Expenditures
- **Attachment B:** Recommended Scope and Budget for Non-Routine Technical Services through WY 2030

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – WY 2026

- **Revenues:** **\$356,304** – pumping assessment, bad debt, overproduction penalty assessments, and pass through expenses (meter reading)
- **Expenditures:** **\$734,056** (50% less than WY 2025)
  - Annual Routine Technical Services - \$663,878
  - Non-Routine Technical Services - \$70,178\*
- **Liabilities:** Projected to be paid off in WY 2026 – starting balance of \$200,910 in October 2025
- **Cash Reserves:** Targets 9-month operating expenses. Exceeds target in WY 2026 due to DWR reimbursements

*\*assumes certain work begins in WY 2025*

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Projection WY 2027 to 2030

- **Revenues:** \$790,000 pumping assessment per year
- **Expenditures:** ranges from \$758,947 to \$863,418
  - 3.4% to 17.6% greater than WY 2026
- **Liabilities:** None
- **Cash Reserves:** Targets 9-month operating expenses. Average month-end reserve ranges from \$22,791 ABOVE the target to \$47,393 below the target). When below target, ranges from 4% to 7% below.

*\*\*WY 2027 to WY 2030 represents staff best estimate of future costs and is not a guarantee of what actual costs will be in the future. It is prepared for planning and discussion purposes.*

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Routine Administrative and Technical Services

- **Administrative Services:** Board meetings, TAC meetings, Court hearings, Stakeholder Outreach, financial services, support to BPA parties, maintain website, respond to public inquiries, as-needed administration of the Judgment requirements, and program/budget management
- **Professional and Other Vender Services:** financial audit, insurance, equipment, miscellaneous expenses, interest expense on payment terms
- **Legal Services**
- **General Technical Services:** meter reading program, groundwater monitoring program, data management and reporting, Annual Report to the Court and DWR, as-needed technical services to support Judgment compliance

*\*See Attachment A*

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Non-Routine Technical Services

- **2026 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (*budget assumes work begins in WY 2025*)**
  - Address DWR RCAs
  - Update future pumping projections to shift pumping toward North MA
  - Finalize 5-year GMP Assessment and Report (see Table F-1 attachment in memo)
  - GMP Redline
- **Technical Work to Support 2030 Sustainable Yield Update (WY 2026 to 2029)**
- **Technical Work to Support 2035 Sustainable Yield Update (WY 2030)**
- **Start the 2031 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (WY 2030)**
- **Undefined future GMP Implementation Actions (WY 2027 to 2030)**

*\*See Attachment B*

# IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Non-Routine Technical Services

Table B1. Line Item Costs of Non-Routine Technical Scope of Services through WY 2030<sup>1</sup>

Technical Scope Items	WY 2025 <sup>2</sup>	WY 2026	WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030	Total Cost
Total all Scope Items	\$ 67,414	\$ 70,178	\$ 122,500	\$ 64,100	\$ 144,400	\$ 113,700	\$ 582,292
<b>Address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs)</b>							
Corrective Actions (RCAs)	\$ 47,782	\$ 26,058	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 153,840
RCA 1 - Management Areas		\$6,131					\$ 6,131
RCA 2 - Domestic Well Mitigation		\$7,982					\$ 7,982
RCA 3 - Groundwater Level SMC	\$14,926	\$3,731					\$ 18,657
RCA 4 - Groundwater Storage SMC	\$7,550	\$1,887					\$ 9,437
RCA 5 - Groundwater Quality SMC	\$6,000	\$1,500					\$ 7,500
RCA 6 - Land Subsidence	\$10,242	\$2,561					\$ 12,803
RCA 7 - Judgment/GMP Relationship	\$9,064	\$2,266					\$ 11,330
Undefined RCA Follow-on Work <sup>3</sup>			\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$ 80,000
5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (2026)	\$ 19,632	\$ 28,378	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,010
BVHM Pumping Projections Update	\$12,000						\$ 12,000
Finalize 2026 5-Year Assessment Report	\$7,632	\$22,896					\$ 30,528
Prepare GMP Redline Document		\$5,482					\$ 5,482
Technical Work for 2030 Sustainable Yield	\$ -	\$ 15,742	\$ 102,500	\$ 44,100	\$ 124,400	\$ -	\$ 286,742
Evaluate the GDE Study Report (TAC share)		\$15,742					\$15,742
Assess BVHM Updates: HCM updates			\$75,400				\$75,400
Assess BVHM Updates: Simulation of GDEs			\$27,100				\$27,100
Evaluate New Monitoring Data				\$29,100			\$29,100
Develop Methods to Perform Model Updates				\$15,000			\$15,000
Update and Validate the BVHM					\$60,900		\$60,900
Recalibrate BVHM and Determine the 2030 SY					\$63,500		\$63,500
Technical Work for 2035 Sustainable Yield	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,800	\$ 17,800
Prepare Scope and Budget for the 2035 SY						\$17,800	\$17,800
5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (2031)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,900	\$ 75,900
Evaluate Sustainability of 2030 SY via BVHM Projections							\$45,900
Start 5-Yr GMP Assessment and Update							\$30,000

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Considerations for Finalizing the Budget

- **Leveraging Available Budget in WY 2025**

- Watermaster has a regulatory deadline to submit the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP Update to the DWR by June 25, 2026
- Staff believes that it will be necessary to begin this work in WY 2025 to complete the work on time
- Table B1 of Attachment B presents line item detail of this work

Technical Scope Items	Table B1. Line Item Costs of Non-Routine Technical Scope of Services through WY 2030 <sup>1</sup>							Total Cost
	WY 2025 <sup>2</sup>	WY 2026	WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030		
Total all Scope Items	\$ 67,414	\$ 70,178	\$ 122,500	\$ 64,100	\$ 144,400	\$ 113,700		\$ 582,292
<b>Address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs)</b>								
RCA 1 - Management Areas			\$6,131					\$ 6,131
RCA 2 - Domestic Well Mitigation			\$7,982					\$ 7,982
RCA 3 - Groundwater Level SMC	\$14,926	\$3,731						\$ 18,657
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RCA 7 - Judgment/GMP Relationship	\$9,064	\$2,266						\$ 11,330
Undefined RCA Follow-on Work <sup>3</sup>			\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$ 80,000	
<b>5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (2026)</b>	<b>\$ 19,632</b>	<b>\$ 28,378</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 48,010</b>	
BVHM Pumping Projections Update	\$12,000							\$ 12,000
Finalize 2026 5-Year Assessment Report	\$7,632	\$22,896						\$ 30,528
Prepare GMP Redline Document		\$5,482						\$ 5,482

**WY 2025 = \$67,414**

**WY 2026 = \$54,436**

# IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget Considerations for Finalizing the Budget

- **Leveraging Available Budget in WY 2025**
  - Watermaster has a regulatory deadline to submit the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP Update to the DWR by June 25, 2026
  - Staff believes that it will be necessary to begin this work in WY 2025 to complete the work on time
  - Table B1 of Attachment B presents line item detail of this work

Table 1. Recommended Schedule of Routine and Non-Routine Activities for June 2025 through June 2026

Month/Year	Routine Board Topics for Review and Potential Action at Board Meetings	Non-Routine Technical Topics for Discussion at Board, TAC, EWG, or Open House Workshops
June 2025	*WY 2026 Budget *Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (Spring '25)	<b>Board:</b> Workshop - Discuss Considerations for Updating the GMP
July 2025	*Q3 Budget Status	<b>Board:</b> Workshop - Judgment vs GMP <b>TAC:</b> *Revised BVHM Pumping Projection - Shift Pumping to NMA *Updating Groundwater Level and Storage SMC
Aug 2025	*Contract for Admin and Tech Services	<b>EWG:</b> *Bio Restore Study: EWG recommendations to Board *Recommend: Kick off GDE Study Review <b>Board:</b> Workshop - SMCs
Sept 2025		<b>TAC:</b> Addressing Groundwater Quality SMC, Land Subsidence <b>Board:</b> *Workshop - Groundwater Quality and SGMA *EWG recommendations on Bio Restore Study
Oct 2025	*WY 2025 Budget Summary *Draft Water Rights Accounting	<b>Public Workshop:</b> Updating SMC <b>Board:</b> Workshop - Overview of Public Comments in SMC Workshop
Nov 2025	*Final Water Rights Accounting	<b>TAC:</b> Review of Updated SMC (based on comments) <b>Board:</b> Workshop - RCA-2: Domestic Well Mitigation
Dec 2025		<b>TAC/EWG:</b> UCI Briefing on GDE Study <b>Board:</b> Workshop - SMC (final recommendations)
Jan 2026	*Q1 Budget Status (note: workshop will include Fall '25 semi-annual monitoring results)	<b>TAC:</b> Discuss GDE Study and Recommendation on BAS <b>EWG:</b> Discuss GDE Study and Recommendation on BAS <b>Board:</b> Workshop - Current Basin Conditions Relative to Updated SMC
Feb 2026	*Hearing: Draft WY 2025 Annual Report	<b>Board:</b> *Workshop - Conclusions and Recommendations of the 5-Yr Assessment *TAC, EWG, TC Recommendation on GDE Study
Mar 2026	*Final WY 2025 Annual Report	** Publish Compiled Draft 5-Year Assessment Report <b>Public Workshop:</b> Present Draft 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update <b>Board:</b> Present Draft 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update
Apr 2026	*Q2 Budget Status *WY 2027 Budget Scoping	<b>TAC:</b> 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Update, WY 2027 Budget <b>Board:</b> Addressing Public/TAC Comments on 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Update
May 2026	*Draft WY 2027 Budget *Mid-Year Pumping Reports	<b>TAC:</b> WY 2027 Budget <b>Board:</b> Revised Draft 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Redline
June 2026	*Final WY 2027 Budget *Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (Spring '26)	<b>Board:</b> Consider Approval of 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Update

# IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Considerations for Finalizing the Budget

## Cost Routine vs. Non-Routine Work

- Level of effort for routine services will remain the same over time
- non-routine technical line-items have varying scope and costs year-over-year
- Routine operating costs represent majority of the annual operating costs: about 87% of the average annual operating costs (\$698,711)
- 13% of average annual costs are for non-routine technical work (\$102,976)

Table 2. Comparison of Prior Year and Projected Annual Costs for Routine vs. Non-Routine Services

Watermaster Operating Costs	Amended WY 2025	Projected Actual WY 2025	Draft Proposed WY 2026	Projected Budget <sup>1</sup>			
				WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030
<b>Routine Administrative and Technical Services</b>							
<i>Routine Administrative Services</i>	\$ 421,598	\$ 418,372	\$ 306,704	\$ 304,281	\$ 316,989	\$ 330,424	\$ 344,444
<i>Routine Legal Services</i>	\$ 105,000	\$ 98,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 108,150	\$ 111,395	\$ 114,736	\$ 118,178
<i>Routine Technical Services</i>	\$ 255,553	\$ 220,039	\$ 252,174	\$ 259,285	\$ 266,464	\$ 273,858	\$ 281,474
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 782,151</b>	<b>\$ 736,411</b>	<b>\$ 663,878</b>	<b>\$ 671,717</b>	<b>\$ 694,847</b>	<b>\$ 719,018</b>	<b>\$ 744,096</b>
							<b>Five Year Total Routine Services - WY 2026 to 2030</b> \$ 3,493,556
							<b>Average Annual Revenue Required to Fund Routine Services</b> \$ 698,711
<b>Non-Routine Technical Services</b>							
<i>Monitoring Program Expansion/Improvements</i>	\$ 203,273	\$ 221,269	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Study</i>	\$ 233,801	\$ 219,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Develop Scope and Budget for Next SY Update</i>	\$ 15,272	\$ 15,444	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,800
<i>Technical Work for 2030 Sustainable Yield Update</i>	\$ 90,590	\$ 84,851	\$ 15,742	\$ 102,500	\$ 44,100	\$ 124,400	\$ -
<i>5-Year Assessment and Update of the GMP</i>	\$ 140,508	\$ 125,924	\$ 28,378	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,900
<i>Address Recommended Corrective Actions</i>	\$ -	\$ 47,782	\$ 26,058	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Other TBD Follow-on Technical Work</i>	\$ 10,048	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 693,492</b>	<b>\$ 714,387</b>	<b>\$ 70,178</b>	<b>\$ 122,500</b>	<b>\$ 64,100</b>	<b>\$ 144,400</b>	<b>\$ 113,700</b>
							<b>Five Year Total Non-Routine Technical Services - WY 2026 to 2030</b> \$ 514,878
							<b>Average Annual Revenue Required to Fund Non-Routine Technical Services</b> \$ 102,976
<b>Total Annual Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 1,475,643</b>	<b>\$ 1,450,798</b>	<b>\$ 734,056</b>	<b>\$ 794,217</b>	<b>\$ 758,947</b>	<b>\$ 863,418</b>	<b>\$ 857,796</b>
							<b>Five Year Total Operating Costs WY 2026 to 2030</b> \$ 4,008,434
							<b>Average Annual Revenue Required to Fund Operating Costs</b> \$ 801,687
							<b>Average Reserve Target to Maintain 9-months Operating Costs in Cash</b> \$ 601,265

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Non-Routine Technical Services

- Non-routine technical costs are more difficult to project over time
- Often times the outcomes of the work performed in one year may dictate adaptation to the planned scope of work for a future year
- It is not possible for staff to guarantee the projected budgets will be limited to the items listed or that the assumed scope will cover future needs to adapt technical approaches
- If these costs increase for any reason, the projected pumping assessments will also need to be increased
- Staff recommends that it is prudent to assume this level of effort to prepare pumpers for a higher assessment level than has existed in the past
- The costs are higher than what the Watermaster had assumed costs would be when the GMP was developed

## IV.B - Draft WY 2026 Budget – Discussion Prompts

- Are you supportive of Staff’s recommendation to utilize underspent budget from WY 2025 to start work to address the DWR RCAs and advance finalizing the 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update?
  - If no, what do you recommend as an alternative approach to complete the necessary work by the June 2026 deadline?
- If you recommend reducing costs, what specific cost line-items (routine or non-routine) do you believe should be eliminated (or be revised to reduce scope), and what is the rationale?
- Are you comfortable with the level of funding assumed in the “undefined future implementation actions”? (e.g. \$20,000 per year for WY 2027 through WY 2030)
  - If no, what level of funding would you recommend? (more, less, a specific amount?)
- Are there any items that have not sufficiently been considered in the budget?
- Are you comfortable with the operating cash reserve projection, that in some years is between four and seven percent below the target 9-month operating reserve?

## IV.B Draft WY 2026 Budget



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.C Review of Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025

### **Recommended Actions:**

Board discussion.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None.

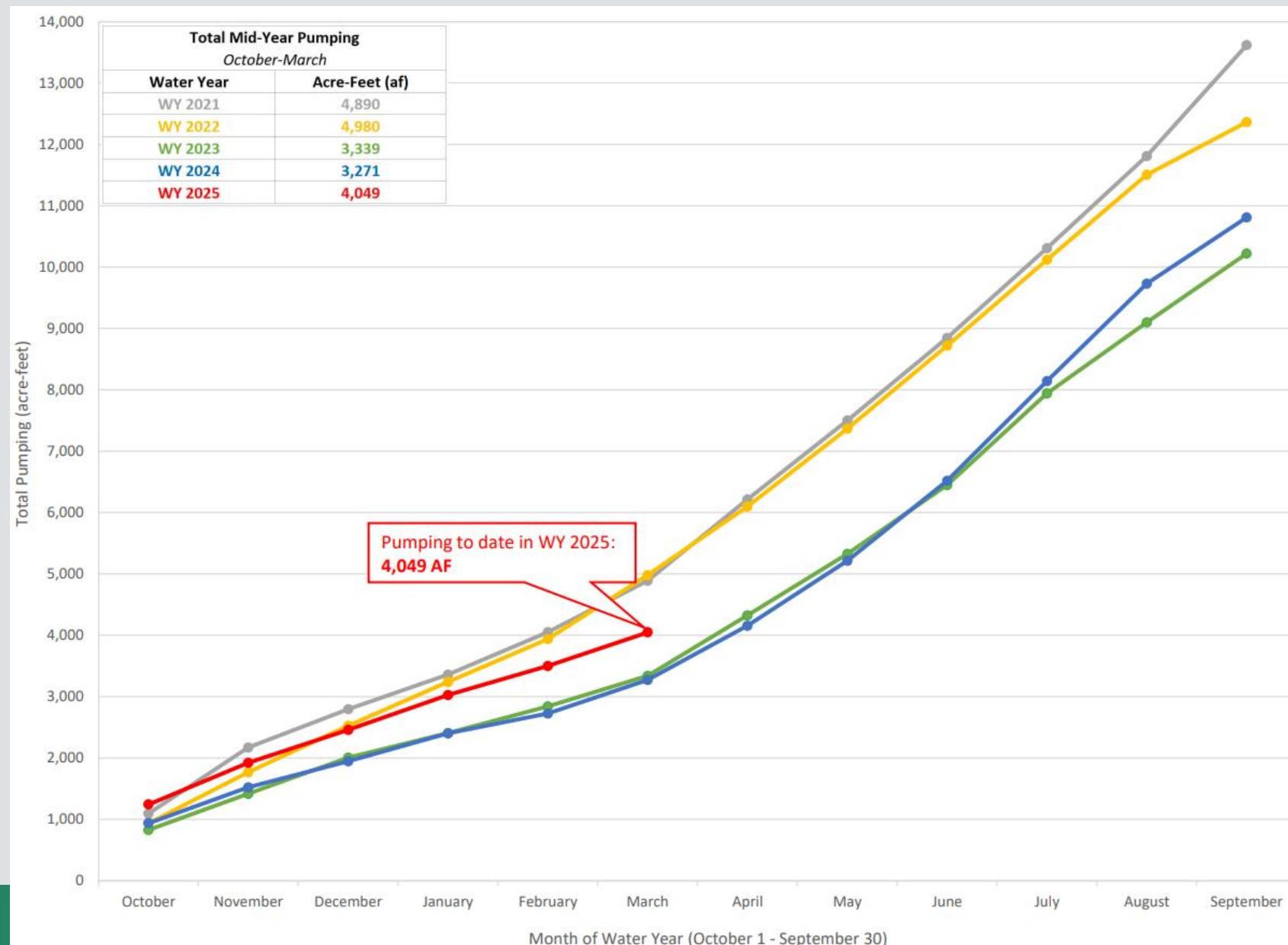
## Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025

Monthly measured groundwater production data for the first half of WY 2025 (Oct-Mar) was assessed to:

1. Determine if individual Parties and the Basin are on-track to meet, exceed, or pump less than the Annual Allocation for WY 2025.
2. Identify and notify any Parties that may be at risk of pumping in exceedance of their maximum allowable pumping for the Water Year.
3. Compare groundwater pumping during the first six months of the current WY (WY 2025) to the same period from the prior WYs (WY 2021-2024).

# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025: October 2024 – March 2025

- Groundwater pumping is 778 af more in WY 2025 than WY 2024
- 4 Parties are at risk to pump in exceedance of their Maximum Allowable Allocation (pumped 52%-107% in first half of WY 2025)



# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025: By Sector

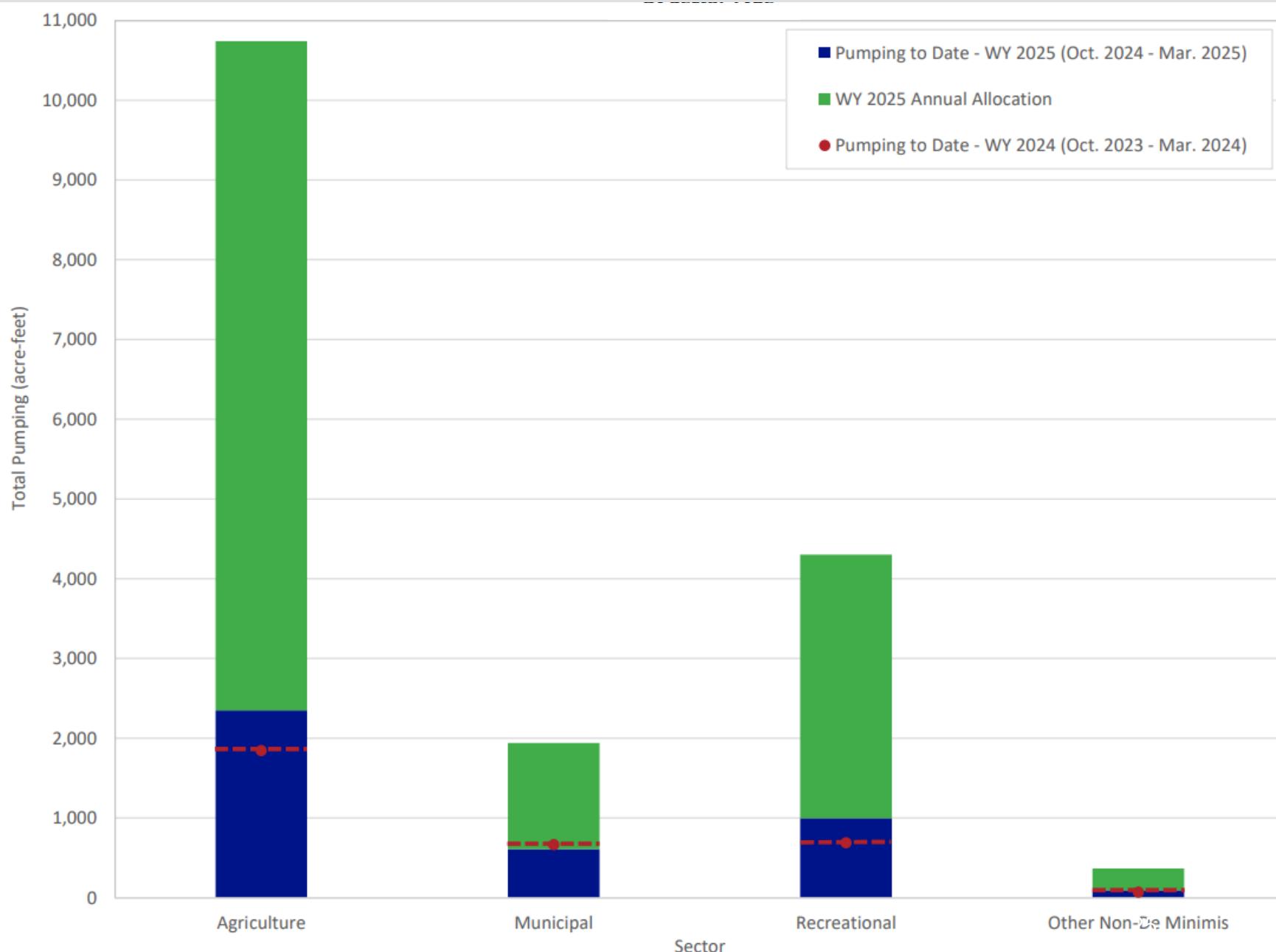
- Agriculture sector pumped the most (58% of total pumping)
- Other Non-De Minimis pumped the least (2% of total pumping)
- All sectors, except Municipal, pumped more in WY 2025 compared to WY 2024
  - Greatest increase from Agriculture sector, which increased 504 af between WY 2024 - 2025

Exhibit 5. Total Mid-Year Pumping (October to March) by Sector

Sector	WY 2025		WY 2024	
	Total Mid-Year Pumping (acre-feet)	Percent of Total Mid-Year Pumping	Total Mid-Year Pumping (acre-feet)	Percent of Total Mid-Year Pumping
Agriculture	2,350	58%	1,846	56%
Municipal	609	15%	665	20%
Other Non-De Minimis	93	2%	71	2%
Recreation	998	25%	689	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,049</b>		<b>3,271</b>	

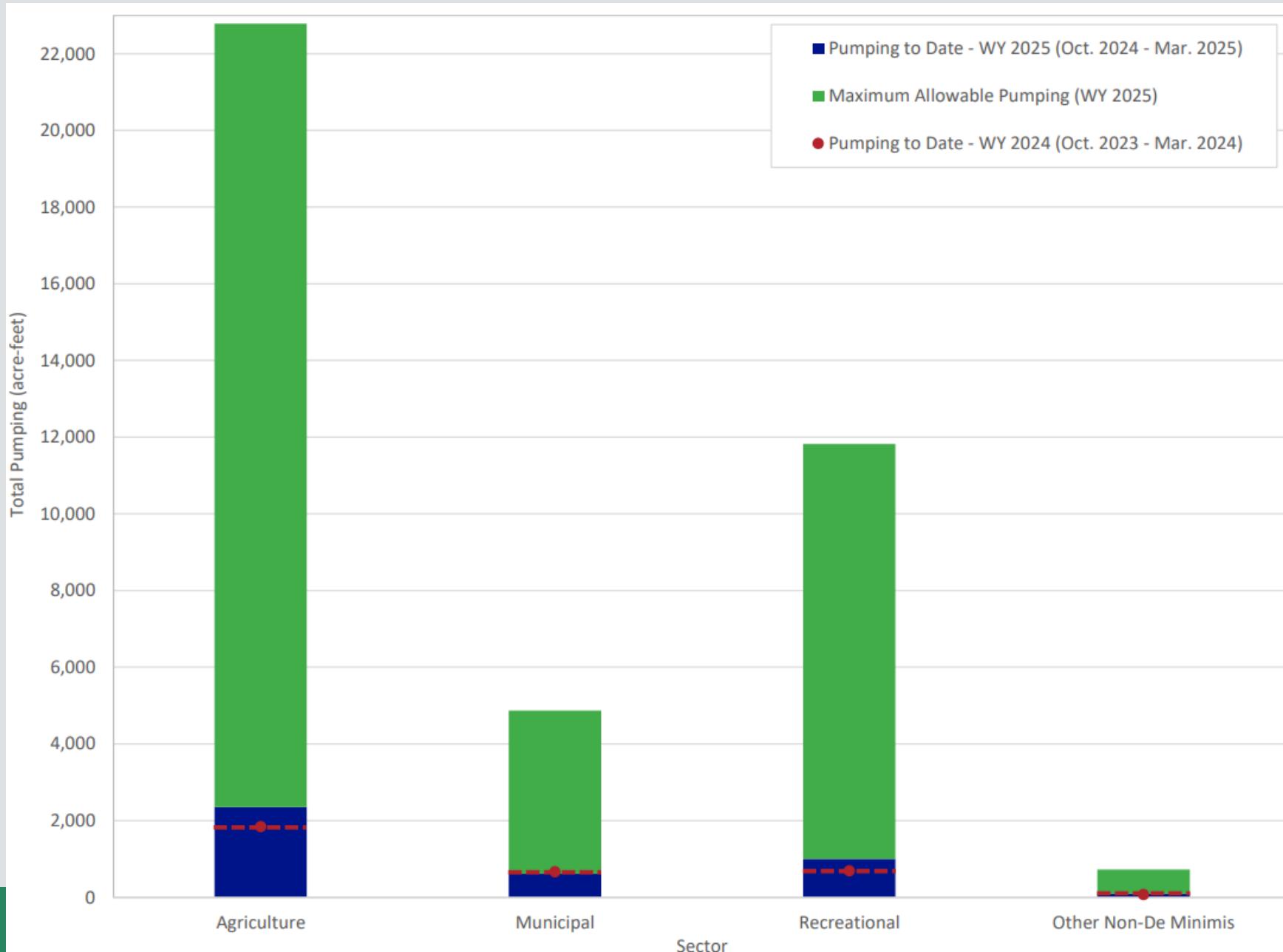
# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025 Compared to Annual Allocation

- WY 2025 Annual Allocation is 75% of BPA
- 33% = average percentage of Annual Allocation pumped across all Parties



# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025 Compared to Max. Allowable Pumping

- Max. Allowable Pumping = Annual Allocation + Carryover
- 23% = average percentage of Maximum Allowable pumped across all Parties



# Next Steps

**May 2025** - Parties notified of their pumping-to-date

**July 2025** - Parties notified of the Overproduction Penalty Assessment and reminded to execute lease or transfer Carryover or Annual Allocation to avoid any Penalty Assessments by end of Water Rights Accounting Process (October 2025)

## IV.C Review of Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025



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COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.D EWG Meeting

### **Recommended Actions:**

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

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None. The Board approved a scope of work and budget for the EWG in WY 2025, which includes periodic meetings to coordinate work and discuss results.

## IV.D – Next EWG Meeting

- The next EWG meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025 at 4pm
- Proposed agenda topic: *Findings from the Monitoring of the Experimental Sand Fences on Fallowed Farmlands in the North Management Area*
- A presentation will be given by UCI Master's students who have been monitoring the effectiveness of the experimental Sand Fences on fallowed farmland
  - The Board approved the EWG request to serve as Community Mentor to the UCI Capstone Program

# Next Steps

- **June 2025** – Technical Consultant reports to the Board on the outcomes of the EWG meeting
- **August 2025** - Next EWG meeting for the EWG: Develop recommendations for the Board based on the final Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Study

## IV.D EWG Meeting



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COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## V.A – Legal Counsel Report

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### **Spring 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report**

- Monitoring event was conducted on the week of March 17, 2025
- Nearly all wells in the monitoring network were measured/sampled for groundwater level and/or quality
- June 2025 Board meeting: Report on the Spring 2025 monitoring results

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### **May 1 TAC Meeting - *Use of the 2022 BVHM to Evaluate Future Sustainability***

- This topic was presented to the Board at its April 2025 meeting
- Main interpretations/conclusions from this work were:
  - Future pumping in the North Management Area are predicted to be sustainable
  - Future pumping in South and Central Management Areas may not be sustainable → ***chronic lowering of groundwater levels***
  - A pumping discrepancy was identified in the BVHM, which reduces confidence in the BVHM results—particularly in the SMA
- The TAC discussed findings and Board feedback, and made recommendations for next steps

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### **TAC Recommendations - *Use of the 2022 BVHM to Evaluate Future Sustainability***

- Written comments are included in your agenda packet.
- Majority of TAC members (5 of 6) agreed that:
  - Discrepancy in BVHM should be fixed
  - The Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM) for the SMA is likely incorrect and should be updated
  - BVHM updates/fixes should be performed as part of 2030 Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield (4/6 TAC members)
  - Alternative future pumping projections should be developed and simulated (*i.e.* shift pumping from SMA/CMA to NMA). Results can be used to inform Watermaster policy.
- Other TAC feedback:
  - The preliminary interpretations from the BVHM projection are likely correct: *future pumping in the CMA and SMA may not be sustainable*
  - BVHM should be upgraded to latest version of MODFLOW-OWHM

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### ***May 1 TAC Meeting - Scope of Work and Budget to Review and Use the GDE Study Report***

- Topics discussed at TAC meeting:
  - GDE Report is new information that could be used to improve the BVHM and update the GMP regarding GDEs
  - GDE must undergo review as “best available science” per Watermaster’s policy
  - Draft scope includes two tasks:
    - Task 1 – Evaluate the GDE Study Report as “Best Available Science”
    - Task 2 – Evaluate the need for BVHM Updates for Simulation of Groundwater ET
- The TAC discussed and made recommendations for next steps

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### TAC Recommendations – *GDE Scope of Work*

- Majority of TAC members agreed that:
  - Scope for Task 1 should include a review of groundwater levels and lithology data in the SMA
    - The Technical Consultant should compile this information to assist TAC review
    - Task 1 should be performed in WY 2026
  - Task 2 should be characterized as a placeholder for potential future work, based on results and recommendations of Task 1
    - Task 2 should be performed in WY 2027, if recommended after Task 1

## V.B – Technical Consultant Report

### May 1 TAC Meeting: Next Steps

- TAC feedback was used to prepare the draft Watermaster scope and budget for WY 2026-30 (Agenda Item IV.B)
- Next TAC meeting in July/August 2025 (depending on Board direction):
  - Revised BVHM pumping projections – *shift pumping to NMA*
  - Updating SMC for groundwater levels and storage

## VI.C – Executive Director Report

### SGM Grant Status

- Status of Reimbursement Requests:
  - Request #7: Approved by DWR, payment pending (expected in June)
  - Request #8: Submitted to DWR on February 14, 2025 and is pending review (payment assumed September 2025)
  - Request #9: Submitted to DWR on May 15, 2025 and is pending review (payment assumed December 2025 and March 2026)
  - Request #10 (final): Submitted to BWD, but is not due to DWR until June 15, 2025 (payment assumed March 2026)
- Staff completed final “Grant Completion Report” and submitted to BWD on May 20, 2025. Report is due to DWR by June 15, 2025.

## VI.C – Executive Director Report

### WY 2025 Pumping Assessments

- Invoices for second installment of WY 2025 pumping assessment mailed out this week (May 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Payment due June 30, 2025

### BPA Party Updates

- No new updates since April meeting

## V.D – Chairperson's Report

# VI. Establishing Agenda for June 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

## Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for June 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

## Process:

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

1. Consideration of approval of WY 2026 Budget
2. TAC meeting agenda for July/August
3. Spring 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
4. Workshop: Addressing DWR Comments on Judgment/GMP – Considerations for Updating the GMP

## Future Agenda Items

### July

1. WY 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Budget Status Review
2. Consideration of approval of TAC agenda for July/August
3. Workshop: Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP

### August

1. Contract for Administrative and Technical Services
2. Workshop: Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP – Sustainable Management Criteria

# Set Agenda for June Regular Meeting

1. Consideration of approval of WY 2026 Budget
2. TAC meeting agenda for July/August
3. Spring 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
4. Workshop: Addressing DWR Comments on Judgment/GMP – Considerations for Updating the GMP

## VI. Establishing Agenda for June 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

## **VII. Board Member Comments**

## VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Regular Board Meeting – June 18, 2025
- Regular Board Meeting – July 16, 2025
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – July/August 2025 (TBD)
- Environmental Working Group Meeting – May/June 2025 (TBD)

## IX. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!