Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

September 17, 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

- September 9, 2025 Letter from David Garmon

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 – August 20, 2025

B. Approval of August 2025 Financial Report

C. & D. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from June & July 2025

IV.A WY 2026 Calendar of Activities and Meeting Dates

Recommended Actions:

Approve proposed dates for Board meetings.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

IV.A Proposed WY 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Virtual Meetings	In Person Meetings in conjunction with Stakeholder Open House
• November 19, 2025 • December 17, 2025 • January 21, 2026 • February 18, 2026 • March 18, 2026 • May 20, 2026 • June 17, 2026 • July 15, 2026 • August 2026 – *No Board Meeting* • September 16, 2026	• October 15, 2025 • April 2026 – *Date TBD*

IV.A WY 2026 Calendar of Activities and Meeting Dates

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.B Watermaster Meter Reading Program – Recommended Revisions

Recommended Actions:

Consider approval of the recommended cost savings for the meter reading program, including consideration of approval of Resolution 25-01 that formalizes a reduced frequency of official Watermaster meter reads to twice per year. The resolution can be brought back to the Board in October if changes are recommended to the enclosed draft resolution.

Fiscal Impact:

Approval of the recommended modifications will result in annual cost savings ranging from $9,612 to $14,044 (in 2025 $).

Proposed Meter Read Program Cost Savings

- **Reduce official meter reads from 4x to 2x per year**
  - Cost to perform official meter reads 4x per year = $19,632
  - Reducing official meter reads to 2x per year could result in annual cost savings of:
    - **$7,612** if West Yost (or similar cost consultant) performs the work
    - **$12,044** if BWD performs the work
- **Reduce scope of mid-year pumping report**
  - Instead of producing custom pumping reports for all Parties, staff would prepare 1 table for all Pumpers
  - Annual cost savings = **$2,000**
- Total potential cost savings ranges from **$9,612 to $14,044**

IV.B – DRAFT Resolution 25-01

- Resolution covers guidelines for:
  - Exhibit 1 – Approved meters and telemetric systems
  - Exhibit 2 - Proof of meter calibration and proper installation
  - Exhibit 3 - Accuracy of meters
  - Exhibit 4 - Qualified vendors for annual meter accuracy testing and calibration, verification of proper installation, and telemetric system installation and maintenance
  - Exhibit 5 - Meter Read Program and documentation requirements
    - **REVISED - Proposes revisions to frequency of official Watermaster meter reads and self-reporting (reduces official meter reads from 4x to 2x per year)**

Next Steps

- Staff is seeking Board input/feedback on the two steps for reducing costs of meter read program:
  - Reduce scope of mid-year pumping report
  - Reduce # of official meter reads from 4x to 2x per year
- If Board approves reducing the frequency in official Watermaster meter reads:
  - Draft Resolution No. 25-01 can be approved as is, approved with minor revisions, or brought back to the Board with directed revisions in October.
  - Staff will report back to BWD and work to develop an updated agreement for meter reading services for Board approval

IV.B Watermaster Meter Reading Program – Recommended Revisions

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.C Considerations for Running an Additional BVHM Pumping Projection

Recommended Actions:

Provide input and direction to Staff on performing additional pumping projection scenario

Fiscal Impact:

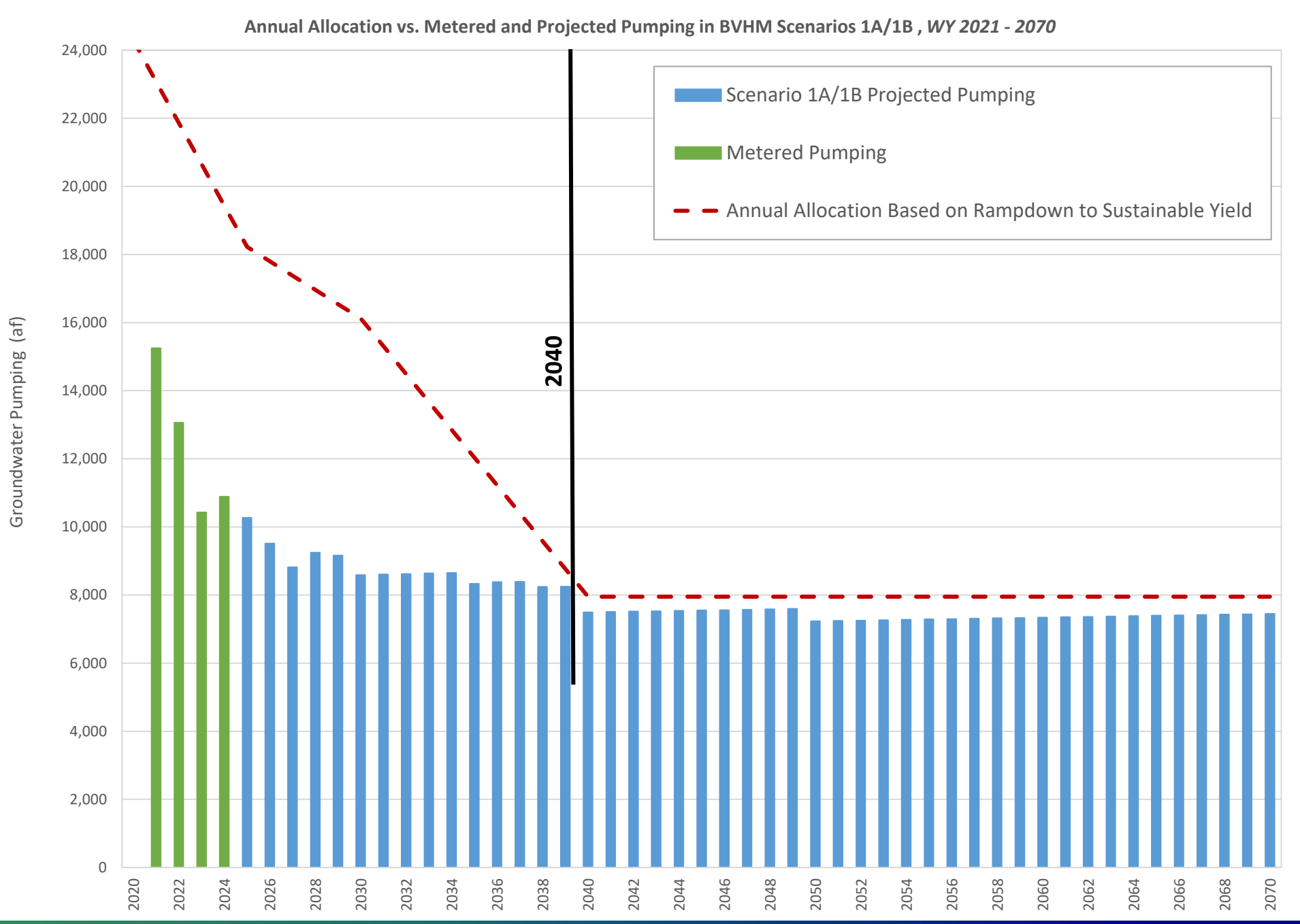
- $10,500 as described in staff agenda memo.
- How the work is funded is TBD.
- Options are presented herein

IV.C Considerations for … BVHM Pumping Projection

Use of the BVHM to Evaluate Sustainability of Future Pumping

- BVHM is being used to evaluate long-term sustainability of future pumping in the Basin
- Scenarios run to date:
  - Initial Scenario (BWD demand too high, will not use results going forward)
    - **Scenario Objective:** Is the planned pumping distribution sustainable?
  - Scenario 1A – Parties updated best estimate of **how much** and **where** they want to pump
    - **Scenario Objective:** Is the planned pumping distribution sustainable?
  - Scenario 1B – Shift an average of 920 af of BWD pumping northward to improve balance of recharge and discharge.
    - **Scenario Objective:** Does sustainability outcome improve if some amount of pumping remains in the North Management Area (NMA)?

Aggregate Pumping in BVHM Projection Scenarios 1A and 1B (*same total volume*)



IV.C Considerations for … BVHM Pumping Projection

Use of the BVHM to Evaluate Sustainability of Future Pumping

- Results
  - Water levels stabilize and increase in NMA, northern CMA
  - Water levels continuously decline in southern CMA, South SMA
  - Declines in SMA may reflect a problem in conceptual hydrogeologic structure of the SMA
- Board Direction based on results to date:
  - Run an additional scenario to assess if shift of pumping norward improves sustainability outcome
    - Scenario 1B
  - If Scenario 1B does not improve sustainability outcome, run additional scenario that limits pumping project to water rights currently owned – “Scenario 1C” (no future purchase of BPA)
  - Before running a Scenario 1C, report out the difference in pumping

IV.C Considerations for … BVHM Pumping Projection

Water Rights Transfers Assumed in BVHM Scenarios 1A/1B

- 13 inactive Parties with **800 af BPA** → 262 af Annual Allocation in 2040+
- 2 Parties purchase 594 af BPA → 191 af Annual Allocation in 2040+)
  - 1 Party located in the NMA → purchase of 574 af of BPA assumed
  - 1 Party located in SMA → purchase of 20 af of BPA assumed
- Inter-Party transfers of Carryover to cover Overproduction:
  - 6 Parties, located throughout Basin, purchase Carryover during Rampdown to 2040 → 97 to 184 afy
  - 3 Parties , located throughout Basin, purchase Carryover after 2040 → 31 afy
- Numerous parties utilize their own Carryover to cover Overproduction of Annual Allocation, when needed
- Transfers of rights ***already owned*** between BWD and T2 to meet respective future demands

IV.C Considerations for … BVHM Pumping Projection

Conclusions

- Limiting pumping to amount allowed under currently owned water rights would reduce pumping by 191 afy (2040+)
- Limiting inter-party transfers of Carryover would reduce pumping by additional 31 to 184 afy
- Majority of the restricted pumping is in the NMA
- **Limiting pumping to currently owned BPA rights has minimal impact on future pumping** → results are unlikely to be materially different than Scenario 1B
  - Staff does not recommend to proceed under the stated assumpions

IV.C Considerations for … BVHM Pumping Projection

Considerations for Additional Modeling

- Proceed to limit future water rights transfers (*not recommended)*
- Explore additional shifts in pumping northward, such as:
  - Shift an additional 450 afy of pumping northward
  - Shift an additional 900 afy of pumping northward
- Consider other scenarios that would provide decision-grade information for the Board. Considerations:
  - Cost of simulations
  - Decision-making objective of the simulation
  - Timing of performing additional simulations
  - Priority of work relative to other tasks in progress
  - TAC Recommended model updates for WY 2027+

IV.C Considerations for … BVHM Pumping Projection

Additional Modeling: Funding

- Additional model runs were not accounted for in:
  - The WY 2025 cost estimate approved by the Board in June 2025
  - The WY 2026 Budget
- Cost of "Scenario 1C" as described in agenda memo: $10,500
- Costs could differ if an alternative approach selected
- Work could be funded through one of the following options:
  - Option 1: Utilize WY 2026 budget of $10,820 in As-needed Technical Services
  - Option 2: Amend the WY 2026 Budget to incorporate additional scope and budget
  - Option 3: Defer this task to WY 2027 (or later) as part of a management action to assess strategies that will achieve sustainability in all areas of the Basin

Requested Feedback from the Board

- Should an additional projection be developed and simulated now, later, or not at all?
- If Board recommends additional projection(s) - what assumptions to use?
- If Board does not recommend additional projections be performed:
  - Results TM will be finalized and re-submitted to DWR with results from Scenarios 1A/1B (pending Board/TAC review of TM)
  - Findings and recommendations will be incorporated in 5-year GMP Assessment Report
    - E.G.: Recommendation is to further develop **PMA No. 6 Intra-Subbasin Water Transfers** to achieve balance of recharge and discharge

IV.C Considerations for Running an Additional BVHM Pumping Projection

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.D Next TAC Meeting Agenda

Recommended Actions:

Approve the agenda for the next Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, with any recommended changes.

Fiscal Impact:

None. These meetings were included in the Watermaster WY 2025 budget.

IV.D – TAC Meeting Agenda

- Next TAC meeting is scheduled for 10am on September 22, 2025
- Agenda Items:
  - Discuss DWR corrective actions regarding SMC for Groundwater Quality and Land Subsidence
  - TAC Assignment to Evaluate/Rank Proposals for Peer Review of GDE Study Report
  - Review of Pumping Projections *(tentative)*

IV.D Next TAC Meeting Agenda

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.E Workshop: SMC Updates for Degraded Water Quality

Recommended Actions:

Provide input on Staff's recommended approach to addressing DWR feedback on how the Judgment and GMP address Degraded Groundwater Quality

Workshop Objectives and Content

- **Purpose**: Describe Staff's recommended approach to respond to DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) for groundwater quality management → Board feedback
- **Workshop Content**:
  - What does SGMA require as it relates to managing groundwater quality?
  - What are the historical/current groundwater-quality conditions in the Basin?
  - How could groundwater management in accordance with the Judgment impact groundwater quality?
  - What does the GMP establish as SMC for groundwater quality?
  - What are the groundwater-quality management actions defined in the Judgment and GMP?
  - What was DWR's feedback on the Judgment and GMP as it relates to groundwater quality?
  - How should DWR's comment be addressed, and what changes to the GMP does Staff recommend?

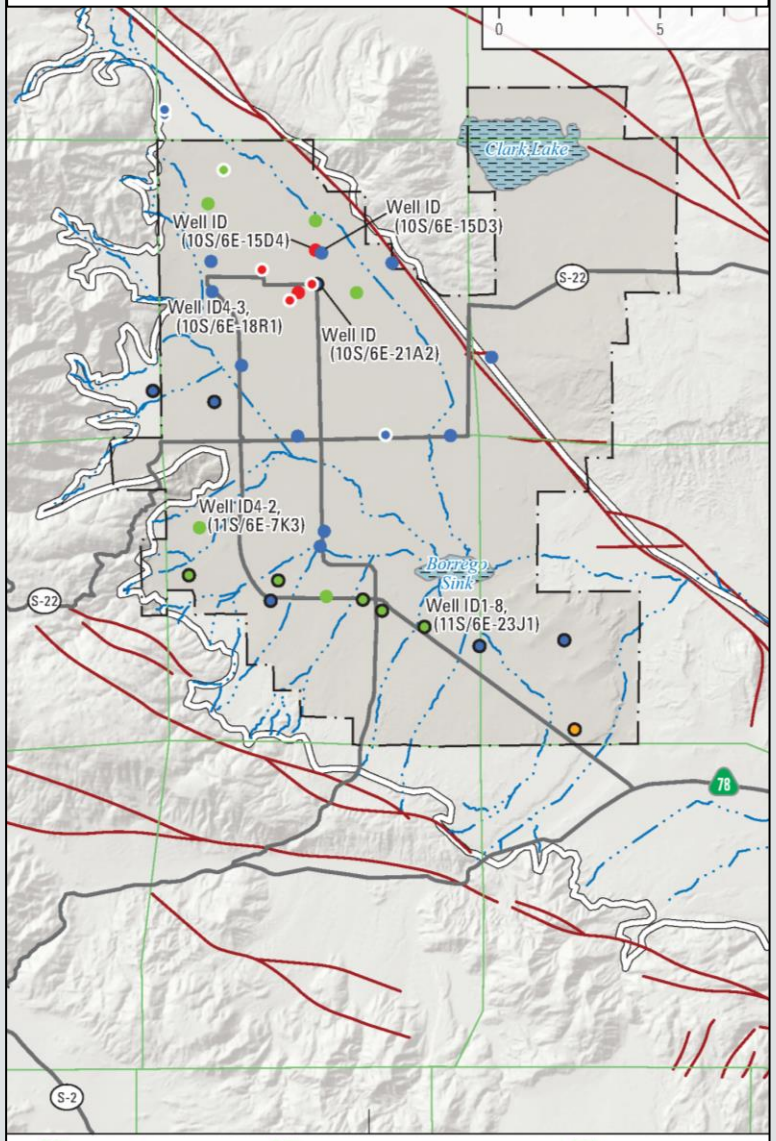
What does SGMA require for the management of groundwater quality?

SGMA Requires Watermaster to:	SGMA Does *Not* Require Watermaster to:
Manage groundwater to avoid future "significant and unreasonable" degradation of water quality caused by basin management actions	Fix or remediate water quality problems that existed before 2014 (prior to SGMA's passage)
Establish Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for degraded water quality, including: • Definition of Undesirable Results • Minimum Thresholds • Measurable Objectives and Interim Milestones	Be a catch-all solution for every groundwater quality concern in the basin
Monitor water quality through a representative well network and assess/track trends over time	Serve as a substitute for other regulatory programs (e.g., Regional Water Boards, Safe Drinking Water Act, Superfund) that address drinking water-quality compliance, permitting, and cleanup
Consider the impacts on beneficial uses and users (municipal systems, domestic wells, agriculture) when setting SMC and defining management actions	Replace or repair wells that are affected by poor water quality, unless impacts are caused/exacerbated by Watermaster management actions
Adapt management actions if new or worsening water-quality problems are occurring as a result of Judgment/GMP Implementation	Take responsibility for contamination caused by other, such as septic systems, fertilizers, industrial discharges, or natural geochemical condition

What are the historical/current groundwater quality conditions in the Basin?

- **Most historical monitoring was conducted by BWD, DWR, and USGS (Burnham, 1954; Moyle, 1983; USGS, 2015)**
- **Constituents of Concern (COCs)**:
  - Nitrate-N → Primary MCL = 10 mgl
  - TDS → Secondary MCL range = 500-1,000 mgl
  - Sulfate → Secondary MCL = 250 mgl
  - Arsenic → Primary MCL = 10 ugl
  - Fluoride → Primary MCL = 2 mgl

NO3 in Groundwater – Pre-2011



from U.S. Geological Survey
nal Elevation Dataset, 2006
s Equal Area Conic Projection

EXPLANATION

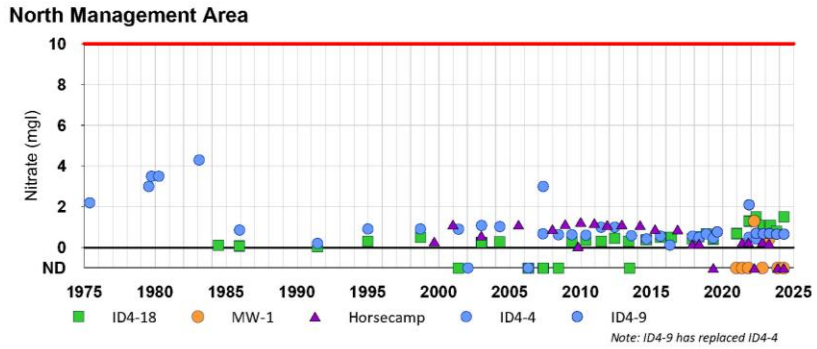
nd nitrate, as nitrogen, concentration, in milligrams per liter

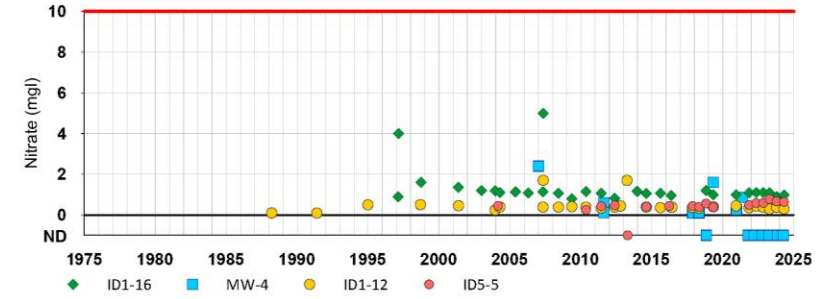
Upper aquifer	Middle aquifer	Lower aquifer
Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1
1 to 3	1 to 3	1 to 3
20.3 to 66.8	28 to 37.3	6.7

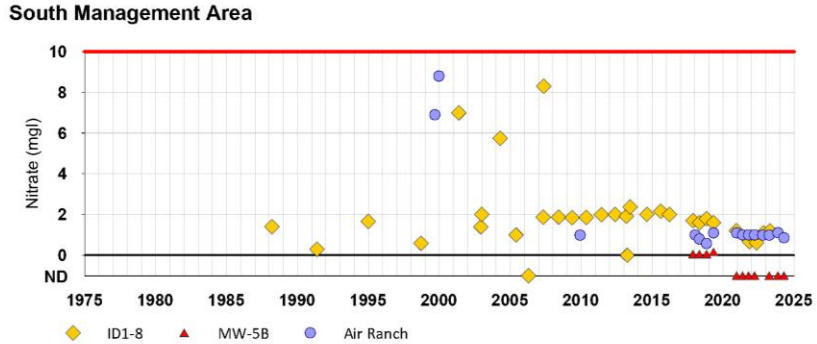
vith identifier have water-level and water-quality data shown in figure 25.

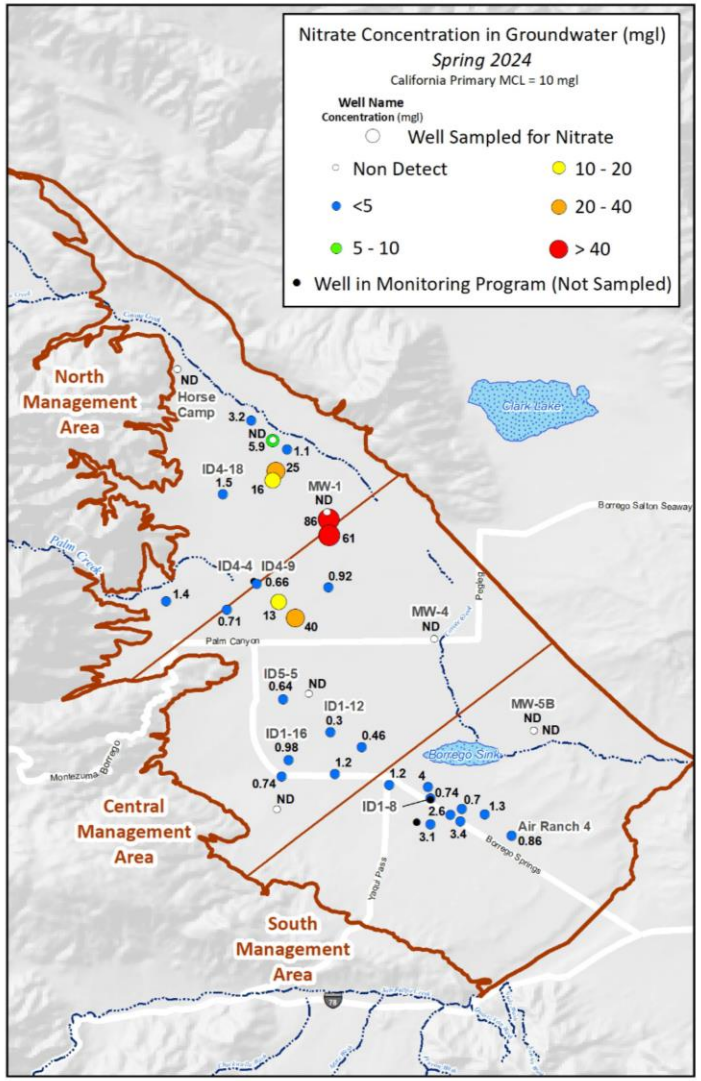
Boundary of Borrego V groundwater basin
Stream channel
Road

NO3 in Groundwater – 2024









WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Author: CK
Date: 20241111
File: Nitrate

Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◇ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

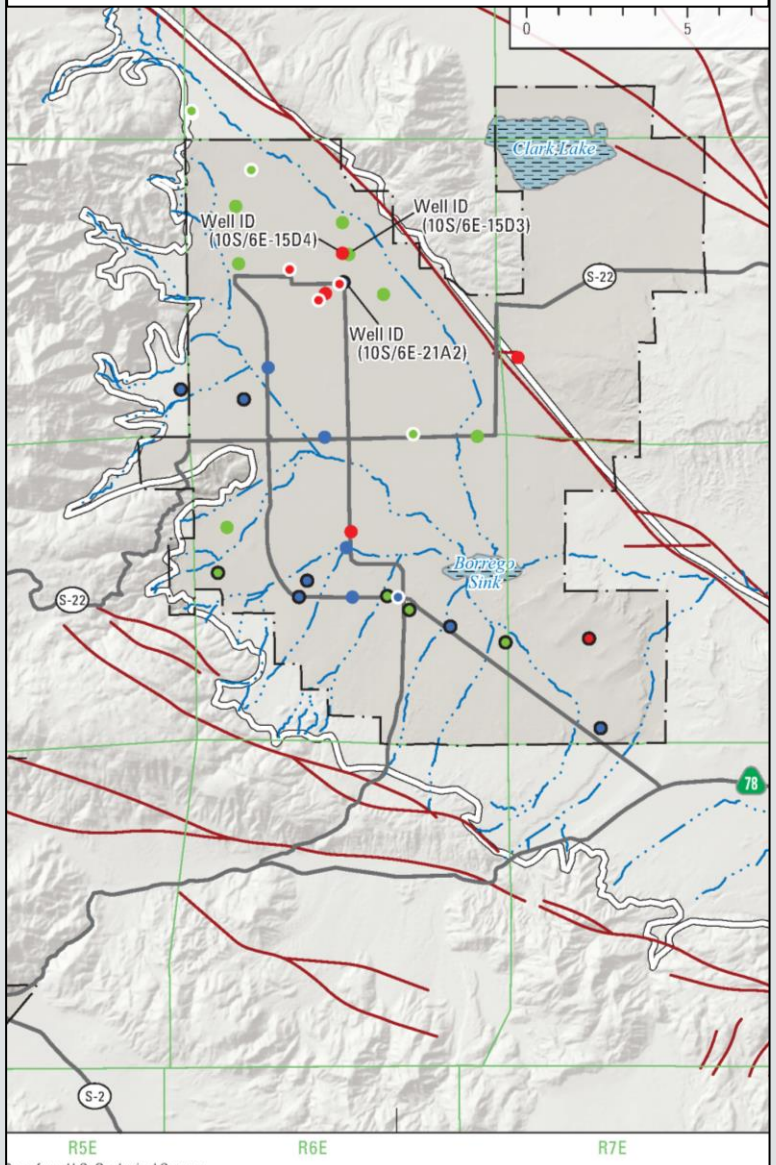
Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

Figure 20

Nitrate (as Nitrogen) in Groundwater

TDS in Groundwater – Pre-2011



Base from U.S. Geological Survey
National Elevation Dataset, 2006
Albers Equal Area Conic Projection

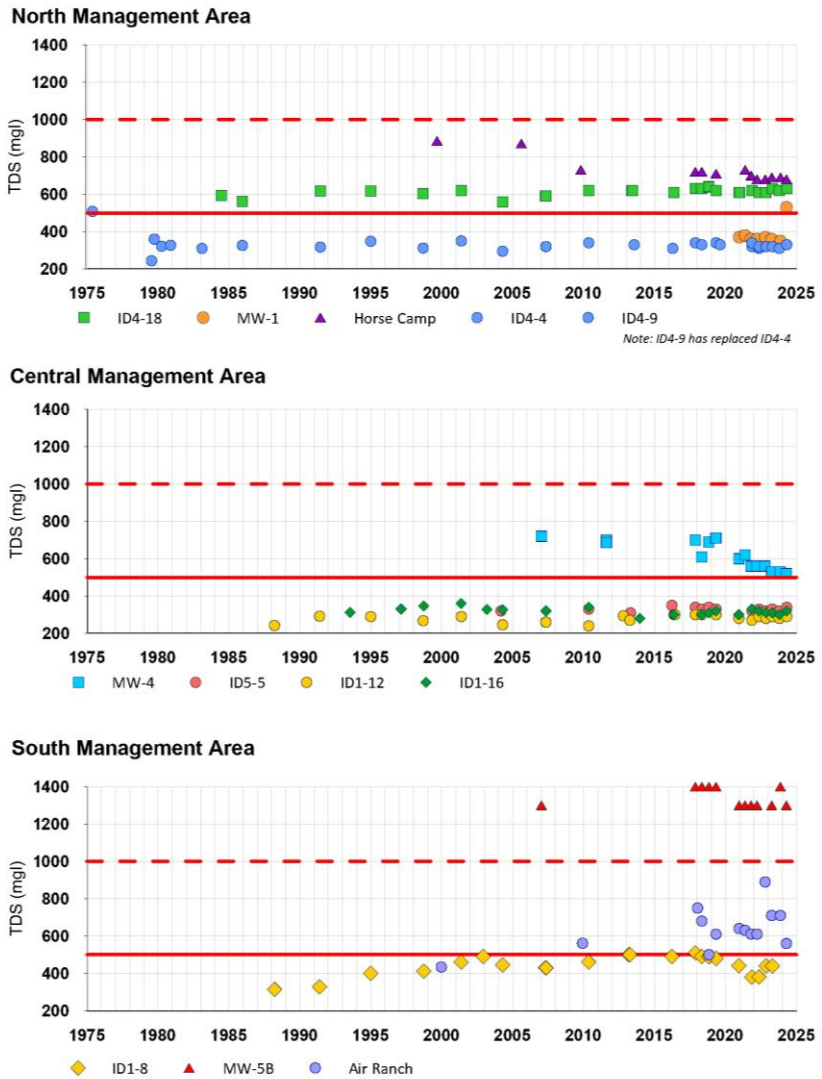
Well and total dissolved solids concentration, in milligrams per liter

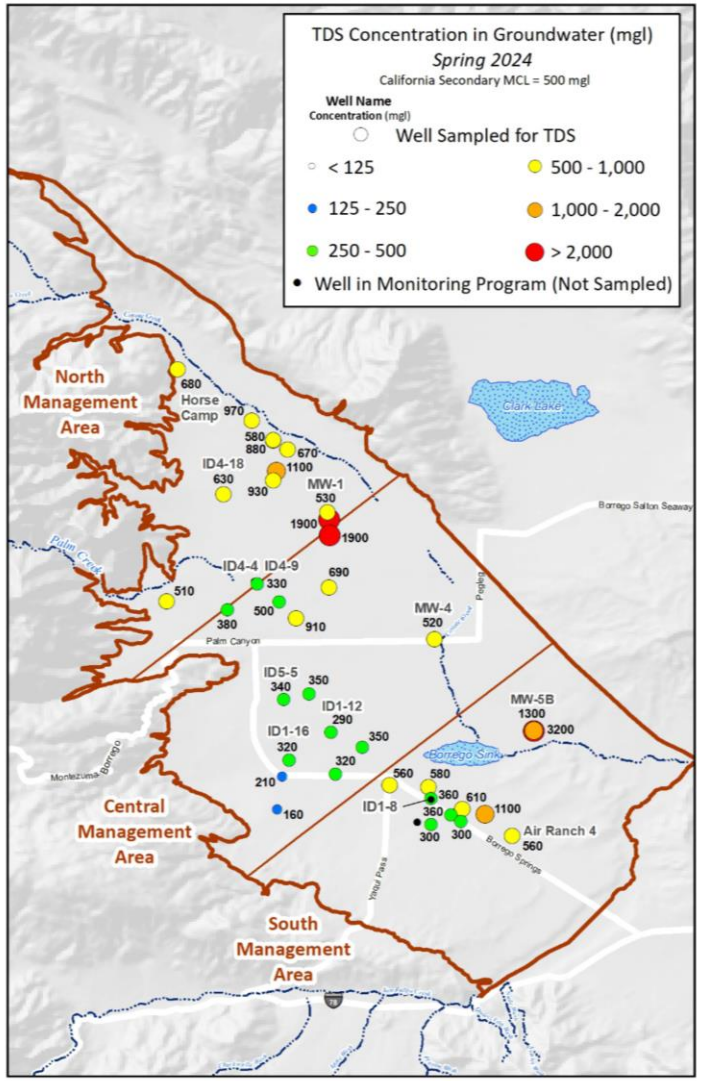
Upper aquifer	Middle aquifer	Lower aquifer
Less than 500	Less than 500	Less than 1
501 to 1,000	501 to 1,000	501 to 1,000
1,500 to 2,330	1,001 to 1,350	1,570

EXPLANATION

- Boundary of Borrego Valley groundwater basin
- Stream channel
- 78 Road

TDS in Groundwater – 2024





WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Author: CK
Date: 20241111
File: TDS

Wells by Principal Aquifer

- Upper
- Upper and Middle
- Middle and Lower
- Lower
- Upper, Middle, and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

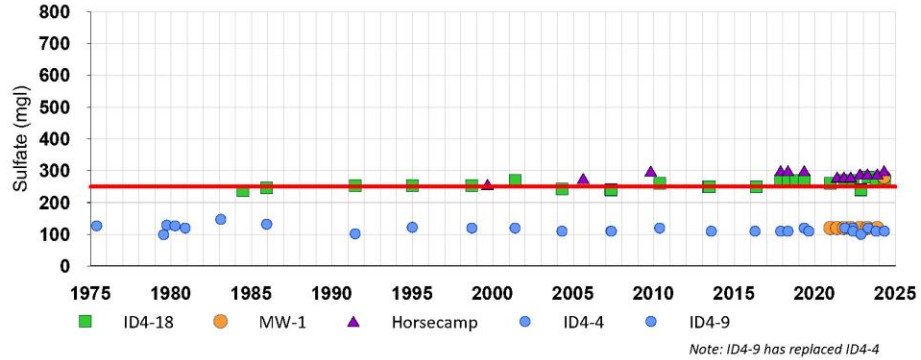
- Upper Secondary MCL
- Recommended Secondary MCL

Figure 19

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in Groundwater

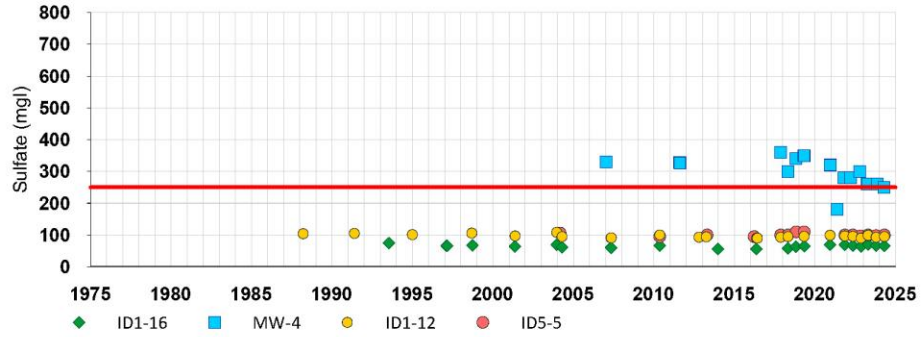
Sulfate in Groundwater 2024

North Management Area

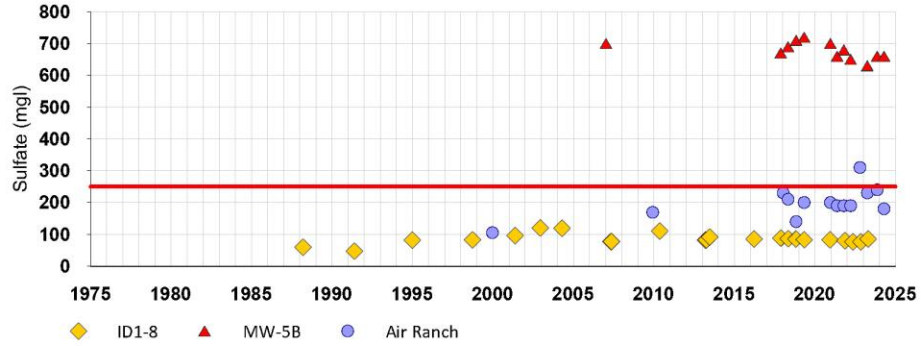


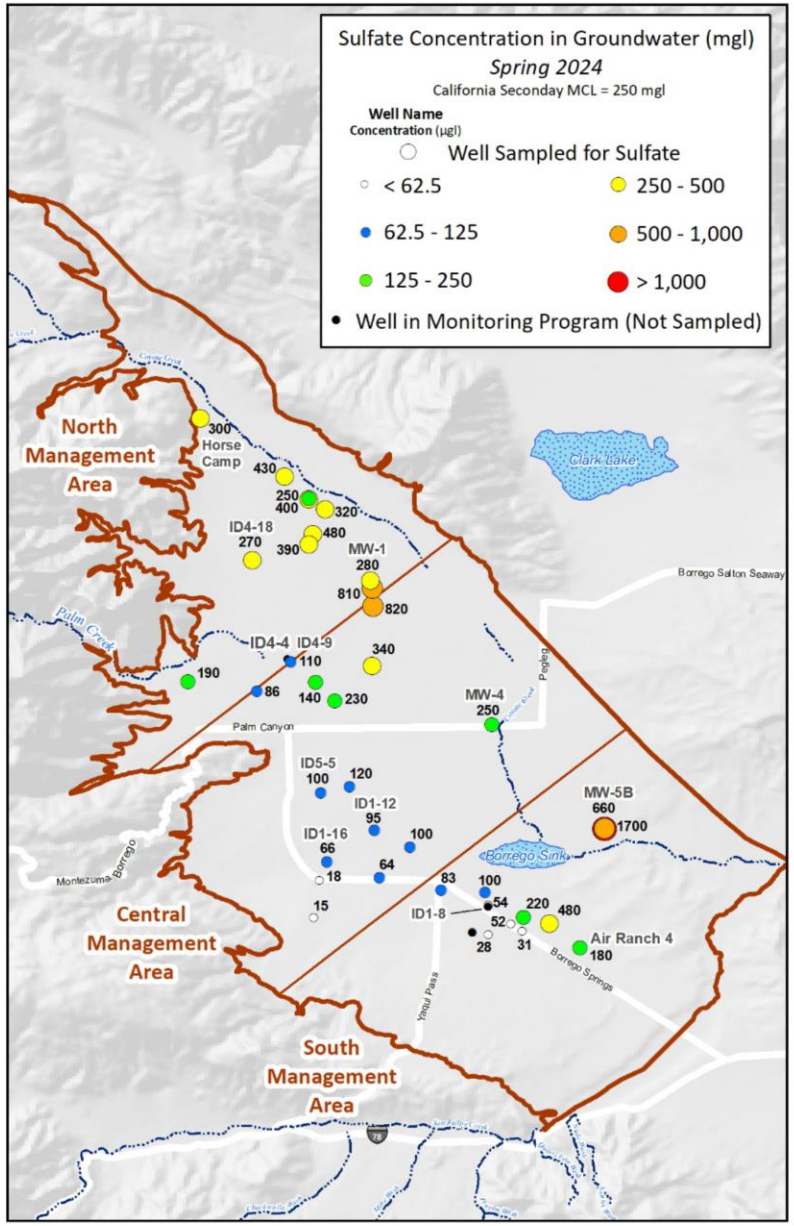
Note: ID4-9 has replaced ID4-4

Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Secondary MCL

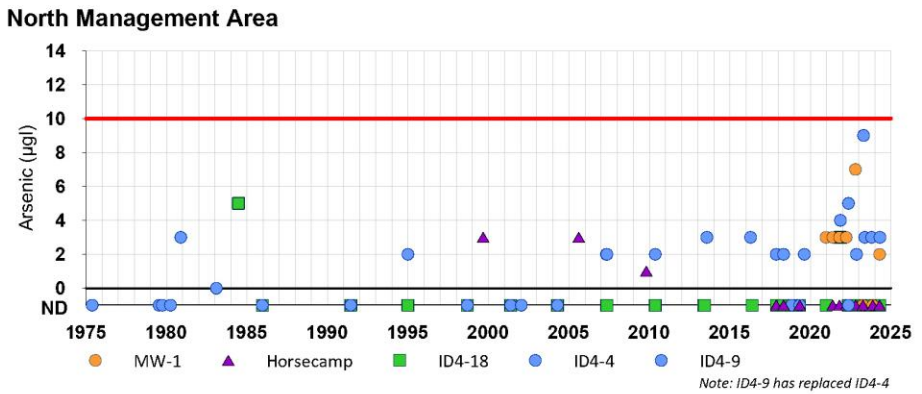
WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

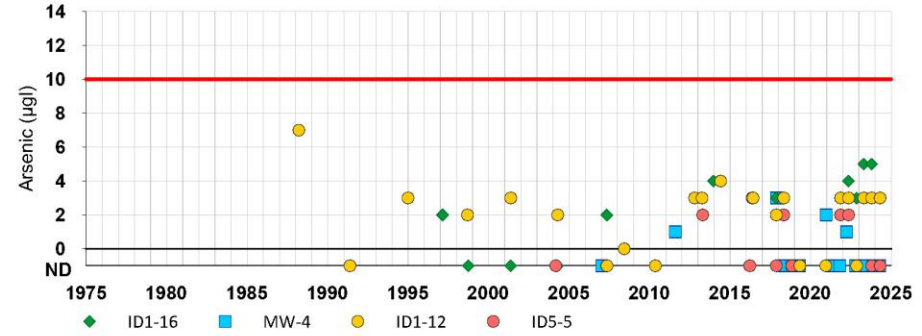
Author: CK
Date: 20241111
File: Sulfate

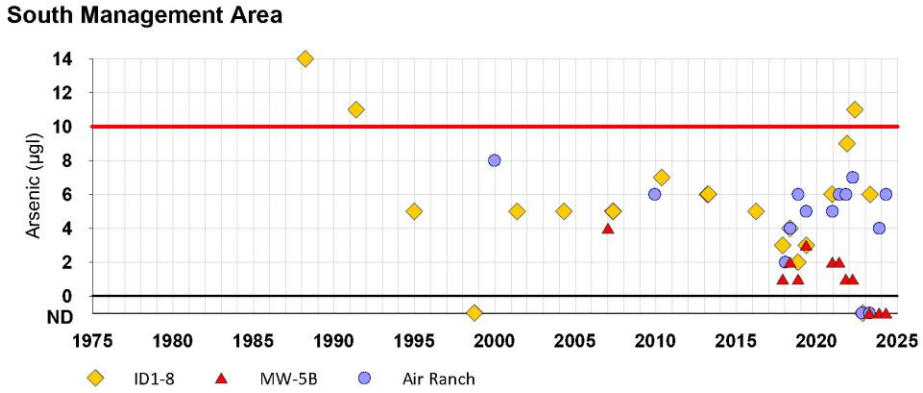
Figure 22

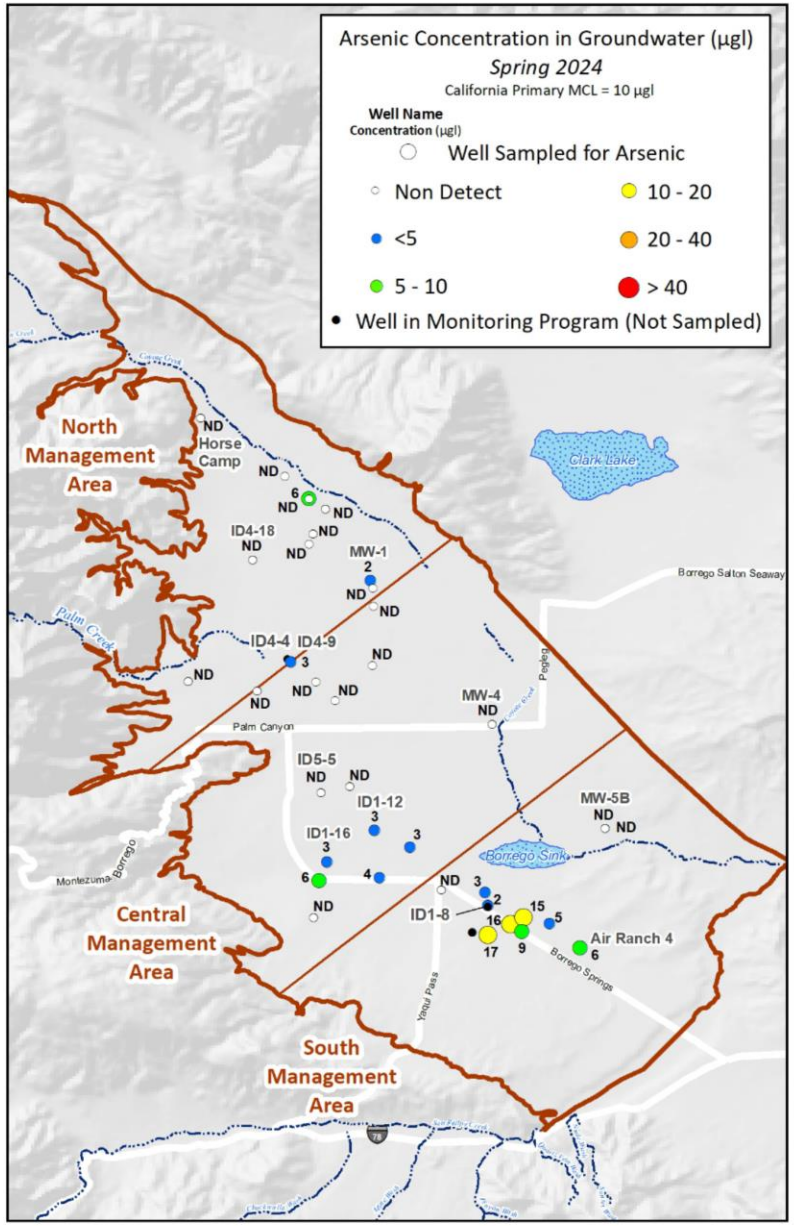
Sulfate in Groundwater

Arsenic in Groundwater 2024









Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

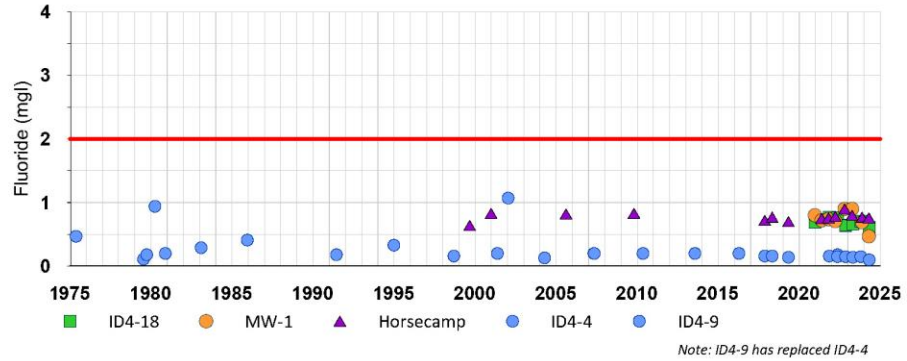
Author: CK
Date: 20241111
File: Arsenic

Figure 21

Arsenic in Groundwater

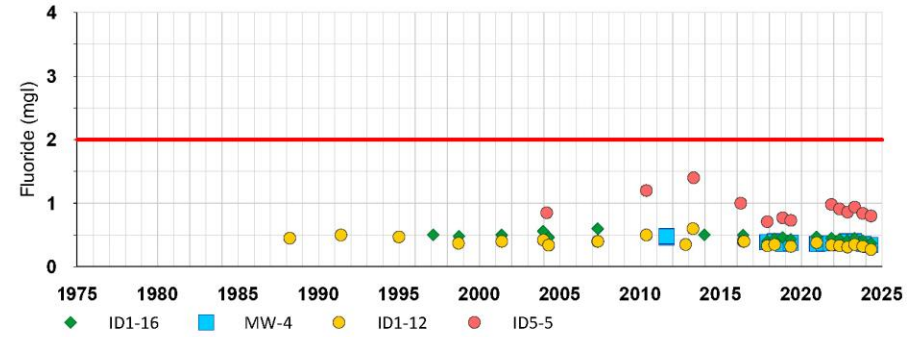
Fluoride in Groundwater 2024

North Management Area

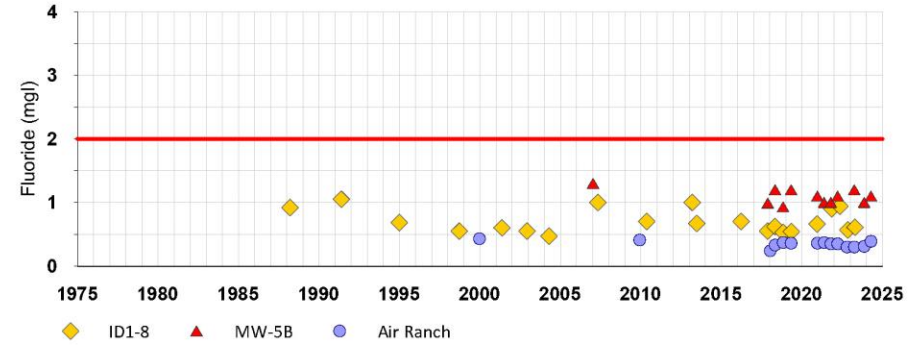


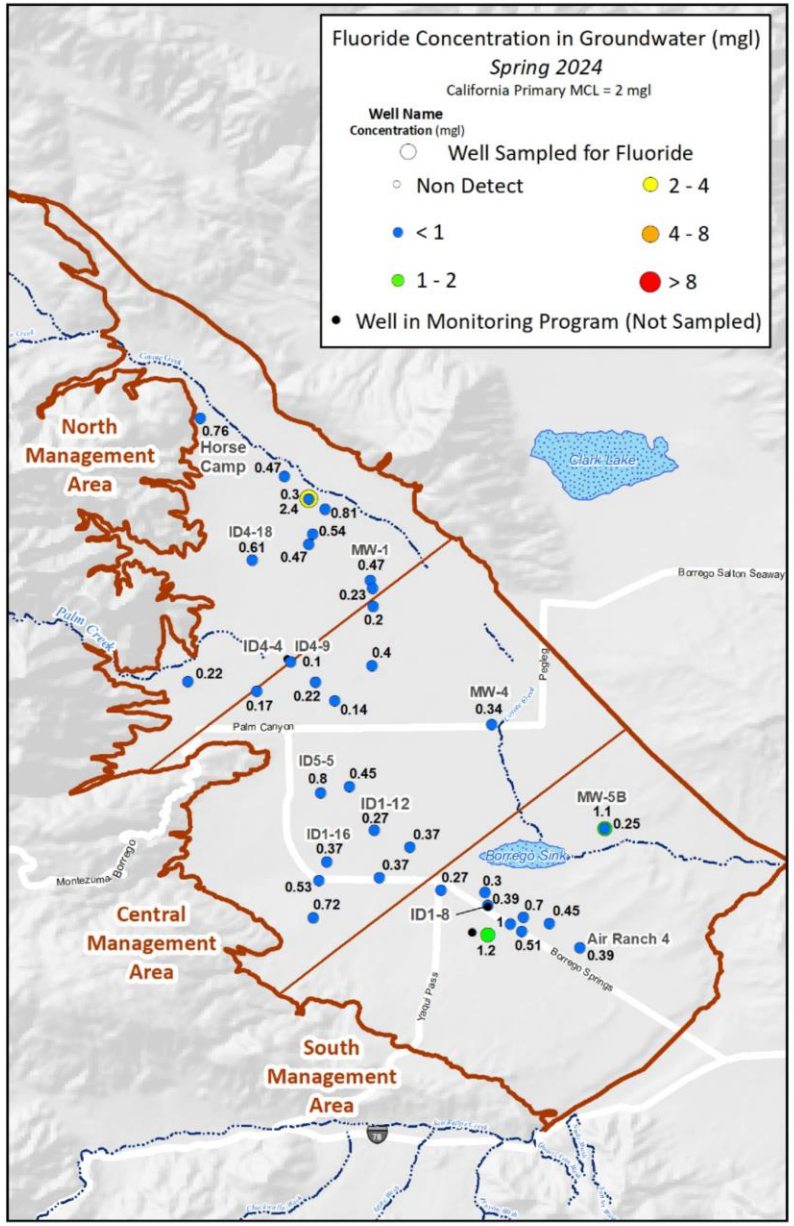
Note: ID4-9 has replaced ID4-4

Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- Upper
- Upper and Middle
- Middle and Lower
- Lower
- Upper, Middle, and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Author: CK
Date: 20241111
File: Fluoride

Figure 23

Fluoride in Groundwater

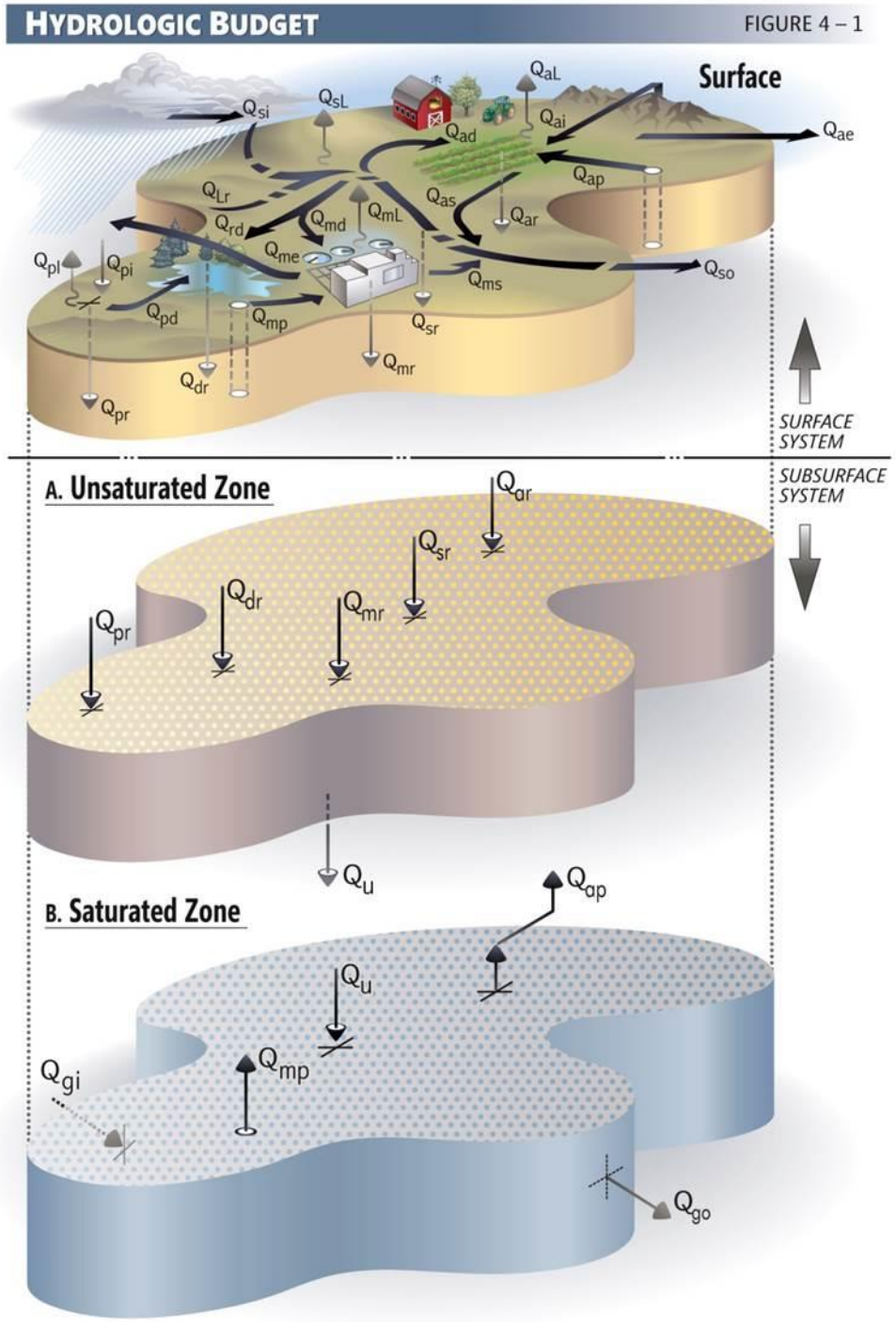
What are the historical/current groundwater quality conditions in the Basin?

- **Historical (pre-SGMA) data indicate some high concentrations of TDS and Nitrate**
  - Mainly observed within the shallow aquifer system in the northern part of the Basin → likely due to return flows from irrigated agriculture and septic systems
  - High TDS concentrations at wells near the Borrego Sink → likely due to dissolution of evaporites
- **Recent (2024) data indicate similar locations and concentrations of TDS and Nitrate across the Basin**
  - Becoming better characterized through implementation of the Groundwater Monitoring Program
  - High Arsenic concentrations in the deeper aquifer system of the SMA/NMA → naturally occurring
- **Most areas/depths that currently exhibit relatively high COC concentrations are conditions that existed prior to SGMA**

Potential Causes of Groundwater Quality Degradation

- Concentrated return flows from outdoor irrigation of crops, grass, and urban landscaping
- Application of fertilizers
- Septic system discharge
- Municipal wastewater percolation
- Natural sources
- Hydrologic “closing” of the groundwater basin

None of these causes are related to Watermaster’s management actions



How could groundwater management in accordance with the Judgment impact groundwater quality?

- Fallowing of irrigated farmlands → Reduces loading of COCs via decreased return flows → ***Positive effect of Judgment/GMP***
- The Rampdown of pumping in the NMA → May cause increases in groundwater levels → May increase rate of groundwater flow (and its dissolved COCs) from the NMA to wells in CMA → ***Potential negative effect of Judgment/GMP***
- A shift of BWD pumping from CMA to NMA could slow, stop, or reverse the predicted increases in groundwater levels in the NMA → Mitigate the predicted increase in the rate of groundwater flow (and its dissolved COCs) from the NMA to the CMA → ***Potential positive effect of Judgment/GMP***
- Watermaster authority to approve/deny changes in pumping location, new wells, or de minimis pumping applications → Provides a tool for Watermaster to mitigate the potential for new wells and/or pumping to cause significant or unreasonable degradation in groundwater quality

What does the GMP establish as SMC for groundwater quality?

- **Sustainability Goal**: California Title 22 drinking water standards continue to be met for potable water uses, and water quality in irrigation wells is suitable for agricultural and recreational uses
- **Undesirable Result**: Degraded water quality causes the loss of adequate water resources to support current and/or potential future beneficial uses and users, where alternative means of treating or otherwise obtaining sufficient alternative groundwater resources are not technically or financially feasible

  - What does SGMA require for management of groundwater quality?

What does the GMP establish as SMC for groundwater quality?

Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for Constituents of Concern – Borrego Springs GMP

Constituent of Concern (COC)	Minimum Thresholds (MTs)	Measurable Objectives (MOs)	Interim Milestones
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	For municipal and domestic wells: **500–1,000 mg/L** (Secondary MCL) For irrigation wells: **Not defined**, but water quality should be suitable for the beneficial use	Maintain levels below MCLs for drinking water Quality remains usable for irrigation water and other purposes	At 5-year increments (2025, 2030, 2035, etc.), track progress toward meeting the Measurable Objective. No quantitative milestones included.
Nitrate (NO_3-N)	For municipal and domestic wells: **10 mg/L** (Primary MCL) For irrigation wells: **Not defined**, but water quality should be suitable for the beneficial use	Maintain nitrate concentrations below MCL for drinking water	
Arsenic (As)	For municipal and domestic wells: **10 µg/L** (Primary MCL) For irrigation wells: **Not defined**, but water quality should be suitable for the beneficial use	Maintain arsenic concentrations below the MCL for drinking water	
Sulfate (SO_4^{2-})	For municipal and domestic wells: **250 mg/L** (Secondary MCL) For irrigation wells: **Not defined**, but water quality should be suitable for the beneficial use	Maintain sulfate concentrations below MCL for drinking water Quality remains usable for irrigation water and other purposes	
Fluoride (F^-)	For municipal and domestic wells: **2 mg/L** (Primary MCL) and **1 mg/L** (Secondary MCL for taste/odor) For irrigation wells: **Not defined**, but water quality should be suitable for the beneficial use	Maintain fluoride concentrations below MCL for drinking water	

What are the groundwater quality management actions defined in the Judgment/GMP?

JUDGMENT

- **Monitoring**: Establish a Water Quality Monitoring Plan within 24 months of entry of the Judgment → An updated Groundwater Monitoring Plan was completed in March 2023 with TAC and stakeholder input → Superseded the program in GMP
- **Management**: "The Watermaster will determine if changes in water quality are significant and unreasonable following consideration of the cause of impact, the affected beneficial use, potential remedies, input from the TAC, and subject to approval by this Court exercising independent judgment."

What are the groundwater quality management actions defined in the Judgment/GMP?

GMP

- **PMA #5**: Investigate, and if necessary, implement measures to protect and enhance water quality so it remains suitable for municipal and irrigation uses → Identify direct and indirect treatment options for BWD and other pumpers to meet drinking water standards while minimizing costs
- **Implementation of PMA #5**:
  - Investigate → Identify the sources and extent of existing or potential water quality impairments, review existing data, fill data gaps, and engage stakeholders. A robust water quality monitoring program is identified as essential to the success of the PMA.
  - If needed, develop work plans → Evaluate mitigation alternatives, identify costs and funding opportunities, and prepare a formal Groundwater Quality Optimization Plan.
  - If warranted, implement projects → This may include direct or indirect treatment (blending, wellhead treatment, or other measures), or changes in pumping and well management.

What was DWR's feedback on the Judgment/GMP as it relates to groundwater quality?

- DWR was largely satisfied with identification of COCs and their sources, and with descriptions of historical exceedances and trends, but characterized some deficiencies:
  - **RCA No. 5—Deficiencies in SMCs**:
    - SMCs for water quality are too general (e.g., "meet Title 22 standards," "suitable for agriculture") and not consistently expressed in quantitative MTs or MOs
    - No clear definition of Undesirable Results or basin-wide applicability
    - Need to demonstrate that SMCs are protective of all beneficial uses/users (e.g., drinking water versus agriculture uses)
  - **RCA No. 7—Integration of Judgment and GMP:**
    - The Judgment gives the Court authority to determine whether changes in water quality are "significant and unreasonable" considering cause, remedies, and TAC input
    - GMP does not clearly link SMCs and PMAs to this Court process, leaving uncertainty about how the Watermaster and Court will apply GMP criteria in practice
    - DWR requested clearer integration of Judgment and GMP to ensure water-quality management under the Judgment is aligned with SGMA's SMC framework

How should DWR comments be addressed? What changes to the GMP does Staff recommend now and in the future?

1. Redefine Undesirable Results for degraded water quality. Recommendation:

   Significant and unreasonable degradation of groundwater quality occurs when the magnitude of degradation in any Management Area or subarea of the Basin precludes the use of groundwater for current and/or potential future beneficial uses, if:

   - *The degradation that impairs the beneficial use(s) occurs after the enactment of SGMA (2014)*
   - *The cause of the degradation is demonstrated to be related to implementation of the Judgment/GMP*
   - *There are no technically or financially feasible alternative means of treating or otherwise obtaining sufficient groundwater resources*

How should DWR comments be addressed? What changes to the GMP does Staff recommend now and in the future?

2. Update GMP
   - Reframe the purpose of the Minimum Thresholds as protecting the most sensitive beneficial use, which is potable water supply
   - Specify that the MTs apply to representative monitoring wells with water quality that was less than the CA drinking water standards prior to 2014
   - Emphasize that the basin-wide monitoring network will enable monitoring of groundwater-quality conditions and trends throughout the basin so that impacts to all beneficial uses can be considered and addressed in accordance with the Judgment

How should DWR comments be addressed? What changes to the GMP does Staff recommend now and in the future?

3. 5-Year GMP Assessment Report → Watermaster will revisit the water quality SMC as part of the 2030 GMP Assessment Report
   - Currently, there is insufficient data and analytical tools available to improve the characterization of MTs and MOs
   - As data are collected and analyzed over the next few years, a more comprehensive understanding of basin-wide conditions will be available and can be relied on to improve the SMC for groundwater quality

How should DWR comments be addressed? What changes to the GMP does Staff recommend?

4. Update PMA No. 5 → Rename: **Water Quality Monitoring and Management**

   a) Integrate the water-quality management process in Section VI.B.2 of the Judgment into PMA No. 5:
      - Establish and implement a water quality monitoring plan to collect water quality data throughout the Basin
      - Analyze groundwater quality results annually to assess conditions and trends
      - When trends in a well or area of the Basin indicate increases in COC concentrations that may be considered significant and unreasonable, direct Staff to assess the following:
        - What are the historical/current conditions and trends in COC concentration over time?
        - What is the observed or potential impact to beneficial uses caused by the increase in COC concentrations?
        - What are the sources/causes of the increase in COC concentrations?
        - Considering all causes, what is the relative contribution of Watermaster actions to the increase in COC concentrations?
        - What are potential solutions to avoid or mitigate impacts to beneficial uses and users? Which solutions are technically or financially feasible?
        - Based on the analysis, and in consultation with the TAC, determine if: (i) Watermaster management action(s) resulted in a significant and unreasonable impairment to a beneficial use and (ii) there are technically or financially feasible alternative means of treating or otherwise obtaining sufficient groundwater resources.
        - If Watermaster management action(s) resulted in a significant and unreasonable impairment to a beneficial use, and there are no technically or financially feasible alternative means of treating or otherwise obtaining sufficient groundwater resources, then implement adaptive management actions.

   b) Define a specific water quality condition/trend that would trigger Watermaster to assess whether a change in water quality is significant or unreasonable per the considerations defined in Judgment Section VI.B.2. This should be defined in collaboration with the TAC, and will be a topic at the September 22, 2025 meeting.

   c) Clarify the role of monitoring and periodic analysis of water quality in guiding Watermaster actions in accordance with the Judgment.

Next Steps

- Board input on recommendations to address the DWR comments and update the GMP
- TAC will be discussing the recommendations at its September 22nd meeting
- Based on Board and TAC feedback, staff will update the discussion points and recommendations for presentation to Stakeholders at the October Open House
- TAC and stakeholder feedback will be presented at the October Board meeting
- A final recommendation will be presented to the Board in December for documentation in the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP Update

IV.E Workshop: SMC Updates for Degraded Water Quality

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.A – Legal Counsel Report

- August 21, 2025 Status Conference Report Out

V.B – Technical Consultant Report

Status update on the review of the **UCI GDE Study Report** as “best available science”

- TAC and EWG began their review of the report on September 12, 2025
  - Comments are due by October 9, 2025
  - Comments will be included in October Board meeting agenda package
- Proposals are **due today** from the five (5) peer review candidates:
  - Desert Research Institute → Declined to propose
  - USGS → Proposal received
  - Northern Arizona University → Proposal received
  - UC Riverside → Proposal received
  - The Nature Conservancy → Offered support; Rohde Environmental submitted a proposal
- Next steps
  - Share proposals with TAC and EWG for evaluation and ranking
  - Compile TAC/EWG evaluations and rankings for Board consideration at its October meeting
  - Execute a Professional Services Agreement with the selected peer reviewer

V.C – Executive Director Report

SGM Grant Status

- Request #9 Approved –
  - Requested amount = $563,695
  - Payment after 10% Retention = $333,099
  - Payment expected September/October 2025 (2 months ahead of schedule)
- Request #10: Under review by DWR
  - BWD coordinating with subgrantees to address DWR comments/questions.
- Retention to be paid following final DWR review of grant work products and confirmation that all criteria satisfied
  - Payment expected March 2026

V.C – Executive Director Report

WY 2025 Pumping Assessments and Meter Read Invoices

- Invoices for second installment of WY 2025 pumping assessment and meter read invoices were mailed out week of May 19th
- Payment was due June 30, 2025
- Pumping Assessments:
  - $175,021.24 invoiced
  - 100% of payments received!
- Meter Read Invoices:
  - $7,025.28 invoiced
  - 100% of payments received! (**as of 9/16**)

V.C – Executive Director Report

WY 2025 Water Rights Accounting

- Water rights accounting process will begin in October. Schedule is as follows:
  - 9/30 and 10/1 - Official Watermaster Meter Reads:
  - 10/15 - Report of available water for Carryover Election due to Parties
  - 10/27 - Water Rights transfers with effective date of WY 2025 due to Watermaster
  - 10/31 - Party elections of Carryover due to Watermaster
  - 11/19 - Report final WY 2025 Water Rights Accounting to Board

Budget Subcommittee

- Budget Subcommittee held its first meeting – identified meter readings as first budgetary item to address:
  - Reduce official meter reads from 4x to 2x per year
  - Director Moran worked with BWD to revise approach and rates for their staff performing official reads

V.C – Executive Director Report

BPA Party Updates

- No new updates since August meeting
- Current outstanding balance of Party out of compliance = $372.24
- Estimated annual pumping 1.20 afy

V.D – Chairperson's Report

VI. Establishing Agenda for October 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for October 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Process:

1. Review the initial October agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the November and December 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 current Board meeting
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the October 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)

Set Agenda for October Regular Meeting

1. Election of Board Officers for WY 2026
2. Review and Selection of Peer Reviewer for GDE Study
3. Water Rights Transfers of Carryover – Sustainability, Pumping Projections
4. Draft WY 2025 Water Rights Accounting
5. Process and Schedule to complete WY 2025 Annual Report
6. Consideration of Approval of November 2025 TAC Meeting Agenda
7. Workshop: Overview of Public Comments in Sustainable Management Criteria

Future Agenda Items

November

1. Final WY 2025 Water Rights Accounting
2. Final WY 2025 Budget Status Report
3. Consideration of Approval of TAC and EWG Meeting Agendas
4. Workshop: RCA #2: Domestic Well Mitigation

December

1. Review change in Groundwater Storage Calculation – Spring 2024 to 2025
2. Workshop: Recommendation on Final SMCs

VI. Establishing Agenda for October 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

VII. Board Member Comments

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 15, 2025 (IN-PERSON)
- Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Monday, September 22, 2025
- Environmental Working Group Meeting – October 2025 (date TBD)

IX. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!