

Borrego Springs Watermaster Special Board Meeting

November 3, 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*

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.A Selection of a Peer Reviewer for the UCI GDE Study Report

Recommended Actions:

Select the preferred consultant to perform an independent peer review of the UCI GDE Study Report, and if an outside consultant is selected, direct Watermaster staff and legal counsel to finalize and execute a Professional Services Agreement with the selected consultant. Note that this action will require a Supermajority vote of the Board given there are impacts to the approved WY 2026 Budget.

Fiscal Impact:

The WY 2026 budget included \$35,743 to support actions related to the review of the UCI GDE Study Report. The cost estimates to implement a peer-review process using an outside consultant range from about \$48,700 to \$129,429, which includes the cost for Watermaster Staff coordination (\$14,500). The cost estimate for the Watermaster Technical Consultant to perform the peer review is \$49,400. Since all cost estimates exceed the WY 2026 budget available for this task, an amendment to the WY 2026 budget will be needed to complete the peer review of the UCI GDE Study Report

III.A Selection of a Peer Reviewer for the UCI GDE Study Report

- Since the last Board meeting, at Board direction:
 - Sent TAC/EWG comments to peer review candidates and requested updated proposals and cost estimates (based on TAC/EWG comments)
 - West Yost prepared a scope of work and cost estimate to perform the peer review

III.A Selection of a Peer Reviewer for the UCI GDE Study Report

- Option 1: Select and independent peer reviewer
 - Northern Arizona University withdrew from consideration
 - Remaining candidates and updates to proposals:

Table 2. Summary of *Revised* Peer Review Proposals

Peer Reviewer ⁵	Total Cost ⁶	Does Proposed Scope Meet Schedule?	Summary of Changes in Proposal
University of California, Riverside	\$54,500 ⁷	Yes	Addition of a groundwater hydrologist to peer review team
Rohde Environmental	\$48,700	Yes	Addition of 20 hours labor to address comments of TAC/EWG
United States Geological Survey	\$129,429	No guarantee due to unknown impact of US government shutdown	Proposal was not changed due to US government shutdown

⁵ Peer reviewers listed in order of the original TAC/EWG rankings

⁶ Peer reviewer cost plus cost of facilitation by Technical Consultant (\$14,500)

⁷ UCR is still finalizing its proposal but offers this as an approximate cost estimate.

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Table 3. Summary of West Yost Proposal to Perform the Peer Review

Task Description	Schedule	Cost Estimate
Review UCI report and correspond with UCI/TAC/EWG/TNC	November 2026	\$7,608
Review TAC/EWG/TNC comments on UCI report		\$5,072
Prepare Draft Technical Consultant (TC) Report	Nov. 2025 – Jan. 2026	\$12,659
TAC/EWG meeting to review Draft TC Recommendation Report and receive TAC/EWG feedback	February 2026	\$5,414
Prepare Draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report (based on TAC/EWG feedback)	March 2026	\$7,382
TAC/EWG meeting to review Draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report and receive TAC/EWG feedback	April 2026	\$5,414
Prepare Draft-Final TAC/EWG Recommendation Report (based on TAC/EWG feedback)		\$1,969
Prepare Final TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports	May 2026	\$1,846
Board meeting on final TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports and proposed next steps	May 20, 2026	\$2,019
Total Cost		\$49,383

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- Cost Considerations
 - \$35,743 is available in the WY 2026 budget to support
 - \$20,000 from EWG line item (assuming no other EWG actions are taken)
 - \$15,743 from Technical Work to Support 2030 Sustainable Yield Update
 - About \$3,900 spent to date → \$31,843 of WY 2026 budget remains
 - Since all cost estimates exceed this amount, a WY 2026 Budget Amendment will be required
 - Supermajority vote of the Board is required (4 yes votes)

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Fiscal Impact:

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TAKE PUBLIC
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

IV. Board Member Comments

V. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Regular Board Meeting – November 19, 2025
- Regular Board Meeting – December 17, 2025
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – November 12, 2025

VI. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!