

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Directors Present	Chair Tyler Bilyk – Agricultural Sector
	Vice Chair Jim Bennett – County of San Diego
	Treasurer Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector
	Secretary Gina Moran – Borrego Water District (BWD)
	Mark Jorgensen – Community Representative
Watermaster Staff Present	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost
	Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost
	Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost
Others Present	David Garmon
	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	George Peraza, DWR
	Kathy Dice, BWD Board Member
	Rich Pinel, Board Alternate - Recreational Sector
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member and Board Alternate - BWD
	Jim Dax, Board Alternate - Community Representative

Please visit the [Watermaster's Website](#)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the December 17, 2025 Meeting. The following meeting minutes identify the start time each agenda item discussion (hours, minutes, seconds: 00:00:00), which can be used as a reference to find and listen to the details of each topic discussed in the [meeting recording](#) for specifics and context.

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:12
- B. Chair Bilyk led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. 00:00:24
- C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of 5 of 5 members of the Board were present. 00:00:49
- D. Approval of Agenda. The Board discussed the agenda topics for the December 17, 2025 Board meeting. 00:01:19

Motion: Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Director Jorgensen to approve the Agenda. 00:01:37

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

¹ <https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/>

II. Public Correspondence

- A. *Correspondence Received.* Chair Bilyk referenced the written correspondence included in the agenda package. 00:02:03
- B. *Public Comments.* Chair Bilyk called for public comments. Public comment was made by: 00:03:34
- David Garmon on the topics of his Public Comment letter included in the agenda package and De Minimis wells.

III. Consent Calendar

Chair Bilyk called for discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the December 17, 2025 agenda package. 00:06:08

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued.

Motion: Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Director Smith to approve the Consent Calendar. 00:08:31

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action

- A. *Consideration of Approval to Amend West Yost Professional Services Agreement to Incorporate Board-Approved Budget Amendment.* ED Adams summarized the proposed amendment to the WY 2026 budget and Professional Services Agreements as described in the Agenda package. 00:09:11

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Moran, to approve Amendment No. 14 and Statement of Work No. 8 with the inclusion of: i) a “most favored” rates clause acceptable to Legal Counsel and West Yost, and ii) language that West Yost staff will work independently on in its review of GDE Study. 00:20:21

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

- B. *Consideration of Approval of Resolution 25-02.* ED Adams gave an overview of the Resolution to update authorized signatories with Watermaster’s banking institution. 00:21:28

- There were no public comments.
- There was no Board discussion prior to Board action.

Motion: Motioned by Vice Chair Bennett, seconded by Chair Bilyk, to approve Resolution 25-02. 00:23:43

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

- C. *Consideration of Approval of Next TAC Meeting Agenda.* Andy Malone presented the proposed agenda for the upcoming TAC meeting. 00:24:18
- Public comment was made by David Garmon, Tammy Baker, and Steve Anderson.
 - Board discussion ensued and the Board directed Watermaster Staff to not hold a TAC meeting and instead prepare a memo on the proposed Measurable Objectives and Interim Milestones to share with the TAC and the Board.
- D. *GMP Update Workshop – RCA #2 and Economic Capacity for Mitigation.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 00:57:04
- Public comments were made by Tammy Baker, Steve Anderson, and David Garmon.
 - Board discussion ensued, and the Board directed Watermaster Staff to not quantify the economic capacity for mitigation, to not proceed with a mitigation policy, and to prepare a simple response to RCA #2 that states that the Watermaster will mitigate any actions caused by Watermaster actions or will revise the Rampdown to avoid the need for mitigation.
- E. *5-Year GMP Assessment and Update Schedule.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 01:43:39
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued, and the Board directed staff to proceed on the recommendation to hold an in-person Board workshop in March to review the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP update.
- V. **Reports.**
- A. *Legal Counsel Report.* Mr. Markman had no topics to report on. 02:00:49
- There were no public comments.
 - No action was taken by the Board.
- B. *Technical Consultant Report.* Mr. Malone reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 27 through 42 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 02:00:56
- Public comment was made by Rich Pinel.
 - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- C. *Executive Director Report.* ED Adams reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 43 through 44 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 02:27:58
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- D. *Chairperson’s Report.* Chair Bilyk provided a reminder of the distinction between change in land use and fallowed farmland as it pertains to Watermaster’s responsibilities related to the implementation of the Groundwater Management Plan. 02:29:50

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for January 21, 2026 Board Meeting

ED Adams reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the next several Board meetings listed in the agenda package. 02:32:46

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith seconded by Director Moran, to approve the following agenda for the January 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting: 02:41:08

- Consideration of Approval of Joint TAC-EWG Meeting Agenda
- Consideration of approval of updated contract with BWD for meter reading services
- Discussion of BWD to D. Bauer Transfer
- Fall 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
- WY 2026 Q1 Budget Status Review
- GMP Assessment and Workshop – Projects and Management Actions

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

VII. Board Member Comments

Chair Bilyk called for comments. 02:41:46

- Director Moran reported that Tammy Baker will now serve as the Alternate Watermaster Board Representative for the BWD.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

Chair Bilyk reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package. 02:42:41

IX. Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 5:43 PM. 02:43:00



Recorded by:
Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost



Attest:
Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board