

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Regular Board Meeting
April 15, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.

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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 II – 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.

AGENDA

Items with supporting documents in the Board Package are denoted with a page number.

I. OPENING PROCEDURES (Chair)

- A. Call to Order and Begin Meeting Recording
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Approval of Agenda

II. PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE/COMMENT (Chair)

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. Written correspondence includes items received between March 13, 2026 and April 9, 2026.

- A. Correspondence Received
 - i. March 13, 2026 Letter from David GarmonPage 4
 - ii. March 31, 2026 Letter from David GarmonPage 6
 - iii. April 8, 2026 Letter from David GarmonPage 14
 - iv. April 9, 2026 Letter from Nikki FiorePage 17

B. Public Comment

III. **CONSENT CALENDAR (Chair)**

Action Item: All items may be approved with a single motion

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – March 18, 2026 **Page 24**

B. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting – March 17, 2026 **Page 29**

C. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting – March 18, 2026 **Page 32**

D. Approval of March 2026 Financial Report **Page 35**

E. Receive and file January 2026 Watermaster Staff Invoices

 i. January 2026 RWG Invoice **Page 39**

 ii. January 2026 West Yost Invoice **Page 43**

F. Receive and file February 2026 Watermaster Staff Invoices

 i. February 2026 RWG Invoice **Page 55**

 ii. February 2026 West Yost Invoice **Page 60**

IV. **ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

A. Addressing Board Comments on 5-Year GMP Assessment Report and Update (ADAMS) .. **Page 70**

B. WY 2026 2nd Quarter Budget Status Review (ADAMS)..... **Page 90**

C. Scoping Discussion for WY 2027 Budget (ADAMS)..... **Page 1 of Addendum to Package**

D. Proposed Process and Schedule for Revised BPA Transfer Approval Approach (ADAMS) .. **Page 95**

E. Review of Judgment Requirements on Approval of New De Minimis Wells (ADAMS)..... **Page 98**

F. Review of New Well Application Cost Recovery (ADAMS)..... **Page 100**

V. **REPORTS**

A. Legal Counsel Report – *verbal*

B. Technical Consultant Report..... **Page 113**

- Next TAC Meeting
- Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Event
- Status update: Review of the UCI GDE Study Report

C. Executive Director Reports **Page 117**

- Annual Meter Verifications
- Mid-Year Pumping Report
- First and Second Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026
- BPA and Party Updates

D. Chairperson’s Report – *verbal*

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY 20, 2026 BOARD MEETINGPage 119

VII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION pursuant to Government Code section 54957
Titles: Executive Director and Lead Technical Consultant

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

IX. NEXT MEETINGS OF THE BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER

- A. Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 3:00 pm
- B. Special Board Meeting – (early) June 2026 (Date TBD)
- C. Special Board Meeting – (late) June 2026 (Date TBD)

X. ADJOURNMENT



March 13, 2026

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Submitted electronically to: amalone@westyost.com, sadams@westyost.com

Re: Public Comment for March 18, 2026 Board Meeting – UCI GDE Study Report

Dear Members of the Watermaster Board of Directors,

At the joint meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Environmental Working Group on February 26, 2026, the Watermaster's Technical Consultant was repeatedly asked if the UCI GDE Report is not the best available science (BAS) regarding the mesquite bosque, could he please state what he does consider to be BAS on this subject. The Technical Consultant repeatedly refused to answer the question. He stated the UCI GDE Report "significantly advances our understanding" of the mesquite bosque, but he would not state that the report represents BAS, nor would he identify any other report or body of work that he considers to be "better science" than the UCI GDE Report.

The Technical Advisor went on to rank various aspects of the UCI GDE Report as 1) best available science, 2) partially meets criteria for BAS, and 3) is not BAS. He then proposed an extensive, and presumably expensive, research effort to "fill the data gaps" of those aspects of the report he deemed to "partially meet" BAS criteria, presumably to bring those aspects of the report up to his BAS standards.

The Technical Consultant's presentation and recommendations raise several important questions for the WM's consideration:

- 1) Why would the TC waste his time, and the scarce resources of pumpers, to fill data gaps of a study that is not BAS?

- 2) Does the Technical Consultant propose to begin his research using a starting point that is not BAS. If so, why?
- 3) Given that all credible research must begin with a literature search to define the current state of knowledge of the subject to be studied, i.e. BAS, why does the TC refuse to state what he considers to be BAS vis-à-vis the mesquite bosque.
- 4) Wouldn't the Watermaster want to know what the Technical Consultant considers to be BAS before launching an extensive and expensive research project?
- 5) Would the Watermaster spend tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars to support the Technical Consultant's recommendation of an extensive research project that is predicated on a starting point that is anything less than BAS? If so, why?
- 6) Why has the rationale for refusing to acknowledge the UCI GDE Report as BAS morphed from the WM hoping to get a "two-for-one" from a consultant to a need to "fill data gaps"?
- 7) Why is the WM avoiding a simple application of its own BAS Policy criteria (relevance, timeliness, and adherence to professional and scientific standards)?

The questions above suggest the WM has lost its way in its efforts to determine what is BAS pertaining to the mesquite bosque in our valley. The simple fact is that science, even the best available science, is never finished. There is always more to learn. Even Einstein's science of relativity is not finished, i.e. there are "data gaps." But this doesn't prevent the science of relativity from being the crucial science at the heart of much of modern technology.

While there will always be more to learn about our natural world, including the mesquite bosque, the fact that there is more to learn does not mean that what we know now by virtue of the UCI GDE Report is not the currently best available science.

I once again urge the WM to apply its BAS Policy simply and directly to the UCI GDE Report.

Sincerely yours,



J. David Garmon, M.D.
President, TCDC



To: Andy Malone, Samantha Adams, Lauren Salberg, West Yost
Borrego Watermaster Directors
Technical Advisory Committee Members
Environmental Working Group Members

Re: Utilization of UCI Responses to TAC/EWG/TC Review of UCI GDE Report

Date: March 31, 2026

In their memoranda of February 11, 2026, and March 12, 2026, the UCI research team has responded to every question, concern, critique, and category of critique that has been provided in writing by members of the TAC and EWG and by the Technical Consultant.

Implied, but not explicit, in the UCI responses is the identification of numerous errors contained in the critiques by the TAC, EWG, and TC. These errors include but are not limited to: 1) application of an inappropriately elevated standard of proof, 2) substituting hypothetical alternatives for empirically supported explanations, 3) inferring a critical water source without confirming its existence or capacity, 4) treating uncertainty as disproof of a conclusion, 5) misrepresenting the purpose and scope of an analytical method, 6) equating model uncertainty with invalid results, 7) attributing persistent vegetative patterns to short-term processes, 8) confusing contributing factors with primary drivers, 9) equating imperfect data with unreliable conclusions, 10) misunderstanding a basic biological process, and 11) confusing background climate trends with causal explanation.

These errors, and others, are described in more detail in the attached document titled "Errors in the Critiques of the UCI GDE Study." Although the subject is scientific, these errors of logic and subject matter competence are described in layman's terms and do not require a scientific background to be understood.

To date I have not seen evidence that the UCI responses have been read or considered. Given that the UCI responses address all formal questions and concerns produced by the TAC, EWG, and TC, it is incumbent upon the Technical Consultant to either incorporate each UCI response into his proposal going forward or explain why he has chosen not to do so.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. David Garmon".

J. David Garmon, M.D.
President, TCDC

230 West Palm St., San Diego, CA 92103
Phone 858 535-9121 Fax 858 535-9156

Errors in the Critiques of the UCI GDE Study Expanded Version with Direct Quotations from the Malone Report

1. Error: Requiring Proof of Exclusive or “Unequivocal” Groundwater Dependence

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“the unequivocal conclusion of the UCI GDE Study Report that the BS Mesquite Bosque is a GDE is not fully supported...”

Error Identified:

Application of an improperly elevated standard of proof.

Why This Is an Error:

The critique implicitly requires unequivocal or near-perfect proof of groundwater dependence. However, under SGMA and accepted ecological science, this is not the standard. A groundwater-dependent ecosystem need only rely on groundwater intermittently, not exclusively.

By demanding a higher threshold, the critique effectively shifts the decision framework. Normal scientific uncertainty—common in field-based ecological studies—is treated as disqualifying. This is inconsistent with how “best available science” is applied in practice, where multiple lines of evidence are weighed together.

The result is a methodological bias: evidence that supports groundwater use is discounted unless it meets an unrealistic standard of certainty that is not required by law or science.

2. Error: Treating Alternative Hypotheses as Equivalent to Evidence

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“it remains an open question whether... [water comes from] soil moisture... the deeper saturated zone... or both”

Error Identified:

Substituting hypothetical alternatives for empirically supported explanations.

Why This Is an Error:

The critique presents multiple possible explanations without requiring that each be supported by comparable data. In scientific analysis, competing hypotheses must be

evaluated based on how well they explain observed data and whether they are supported by evidence.

UCI provides several independent datasets—evapotranspiration, isotopes, and remote sensing of vegetation patterns—that consistently indicate groundwater use. The alternative explanations are not supported by equivalent measurements or field confirmation.

By placing unsupported hypotheses on equal footing with tested explanations, the critique weakens the evidentiary standard and avoids resolving which explanation best fits the data.

3. Error: Assuming Deep Vadose-Zone Moisture Without Demonstration

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“Soil moisture within this depth interval could be a source of water... but was not analyzed”

Error Identified:

Inferring a critical water source without demonstrating its existence or capacity.

Why This Is an Error:

The critique assumes that deep soil moisture exists in sufficient quantity and duration to support the bosque. However, it does not provide evidence that such a reservoir exists, persists through extended dry periods, or is accessible to plant roots.

In arid environments, most precipitation is lost to evaporation or shallow uptake. Deep percolation is limited and typically does not create large, stable reservoirs.

This is a critical gap. Without demonstrating that the proposed source is physically present and sufficient, the critique substitutes possibility for proof. Scientific conclusions require demonstrated mechanisms, not hypothetical ones.

4. Error: Conflating Data Gaps with Evidence Against the Conclusion

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“data gaps... add uncertainty...”

Error Identified:

Treating uncertainty as disproof of a conclusion.

Why This Is an Error:

All environmental studies include uncertainty due to practical limits on measurement. The relevant question is whether the available data are sufficient and consistent enough to support a conclusion.

In this case, multiple independent lines of evidence converge on groundwater use. The critique does not show that the conclusion is contradicted—only that additional data could refine it.

This is a logical error. Uncertainty does not negate evidence; it simply defines its limits. Treating it as disproof misrepresents how scientific conclusions are formed.

5. Error: Misinterpreting Sustained ET During Drought

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“ET sensors... could be soil moisture... or both”

Error Identified:

Ignoring the importance of timing and persistence in water use.

Why This Is an Error:

The critique acknowledges that evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation but still attributes it to soil moisture. This overlooks a key constraint: shallow soil moisture cannot sustain high water use over extended drought periods.

UCI’s measurements show persistent water use during dry conditions when rainfall is minimal. This pattern is widely recognized as evidence of access to a stable water source, such as groundwater.

The critique fails to reconcile its alternative explanation with the observed duration and magnitude of ET, making the explanation incomplete and inconsistent with the data.

6. Error: Mischaracterizing ET_{gw} Methodology

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“methods ignored... the potential role of soil moisture...”

Error Identified:

Misrepresenting the purpose and scope of the analytical method.

Why This Is an Error:

The ET_{gw} approach estimates groundwater use as the portion of total evapotranspiration that exceeds precipitation. It does not claim to fully partition all water sources.

The critique treats the method as if it were intended to resolve all components of the water balance. This is incorrect. The method is a screening tool designed to identify groundwater contribution, not a full mechanistic model.

Attacking it for not doing what it does not claim to do is a category error that misleads the reader about its purpose.

7. Error: Treating OpenET Uncertainty as Disproof

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

Discussion of OpenET variability and uncertainty

Error Identified:

Equating model uncertainty with invalid results.

Why This Is an Error:

UCI explicitly acknowledges the limitations of OpenET and uses it as one of several lines of evidence. It also supplements these data with direct field measurements.

Scientific conclusions are rarely based on a single dataset. Instead, they rely on the convergence of multiple independent observations.

The critique treats uncertainty as if it invalidates the findings, rather than recognizing it as a normal and managed aspect of scientific analysis.

8. Error: Misreading NDVI Patterns

Critique (Andy Malone, West Yost):

“areas... receive the highest accumulation of surface-water runoff...”

Error Identified:

Attributing persistent vegetation patterns to short-term processes.

Why This Is an Error:

Runoff events are episodic and short-lived, while NDVI patterns observed in the bosque are persistent across seasons and years, including dry periods.

For the critique’s explanation to hold, runoff would need to occur frequently and be retained long enough to sustain vegetation. The critique does not demonstrate this.

This creates a mismatch between the proposed mechanism and the observed behavior, undermining the critique.

9. Error: Treating Surface Water as a Substitute for Groundwater

Critique:

Surface water explanations for vegetation condition

Error Identified:

Confusing contributing factors with primary drivers.

Why This Is an Error:

Surface water can contribute to plant water use, especially after storms. However, it cannot explain sustained vegetation activity during extended dry periods.

The critique treats surface water as a complete explanation, rather than one component of a broader system. This overlooks the need for a stable, long-term water source.

The evidence shows that groundwater provides that stability.

10. Error: Treating Groundwater Data Limits as Fatal

Critique:

Sparse groundwater depth measurements

Error Identified:

Equating imperfect data with unreliable conclusions.

Why This Is an Error:

Groundwater depth data are limited, but they are only one component of the analysis. Other datasets independently support groundwater use.

Scientific conclusions are often based on multiple imperfect datasets that, when combined, provide a consistent picture.

The critique fails to consider this cumulative strength of evidence.

11. Error: Misunderstanding Site Selection

Critique:

Alternative preferred study sites

Error Identified:

Overstating the importance of individual site choice.

Why This Is an Error:

The study includes measurements across multiple sites, capturing a range of conditions. Key analyses, such as isotopic sampling, are not limited to a single location.

The critique assumes that selecting a different primary site would change the outcome, but does not demonstrate that this would alter the overall pattern of evidence.

12. Error: Misinterpreting Hydraulic Lift

Critique:

Hydraulic lift indicates soil moisture source

Error Identified:

Reversing the direction of the process.

Why This Is an Error:

Hydraulic lift occurs when plants draw water from deeper sources and redistribute it upward into drier soils.

This process indicates access to groundwater, not the presence of deep soil moisture independent of groundwater.

The critique misinterprets the mechanism and draws the opposite conclusion from what the process implies.

13. Error: Overstating Rainfall Trends

Critique:

“30-year dry period...”

Error Identified:

Confusing background climate trends with causal explanation.

Why This Is an Error:

Rainfall trends may influence the system, but they do not explain key observations such as sustained ET during drought and groundwater isotope signatures.

The critique elevates a general climate trend into a primary explanation without showing that it can reproduce the observed behavior of the bosque.

This critique confuses correlation with causation.

14. Error: Demanding Perfect Certainty

Critique:

Need for complete resolution of uncertainty

Error Identified:

Applying an unrealistic standard for scientific conclusions.

Why This Is an Error:

Best available science does not require perfect knowledge. It requires credible, consistent, and decision-relevant evidence.

If perfect certainty were required, most environmental decisions could never be made.

The critique uses uncertainty as a reason to reject conclusions rather than evaluating the weight of evidence.

15. Error: Inappropriate Analysis of Isotope Data

Critique:

The isotope data indicate small amounts of groundwater use, or another water source.

Error Identified:

Incorrectly plotting and analyzing isotope data that was collected from different sites and seasons; assuming GDE's must use large amounts of groundwater to be considered GDEs.

Why This Is an Error:

Plotting and analyzing data collected from different sites and seasons on the same graph assumes that soil data collected in August 2024 can explain trends in 2023, and similarly that data collected from one site can be used for another.

If this analysis technique were valid, one could analyze well data from the northern agricultural area and well data from the mesquite bosque and conclude that groundwater levels oscillate by hundreds of feet daily. However, we know that data collected from wells separated by several miles cannot be analyzed together.

The critique uses incorrect analysis to assert that mesquite are using a small amount of groundwater, however the soil isotope data points that lead to this conclusion were collected in August 2024, and cannot explain tree isotopes from 2023, or April and May 2024.



To: Andy Malone, Samantha Adams, Lauren Salberg, West Yost
Borrego Watermaster Directors
Technical Advisory Committee Members
Environmental Working Group Members

Re: Majority Consensus of TAC/EWG Members Regarding UCI GDE Report

Date: April 8, 2026

There are 10 unique members of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Environmental Working Group. **The majority of these members have concluded that:**

- 1) the UCI GDE Report dated May 15, 2025 is consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice as required by the Watermaster's Best Available Science Policy promulgated February 6, 2025 and therefore represents the currently best available science vis-à-vis the Borrego Valley Mesquite Bosque, and
- 2) the UCI team has demonstrated, through multiple lines of evidence, that the Mesquite Bosque is a groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE), and
- 3) that their responses to comments raised during the TAC/EWG/Technical Consultant evaluation process adequately address and rule out alternative explanations.

The six duly appointed committee members who have come to these conclusions are Detwiler, Jorgensen, McCamish, Dice, Peterson, and Wells. Two additional TAC/EWG members, representing BWD and the County, appear to recommend using information from the UCI GDE Report and proceeding "as if" there is a GDE in the Borrego Valley without acknowledging the UCI Report is best available science or acknowledging that the best available science demonstrates there is a GDE in the Valley. The remaining members hired by Agriculture and Recreation remain committed to the conclusion of the now discredited Appendix D4 of the Groundwater Management Plan.

I urge the Watermaster Board to heed the unequivocal recommendations coming from the majority of its prequalified, duly appointed, and trusted advisors of the TAC and EWG. Their signatures are attached herewith.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. David Garmon".

J. David Garmon, M.D.
President, TCDC

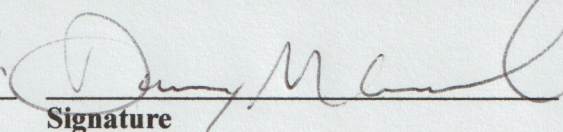
230 West Palm St., San Diego, CA 92103
Phone 858 535-9121 Fax 858 535-9156

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Technical Advisory Committee / Environmental Working Group

We, the prequalified and duly appointed members of the Borrego Springs Watermaster's Technical Advisory Committee and Environmental Working Group, conclude:

- 1) the UCI GDE Report dated May 15, 2025 is consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice as required by the Watermaster's Best Available Science Policy promulgated February 6, 2025 and therefore represents the currently best available science vis-à-vis the Borrego Valley Mesquite Bosque, and
- 2) the UCI team has demonstrated, through multiple lines of evidence, that the Mesquite Bosque is a groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE), and
- 3) that their responses to comments raised during the TAC/EWG/Technical Consultant evaluation process adequately address and rule out alternative explanations.

<i>Dan McCanish</i>		<i>4/3/2026</i>
Printed Name	Signature	Date

Printed Name	Signature	Date

Printed Name	Signature	Date

Printed Name	Signature	Date

Printed Name	Signature	Date

Printed Name	Signature	Date

Printed Name	Signature	Date



Memorandum

To: Andy Malone, Samantha Adams, Lauren Salberg, West Yost

Borrego Watermaster Members

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Geoff Poole, General Manager, Borrego Water District

From: Travis Huxman, Nicole Fiore, Laurel Brigham, University of California, Irvine

Subject: UCI public correspondence for the April 2026 Watermaster meeting

Date: 9 April 2026

We thank the individuals that continue to engage on the UCI GDE Report and we remain available to respond to commentary, clarify uncertainties, and elucidate aspects of our assessment of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) in Borrego Springs. As we've stated before, we are confident in the multiple lines of evidence, associated with several different scientific disciplines, all of which illustrate substantial acreage of groundwater-dependent vegetation in the Borrego Springs Mesquite Bosque. We find further confidence in the logical consistency contained in our work under the umbrella of the accepted basin conceptual hydrologic model, which stands in contrast to the alternative hypotheses that continue to be raised.

We would like to address three concerns which we have heard associated with aspects of our report and study process.

1. That the report does not provide a clear path forward
2. The extent of the proposed GDE and ET estimates
3. The concept of reproducibility

A path forward

The UCI GDE Project used established GDE guidance developed by The Nature Conservancy and reviewed by the California Department of Water Resources (Rohde et al. 2018) as its guiding framework, which outlines a clear five-step process for GDE identification and management (Figure 1.1 from the UCI GDE Report, reproduced below). This is meant to be an adaptive process in which ongoing data collection helps to refine GDE management steps (Steps 3-5). Our report explicitly anticipated facilitating stakeholder conversations to guide the decision-making involved in steps 3-5, rather than solving all aspects of GDE management without the input of the community.

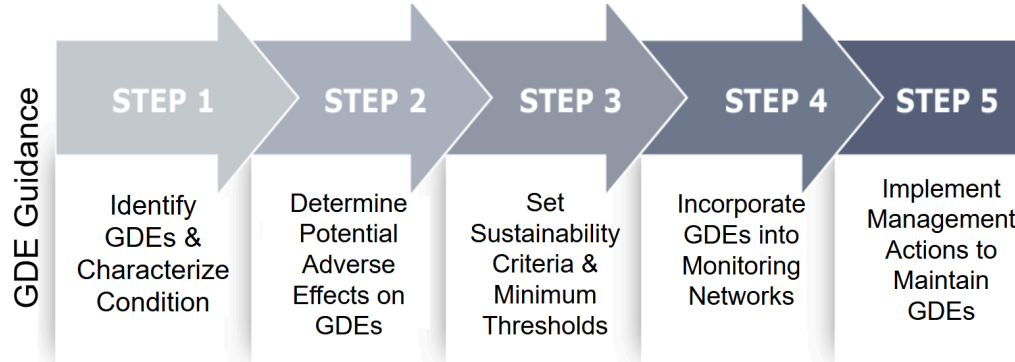


Figure 1.1 of UCI GDE Report (2025). Flowchart describing the framework used in the GDE Project to guide GDE identification, monitoring, and management, modified from The Nature Conservancy’s 2018 GDE Guidance Document (Rohde et al., 2018). SGMA best practices advise that potential GDEs should be assumed to be GDEs until direct evidence proves otherwise (Rohde et al., 2018). The GDE Project focused on Steps 1 and 2 while providing scientific information to support the critical management actions outlined in Steps 3 through 5.

The GDE management framework is meant to be a stepwise, iterative process in which early steps establish the scientific basis for action, and later steps are refined as additional data and concepts for action become available. **Step 1**—identifying and characterizing GDEs—relies on using scientific data to determine whether a system uses groundwater and is potentially at risk from groundwater decline. In the UCI GDE Report, **multiple independent and well-supported lines of evidence consistently indicate that the mesquite bosque meets the criteria for GDE designation.** On that basis, designation of the mesquite bosque as a GDE is supported by the weight of evidence and is consistent with established guidance. **Accordingly, we recommend that the Watermaster designate the presence of GDE in the subbasin near the Borrego Sink (please see our note on extent below).**

For **Step 2**, the analysis in the UCI GDE Report identified a consistent decline in NDVI over time across the Borrego Springs mesquite bosque that coincides with substantial groundwater decline. The patterns in NDVI decline were consistent with patterns of plant mortality and stress from ground-based surveys. In contrast, the reference site at Clark Dry Lake in the Ocotillo-Clark Valley Basin—where groundwater remains relatively shallow (approximately 25 ft bgs)—did not exhibit comparable widespread decline (see UCI GDE Report, pg 114). This contrast alone provides strong evidence that groundwater decline in Borrego Springs is negatively affecting mesquite condition. These findings highlight the importance of proactive, adaptive management approaches to protect mesquite habitat, which allow management and monitoring strategies to be refined over time as new information becomes available in order to mitigate potential undesirable impacts.



Steps **3 through 5**—establishing sustainability criteria, incorporating GDEs into monitoring, and planning/implementing management actions—require stakeholder input and are expected to evolve over time as new data become available. The exploratory analyses in the UCI GDE Report were examples intended to evaluate potential approaches for informing minimum thresholds (see UCI GDE Report, page 71). It was **not** our intent, the study’s goal, or the SGMA process to establish final values. Rather, those actions and decision-making exercises were expected to follow the steps above and to involve stakeholders associated with Watermaster governance.

Thus, our report recommended a practical path forward: formally recognize the bosque as a GDE based on Steps 1 and 2, initiate monitoring, and develop, plan, and implement conservation measures to protect existing high quality mesquite, and then collaboratively refine thresholds and management actions as new data become available.

The GDE extent and ET estimate

In our synthesis we specifically note that not every tree or pixel demonstrates GDE behavior. However, these trees were not excluded from the mapped extent of bosque habitat in order to align with best practices related to SGMA developed by The Nature Conservancy and reviewed by the Department of Water Resources (Rohde et al. 2018). This guidance states that once the presence of a potential GDE is established at the basin scale, direct evidence of the absence of groundwater use is required to classify the area as non-GDE. Thus, we followed the recommended, conservative approach of assigning GDE status to the entire mapped area and advocating for initial monitoring and decision-making to treat the full mapped habitat as a GDE. This approach can then be refined over time as additional data become available to better constrain spatial variability within the system.

It is also worth noting that we do not claim that mesquite trees use 100% groundwater, nor that this requirement is necessary for assigning GDE status. The suggestion that 100% of a GDE must be 100% groundwater dependent reflects a misunderstanding of how GDEs are defined and their functional biology. Across comments on our report—including technical consultant feedback, TAC discussions, and Watermaster Board meetings—there has been a recurring claim that this system is not a GDE because either (1) surface water is used by mesquite, (2) groundwater is only used episodically, or (3) groundwater access is not assumed to be necessary for survival of the mesquite bosque. However, this is not what SMGA requires (best practices associated with SGMA only require 'use', not exclusive use), it is biologically unrealistic to require 100% groundwater reliance (plants do not function this way), and the dependency of the mesquite bosque on groundwater is evident from the history of the basin (mesquite have died where groundwater has dropped drastically i.e., north of the airport).



Across our map of current habitat (1,850 acres - defined as the total ecological area inhabited by a species, by definition larger than the narrow area covered by individual tree canopies), we see evidence of GDE activity in many locations. This activity varies along multiple dimensions. There is a gradient in space (more consistent GDE signals are found closer to the Sink), in intensity (some areas show stronger GDE response), and in density (some areas have GDE behavior co-located with no GDE behavior). The spatial distribution of GDE activity is best illustrated in Figure 2.19 on page 54 of our report, which shows the extent of GDE behavior in 2024 (shown below as Figure 2). This map shows the outlined habitat with a simple 'yes/no' classification using our remote sensing approaches. Several patterns are evident- we do not classify all trees as GDE, GDE signals are stronger and more consistent closer to the Sink, however patches of GDE behavior also show up far from the Sink.

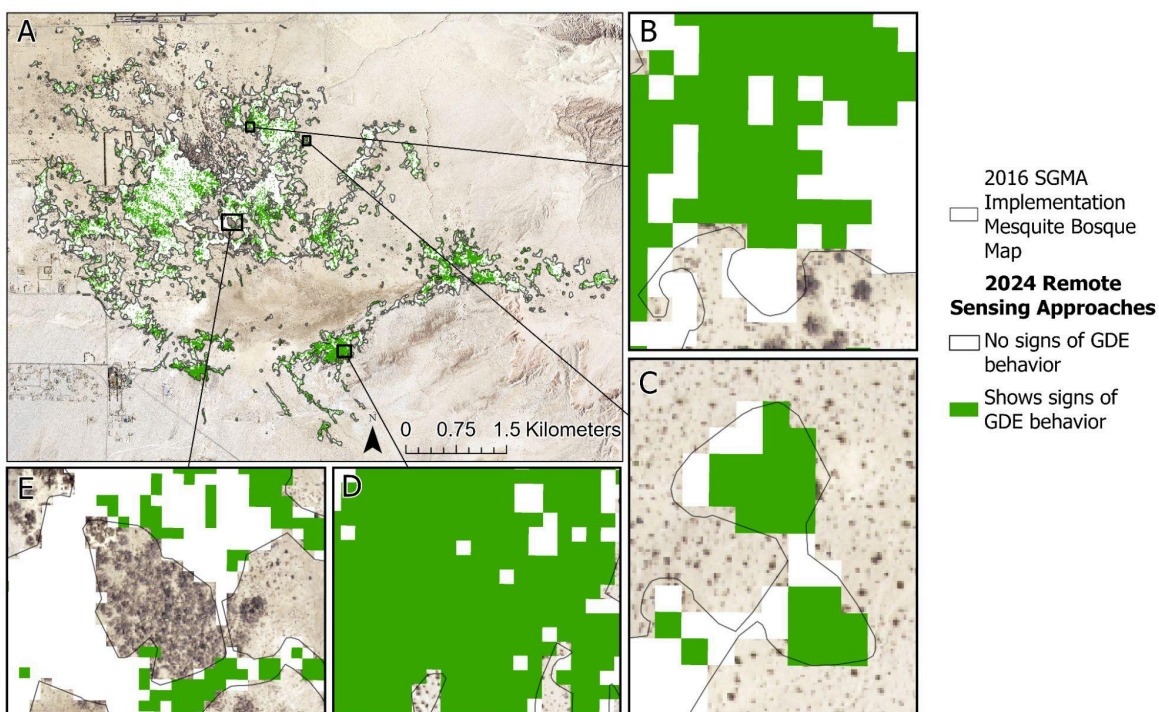


Figure 2. Spatial extent of GDE behavior in 2024 identified by the three different remote sensing approaches (see Remote Sensing of GDE Behavior on p. 49 of the UCI GDE Report (2025)), highlighting several locations across the mapped area. Areas in green represent live vegetation exhibiting GDE behavior in at least one approach, demonstrating GDE hotspots across the Borrego Springs mesquite bosque.



From a practical standpoint, this raises several considerations for next steps. These include how much additional data (and money) are needed to perfectly refine the distribution to include only GDE trees, versus managing it as a whole ecosystem (a cost–benefit tradeoff), how land ownership patterns may shape management decisions (management action will only be possible on some parcels), and the relevance of the historical distribution of mesquite relative to the start date of SGMA (2015). UCI’s role was not to resolve these questions, but to frame them and assist with science-based guidance and our knowledge of the habitat. From there, stakeholders can use our empirical data and their local priorities to iteratively refine the GDE boundary and determine appropriate management actions.

Likewise, many of the exploratory analyses in the UCI GDE Report were intended to illustrate evaluations of the potential magnitudes of GDE relevant processes. One example is the quantification of groundwater use (ET_{gw}) for consideration in the subbasin water budget (UCI GDE Report, p. 96). The goal of our estimate was not to narrowly identify a single value for long-term allocation, but to bound the potential impact to the water budget and to initiate the stakeholder discussions needed to develop a more robust, process-based understanding of the system.

In the end, the Watermaster may use several approaches to constrain this number, including the hydrologic model employed by West Yost. We stand in strong agreement that additional ET sensor data will help refine estimates of mesquite evapotranspiration for incorporation in the subbasin water budget. Together with other data streams, these efforts can provide more mechanistic and interoperable information that complements the existing basin monitoring and analytical framework, supporting adaptive management of this beneficial user.

A note on reproducibility

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a consensus definition for reproducibility: “reproducibility relates strictly to computational reproducibility—obtaining consistent results using the same input data, computational methods, and conditions of analysis” (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine et al. 2019). There was a suggestion in the March 2026 Watermaster Board Meeting that the UCI GDE Study findings are “not reproducible” because technical consults, who used vastly different assumptions, computational methods, and analyses, did not reach the same conclusions. This is not an appropriate use of the concept of reproducibility or a valid criterion for Best Available Science. Rather, it highlights the importance of evaluating analytical approaches and underlying assumptions when drawing conclusions. In our work, we have made and communicated clear assumptions about the data and the biogeophysical system



being studied in order to guide statistical inference or modeling, including the use of the conceptual hydrologic model for the subbasin. These assumptions and models are necessary to support robust statistical inference, and must be appropriate to the system in order to yield reliable conclusions. We encourage you to read through our responses to criticisms from the technical consultants, where we point out how their different conclusions arise from assumptions, methods, or models that are not appropriate for the data, study design, conceptual hydrologic model, or hydroclimatological setting of Borrego Springs.

We recognize that not all data streams in the UCI GDE Report have universal support; however, there is consistent agreement on several key elements, including the mapped extent of mesquite bosque habitat, assessments of plant health and productivity, and the utility of the ET and soil moisture sensors. That being said, we believe that recognizing the mesquite bosque as a beneficial user of groundwater allows for adaptive management approaches and provides an opportunity to proactively mitigate the risk of undesirable outcomes to the mesquite bosque habitat.

In summary, we urge the Watermaster to evaluate each component of our report, the associated data streams, and their role within the best-practices framework for GDE management in accordance with SGMA (Figure 1.1). We strongly believe that the available evidence is sufficient to support immediate designation of the mesquite bosque as a GDE. While we also find that the data support development of science-based minimum thresholds for wells near the mesquite bosque, we recognize differing perspectives on this issue and agree that it warrants further stakeholder discussion. We also agree that additional ET sensor data will help refine estimates of mesquite evapotranspiration for inclusion in the subbasin water budget, and that our analysis provides an initial basis for these considerations.



References

Rohde, M. M., Matsumoto, S., Howard, J., Liu, S., Riege, L., & Remson, E. J. (2018). *Groundwater dependent ecosystems under the sustainable groundwater management act: Guidance for preparing groundwater sustainability plans*. The Nature Conservancy.

University of California, Irvine; Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy; & San Diego Natural History Museum. (2025, May 15). *GDE identification and monitoring program report and recommendations: Final report*. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) Identification, Assessment, and Monitoring Program.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Policy and Global Affairs; Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Public Policy; Board on Research Data and Information; Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences; Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics; Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics; Division on Earth and Life Studies; Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board; Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education; Committee on National Statistics; Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences; Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science. *Reproducibility and Replicability in Science*. (2019, May 7). Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 3, Understanding Reproducibility and Replicability.

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted In-Person at the Borrego Water District and via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 3:30 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	Bill Haneline
	BL
	David Garmon
	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	Harry Turner
	Jessica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Office
	John Peterson, EWG and TAC Member
	Jonathan Abadesco, C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs
	Kate Harper
	Kathy Dice, BWD Board Member
	Lauren Brigham, UCI
	Lee Scharf
	Linda Haneline
	Nick Southern
	Nikki Fiore, UCI
	Pauline Longmire
	Rich Pinel, Board Alternate - Recreational Sector
	Rodney Bruce, Rams Hill
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member and Board Alternate - BWD
	Travis Huxman, UCI
	Trey Driscoll, Intera, TAC Member representing BWD

Please visit the [Watermaster's Website](#)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the March 18, 2026 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.

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

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:00
- B. Chair Bilyk led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. 00:00:17
- C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present. 00:00:38
- D. Approval of Agenda. The Board discussed the agenda topics for the March 18, 2026 Board meeting. 00:00:58

Motion: Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Vice Chair Bennett to approve the Agenda. 00:01:08

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

II. Public Correspondence

- A. *Correspondence Received.* Chair Bilyk referenced the correspondence included in the agenda package. 00:01:27
- B. *Public Comments.* Chair Bilyk called for public comments. Public comment was made by: 00:01:52
- David Garmon on the topic of the joint TAC-EWG meeting and the Technical Consultant's Recommendation Report on the University of California (UCI) Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study Report.
 - John Peterson on the topic of the UCI GDE Study Report
 - Kater Harper on the topic of the UCI GDE Study Report.

III. Consent Calendar

Chair Bilyk called for discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the March 18, 2026 agenda package. 00:13:08

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

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Moran, to approve the Consent Calendar. 00:13:49

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

IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action

- A. *Consideration of Approval of WY 2025 Financial Audit.* ED Adams introduced Jonathan Abadesco from C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs. Mr. Abadesco summarized the Financial Audit for Water Year (WY) 2025 prepared by C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs included in the Agenda Package. 00:14:07
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve the WY 2025 Financial Audit by C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs and include it with the WY 2025 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin. 00:23:13

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

B. *Consideration of Approval of the WY 2025 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin.* ED Adams gave an overview of the draft final WY 2025 Annual Report and memo included in the Agenda package. 00:23:32

- Public comment was made by Pauline Longmire and Kate Harper.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Vice Chair Bennett, seconded by Director Moran, to approve the WY 2025 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, inclusive of the edit to add a hyperlink to the UCI GDE Study Report, and file it with the Court and DWR. 00:30:38

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

C. *Consideration of Approval of Insurance Renewal Package.* ED Adams provided a summary of insurance renewal options included in the memo in the agenda package. 00:31:21

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

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen, seconded by Director Smith, to proceed with purchasing the insurance renewal option #2 with a policy deductible of \$100,000 per occurrence. 00:37:56

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

D. *Consideration of Approval of TAC and EWG Meeting Agendas.* Andy Malone presented the proposed agendas for the upcoming TAC and EWG meetings included in the agenda package. 00:38:35

- Public comment was made by David Garmon and Kate Harper.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action and to direct Watermaster Staff to keep the TAC agenda item on the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report as a placeholder, and if no longer needed, reduce the TAC meeting to one-hour to solely focus on the WY 2027 budget discussion.

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen, seconded by Director Moran, to approve the joint TAC-EWG meeting and TAC meeting agendas. 00:48:37

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

E. *Watermaster Staffing Approach for WY 2027 (and Beyond).* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 00:48:54

- Public comment was made by Tammy Baker.

- Board discussion ensued and the Board directed Watermaster Staff to i) proceed with performing staff performance reviews in April 2026, and ii) review the requirements for consulting with the TAC to develop an RFP.

V. Reports.

- A. *Legal Counsel Report.* Mr. Markman provided a cautionary statement about a phrase used during public comment that has legal connotations and provided his opinion on the process of reviewing the UCI GDE Study Report. 01:00:55
- There was no Board discussion and no Board action was taken.
- B. *Technical Consultant Report.* Mr. Malone reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slide 30 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 01:03:17
- 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 31 through 33 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 01:17:22
- Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- D. *Chairperson's Report.* Chair Bilyk had no report. 01:22:00

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for April 15, 2026 Board Meeting

- ED Adams reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the next several Board meetings listed in the agenda package. 01:22:07
- There were not public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Chair Bilyk seconded by Director Smith, to approve the following agenda for the April 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting: 01:31:58

- 2nd Quarter WY 2026 Budget Status Review
- WY 2027 Budget Scoping
- Transfers Approval Process
- May 2026 TAC Meeting Agenda
- Cost Recovery for Well Applications
- Addressing Comments on 5-Yr Assessment Report and GMP Update
- CLOSED SESSION: Personnel Review
- Judgment language on De Minimis wells

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

VII. Board Member Comments

- Chair Bilyk called for comments. 01:32:18

- Director Smith thanked the group for their efforts and provided a summary of the Board workshop to the public.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

Chair Bilyk reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package. 01:33:38

IX. Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 5:04 PM. 01:34:10

Recorded by:
Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost

Attest:
Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board

Unapproved

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Conducted In-Person at the Borrego Water District and via GoToMeeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 1:00 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	Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost
	Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost
	Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost
Others Present	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	Jessica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Office
	Rodney Bruce, Rams Hill
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member and Board Alternate - BWD
	Trey Driscoll, Intera, TAC Member representing BWD

Please visit the [Watermaster’s Website](#)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the March 17-18, 2026 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.

Opening Procedures – Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

- I. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:00
- II. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present. 00:00:36
- II. Opening Remarks. ED Adams opened the meeting with a brief summary of the opening remarks. 00:01:49

Session #1 – Overview of Assessment Report, GMP Update, Relationship between Assessment Report and GMP Update, Schedule and Next Steps

- Session #1 - Presentation and Board Discussion** 00:03:40
 - ED Adams gave a presentation on Session #1 topics.
 - Board discussion ensued throughout and at the end of the presentation.
- Session #1 - Public Comment** 01:09:30
 - Public comment was made by Tammy Baker and Steve Anderson.
- Break** 01:21:47

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

Session #2 – Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the GMP Assessment Report	
Chapter 4 – Management Action Implementation Status	01:26:30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED Adams provided a presentation summarizing Chapter 4 of the GMP Assessment Report. • Board discussion ensued throughout and at the end of the presentation. 	
Chapter 5 – New Information	02:02:41
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED Adams gave a presentation summarizing Chapter 5 of the GMP Assessment Report. • There was no Board discussion during or after the presentation. 	
Chapter 6 – Basin Setting Based on New Information	02:08:31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Salberg gave a presentation summarizing Chapter 6 of the GMP Assessment Report. • Board discussion ensued following the presentation. 	
Chapter 7 – Groundwater Monitoring Network	02:19:47
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Salberg gave a presentation summarizing Chapter 7 of the GMP Assessment Report. • Board discussion ensued following the presentation. 	
Session #2 - Public Comment	02:39:41
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment was made by Tammy Baker and Diane Johnson. 	
Break	
Session #3 – Begin Chapter 3 of Assessment Report	
Overview of Chapter 3 - Recommended Corrective Actions	02:43:02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED Adams summarized three Recommended Corrective Actions (RCA) described in Chapter 3 and discussed in Session #3. 	
Review RCA No. 1 - Management Areas	02:47:05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Malone gave a presentation on RCA No. 1 and the proposed approach for addressing RCA No. 1. • Board discussion ensued at the end of the presentation. 	
Review RCA No. 2 - Well Mitigation	03:03:34
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Malone gave a presentation on RCA No. 2 and the proposed approach for addressing RCA No. 2. • Board discussion ensued at the end of the presentation. 	
Review RCA No. 7 - Relationship of Judgment/GMP	03:18:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED Adams gave a presentation on RCA No. 7 and the proposed approach for addressing RCA No. 7. • There were no Board comments during or after this presentation. 	
Session #3 - Public Comment	03:25:59
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment was made by Diane Johnson and Trey Driscoll. 	

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM.

03:34:47

Recorded by:
Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost

Attest:
Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board

Unapproved

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Conducted In-Person at the Borrego Water District and via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 9:00 a.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	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	Jessica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Office
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member and Board Alternate - BWD
	Trey Driscoll, Intera, TAC Member representing BWD

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Opening Procedures – Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

- I. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:00
- II. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present. 00:00:12
- II. Workshop Schedule. Chair Bilyk provided an overview of the schedule for the March 18th Workshop, including the topics and timing of each session. 00:00:34

Session #4 – Assessment Report Chapters 3 & 8 (RCA No. 3)

Assessment Report Chapter 3: Recommended Corrective Actions 00:02:27

- ED Adams gave a summary of the RCAs described in Chapter 3 of the GMP Assessment Report.

RCA No. 3 SMC for Groundwater Levels 00:06:15

- Andy Malone gave a presentation on RCA No. 3 and the proposed approach for responding to RCA No. 3.
- Board discussion ensued throughout the presentation.

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

- Public comment was made by Steve Anderson, Tammy Baker, and Trey Driscoll. Mr. Driscoll, as the TAC representative for the BWD, gave a presentation on BWD's recommended SMC for groundwater levels.

Break 01:58:27

Session #5 – Assessment Report Chapters 3 & 8 (RCA No. 4 and No. 5)

RCA No. 4 – SMC for Groundwater Storage 01:58:31

- Mr. Malone gave a presentation on RCA No. 4 and the proposed approach for responding to RCA No. 4.
- Board discussion ensued throughout the presentation.

RCA No. 5 – SMC for Groundwater Quality 02:22:23

- ED Adams gave a presentation on RCA No. 5 and the proposed approach for responding to RCA No. 5.
- Board discussion ensued throughout the presentation.
- Public comment was made by Trey Driscoll.

Session #5 - Public Comment 03:16:40

- There was no public comment.

Adjourn to Lunch Break 03:17:11

Call Meeting Order and Roll Call

Following the lunch break, Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM, at which time the meeting recording resumed. ED Adams called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present. 03:17:17

Session #6 – Assessment Report Chapters 3 & 8 (RCA No. 6 and Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainability)

RCA No. 6 – Land Subsidence 03:17:33

- Mr. Malone gave a presentation on RCA No. 4 and the proposed approach for responding to RCA No. 4.
- Board discussion ensued at the end of the presentation.
- There were no public comments.

Assessment Report Chapter 8 – Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainability 03:26:35

- ED Adams gave a presentation summarizing the assessment of progress towards sustainability documented in Chapter 8 of the GMP Assessment Report.
- Board discussion ensued throughout the presentation.

Session #6 – Public Comment 03:49:37

- Public comment was made by Steve Anderson and Diane Johnson.

Additional Board Discussion

03:58:24

- The Board and public discussed topics from earlier in the day. The majority of the additional discussion focused on the proposed SMC for groundwater levels (RCA No. 3).
- Public comment was made by Trey Driscoll, Steve Anderson, and Tammy Baker.

Overview, Schedule, and Next Steps

04:20:38

- ED Adams provided a summary of the schedule and next steps to complete the GMP update and the 5-Year Assessment Report.
- Board discussion ensued following ED Adam’s summary.

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 3:07 PM.

04:32:04

 Recorded by:
 Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost

 Attest:
 Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board

Unapproved

1:59 PM

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Profit & Loss for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
October 2025 through March 2026**

04/10/26

Accrual Basis

	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
DWR Grant Reimbursement ^t	0.00	0.00	0.00	263,282.30	0.00	0.00	263,282.30
Pumping Assessment	0.00	175,024.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,024.32
WY 2025 - Expected Grant Reimb ^v	0.00	0.00	0.00	(266,268.25)	0.00	0.00	(266,268.25)
Total Income	0.00	175,024.32	0.00	(2,985.95)	0.00	0.00	172,038.37
Expense							
Audit	0.00	161.00	0.00	6,489.00	0.00	1,662.00	8,312.00
Bank Service Charges	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	26.00	0.00	76.00
Consulting Services *	78,630.25	69,187.07	40,445.00	61,329.45	59,958.10	25,460.05	335,009.92
Consulting Services- Meter Read	215.00	322.50	161.25	161.25	170.25	276.25	1,306.50
Insurance	3,946.02	3,946.02	3,946.02	3,946.02	3,946.02	3,946.02	23,676.12
Interest Expense	1,044.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,044.69
Legal	5,000.00	4,855.00	3,445.00	3,500.00	5,745.00	11,305.14	33,850.14
Total Expense	88,860.96	78,471.59	47,997.27	75,450.72	69,845.37	42,649.46	403,275.37
Net Ordinary Income	(88,860.96)	96,552.73	(47,997.27)	(78,436.67)	(69,845.37)	(42,649.46)	(231,237.00)
Net Income	(88,860.96)	96,552.73	(47,997.27)	(78,436.67)	(69,845.37)	(42,649.46)	(231,237.00)

^t Reflects actual reimbursement received from DWR.

^v Reflects reversal of estimated reimbursement amounts.

* Represents Consulting services by West Yost that are not grant reimbursable.

2:02 PM

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
As of March 31, 2026

04/10/26

Accrual Basis

	Mar 31, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
US Bank	876,064.47
Total Checking/Savings	876,064.47
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	3,646.05
Total Accounts Receivable	3,646.05
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expenses	7,891.99
Total Other Current Assets	7,891.99
Total Current Assets	887,602.51
TOTAL ASSETS	887,602.51
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	121,141.74
Total Accounts Payable	121,141.74
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Payables	50,634.00
Assessment Prepayment	149.94
Total Other Current Liabilities	50,783.94
Total Current Liabilities	171,925.68
Total Liabilities	171,925.68
Equity	
Retained Earnings	946,913.83
Net Income	-231,237.00
Total Equity	715,676.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	887,602.51

Item III.D

2:05 PM

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Expense Distribution Detail**

04/10/26

March 2026

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount
C.J. Brown & Company CPAs					
Bill	03/13/2026	260245	Audit services rendered during the month of February 2026	Audit	1,662.00
Total C.J. Brown & Company CPAs					1,662.00
RWG Law					
General Journal	03/01/2026	127R	RWG Estimate for February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026	Legal	(5,000.00)
Bill	03/13/2026	257595	Services rendered through February 28, 2026	Legal	8,805.14
General Journal	03/31/2026	133	RWG Estimate for March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026	Legal	7,500.00
Total RWG Law					11,305.14
West Yost & Associates					
General Journal	03/01/2026	127R	WY Estimate for February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026	Consulting Services	(60,275.70)
General Journal	03/01/2026	127R	WY Estimate for February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026	Consulting Services- Meter Read	(276.25)
Bill	03/31/2026	2066530	West Yost Consulting Services February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026	Consulting Services	42,878.00
Bill	03/31/2026	2066530	West Yost Consulting Services February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026	Consulting Services- Meter Read	276.25
General Journal	03/31/2026	132	Correction of prior-period expense classification for January 2026 WY invoice	Consulting Services	(165.75)
General Journal	03/31/2026	132	Correction of prior-period expense classification for January 2026 WY invoice	Consulting Services- Meter Read	165.75
General Journal	03/31/2026	133	WY Estimate for March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026	Consulting Services	43,023.50
General Journal	03/31/2026	133	WY Estimate for March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026	Consulting Services- Meter Read	110.50
Total West Yost & Associates					25,736.30
TOTAL					38,703.44

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Register: US Bank

From 03/01/2026 through 03/31/2026

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
3/10/2026	2223	RWG Law	Accounts Payable	Services rendered through December 31, 2025	2,000.00	X		915,578.28
3/10/2026	2224	West Yost & Associates	Accounts Payable	Services from December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025	39,659.75	X		875,918.53
3/19/2026			Undeposited Funds	Deposit		X	145.94	876,064.47



T 213.626.8484
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Approved April 9, 2026

BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
 C/O SAMANTHA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 WEST YOST
 25 EDELMAN, SUITE 120
 IRVINE, CA 92618

Invoice Date: February 17, 2026
 Invoice Number: 257149
 Matter Number: 13056-0001

Re: 13056-0001 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

For professional services rendered through January 31, 2026

Time Detail

<u>Date</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hours</u>
01/07/26	JLM	E-MAIL ON INTERVENTION BY T-2 ENTITY WHICH ACQUIRED PROPERTY AND WATER RIGHTS; PHONE CALL FROM TITLE COMPANY ON RECORDED JUDGMENT	1.10
01/09/26	JLM	E-MAILS ON NEW PARTY INTERVENTION AND MEETING ON DWR RESPONSES	0.40
01/09/26	JCM	REVIEW APPLICATION TO INTERVENE – T2 TILTING T LLC AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	0.40
01/12/26	JLM	RESPOND TO ESCROW OFFICER ON IMPACT OF RECORDED JUDGMENT	0.20
01/13/26	JLM	PHONE CALL FROM MS. ADAMS ON BAUER TRANSFER AND RESPONSE TO DWR	0.80
01/13/26	JCM	REVIEW E-MAILS REGARDING NON-OPPOSITION TO T2 TILTING'S APPLICATION TO INTERVENE	0.20
01/15/26	JLM	REVIEW NEW METER READING AGREEMENT; CHECK STAFF REPORTS FOR BOARD MEETING ON FILING INTERVENTION AND BAUER WATER RIGHTS TRANSFER	0.80
01/16/26	JLM	ZOOM MEETING ON RESPONSES TO DWR COMMENTS; PHONE CONFERENCE WITH MS. ADAMS ON BAUER WATER RIGHTS TRANSFER	2.50
01/16/26	SLF	REVIEW BOARD MEETING AGENDA PACKET	0.20

Item III.E.i

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER

Invoice Date:

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February 17, 2026

Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Number:

257149

Matter Number:

13056-0001

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hours</u>
01/19/26	JLM	REVIEW BOARD MEETING AGENDA; REVIEW WELL LEVEL CHARTS	1.50
01/21/26	JLM	ATTEND BOARD MEETING	3.40
01/23/26	JLM	E-MAILS ON TREATMENT OF SMALL PUMPER; EXECUTE AND DELIVER WATERMETER NON OPPOSITION TO INTERVENERS	1.00
01/26/26	SLF	REVIEW DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT	0.20
01/28/26	JLM	REVIEW E-MAILS AND JUDGMENT CONCERNING APPLICATION FOR NEW DE MINIMIS PUMPERS	1.80
01/29/26	JLM	MEETING WITH STAFF ON NEW DE MINIMIS PUMPING; REVIEW E-MAILS ON BAUER TRANSFER	1.10
01/30/26	JLM	PHONE CALL FROM MS. ADAMS ON DWR LEGAL COMMENT AND PROVIDE LANGUAGE THEREON	1.50
Total			17.10

Timekeeper Summary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
JACOB C. METZ	0.60	275.00	165.00
JAMES L. MARKMAN	16.10	400.00	6,440.00
STEVEN L. FLOWER	0.40	350.00	140.00
Total	17.10		\$6,745.00

Item III.E.i

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Date:
Invoice Number:
Matter Number:

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February 17, 2026
257149
13056-0001

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Current Legal Fees.....	\$6,745.00
Current Client Costs Advanced.....	\$0.00
Total Current Fees and Costs	\$6,745.00



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BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
 C/O SAMANTHA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 WEST YOST
 25 EDELMAN, SUITE 120
 IRVINE, CA 92618

Invoice Date: February 17, 2026
 Invoice Number: 257149
 Matter Number: 13056-0001

Re: 13056-0001 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

For professional services rendered through January 31, 2026

Fees	6,745.00
Costs	0.00
Total Amount Due	\$6,745.00

TERMS: PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO

RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON
350 South Grand Avenue, 37th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071



Remit Payment To:
 PO Box 2158
 Davis, CA 95617

January 31, 2026

Invoice Number: 2066190

Accounts Payable	Client Project:	Work Order No. 8
Borrego Springs Watermaster	WY Project No:	940-80-25-12
c/o West Yost Associates	Contract Amount:	584,376.00
25 Edelman, Suite 120	Job Name:	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services
Irvine, CA 92618		

Approved April 9, 2026

Professional Services from January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026

Previously Billed :	189,252.82
Total This Period :	60,775.35
Total Amount Billed to Date including This Invoice :	250,028.17
Amount Remaining in Contract :	334,347.83

Task 101 Board Meetings

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	8.25	370.00	3,052.50
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	5.50	355.00	1,952.50
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	15.25	246.00	3,751.50
Totals	29.00		8,756.50
Total Labor			8,756.50
		Total this Task	\$8,756.50

Task 120 TAC Meetings

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	3.00	355.00	1,065.00
Totals	3.00		1,065.00
Total Labor			1,065.00
		Total this Task	\$1,065.00

Project	940-80-25-12	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services	Invoice	2066190
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Task	220	Insurance, Accounting, and Financial Services
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Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	.25	370.00	92.50
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	.75	246.00	184.50
Administrative IV			
Ehresman, Leah	.25	176.00	44.00
Administrative III			
Mendoza-Tellez, Maria	13.50	160.00	2,160.00
Totals	14.75		2,481.00
Total Labor			2,481.00
		Total this Task	\$2,481.00

Task	230	Outreach - Records, Docs, Website
------	-----	-----------------------------------

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	1.25	246.00	307.50
Totals	1.25		307.50
Total Labor			307.50
		Total this Task	\$307.50

Task	240	Track/Respond to Public Communications & Requests
------	-----	---

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	.50	246.00	123.00
Totals	.50		123.00
Total Labor			123.00
		Total this Task	\$123.00

Task	250	As-needed support to the BPA Parties
------	-----	--------------------------------------

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	1.00	355.00	355.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	4.75	246.00	1,168.50
Totals	5.75		1,523.50
Total Labor			1,523.50
		Total this Task	\$1,523.50

Project	940-80-25-12	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services	Invoice	2066190
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Task	260	As-requested admin. of the Judgment, Rules & Regs, and GMP
------	-----	--

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I				
Adams, Samantha	1.75	370.00	647.50	
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II				
Malone, Andy	2.00	355.00	710.00	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I				
Salberg, Lauren	1.50	246.00	369.00	
Totals	5.25		1,726.50	
Total Labor				1,726.50
				Total this Task
				\$1,726.50

Task	270	General administration and project managements tasks
------	-----	--

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I				
Adams, Samantha	.50	370.00	185.00	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I				
Salberg, Lauren	8.75	246.00	2,152.50	
Totals	9.25		2,337.50	
Total Labor				2,337.50
				Total this Task
				\$2,337.50

Task	310	GWMP - Annual Meter Verification
------	-----	----------------------------------

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I				
Salberg, Lauren	1.25	246.00	307.50	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II				
Kelty, Clay	.75	221.00	165.75	
Totals	2.00		473.25	
Total Labor				473.25
				Total this Task
				\$473.25

Task	311	GWMP - Monthly Meter Reads
------	-----	----------------------------

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I				
Salberg, Lauren	1.75	246.00	430.50	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II				
Kelty, Clay	3.25	221.00	718.25	
Totals	5.00		1,148.75	
Total Labor				1,148.75
				Total this Task
				\$1,148.75

Project 940-80-25-12 WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services Invoice 2066190

Task 320 GWMP - GWL and GWQ Mon

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II Malone, Andy	1.50	355.00	532.50
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	12.75	246.00	3,136.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II Kelty, Clay	.50	221.00	110.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist I Serafin, Leslie	6.00	191.00	1,146.00
Totals	20.75		4,925.50
Total Labor			4,925.50
		Total this Task	\$4,925.50

Task 330 DMS

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	.75	246.00	184.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II Kelty, Clay	1.00	221.00	221.00
Totals	1.75		405.50
Total Labor			405.50
		Total this Task	\$405.50

Task 341 WY 2025 Annual Report

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I Adams, Samantha	4.50	370.00	1,665.00
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II Malone, Andy	3.00	355.00	1,065.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	44.75	246.00	11,008.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist I Serafin, Leslie	8.25	191.00	1,575.75
Technical Analyst I Lang, Noelle	9.20	148.00	1,361.60
Totals	69.70		16,675.85
Total Labor			16,675.85
		Total this Task	\$16,675.85

Project	940-80-25-12	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services	Invoice	2066190
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Task	380	5-Year GMP Assessment
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Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	8.00	370.00	2,960.00
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	2.00	355.00	710.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	20.75	246.00	5,104.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist I			
Serafin, Leslie	11.50	191.00	2,196.50
Technical Analyst I			
Lang, Noelle	15.00	148.00	2,220.00
Totals	57.25		13,191.00
Total Labor			13,191.00
Total this Task			\$13,191.00

Task	420	EWG Meetings and Address Ad Hoc Requests
------	-----	--

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	.75	370.00	277.50
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	14.00	355.00	4,970.00
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Weamer, Veva	.50	333.00	166.50
Totals	15.25		5,414.00
Total Labor			5,414.00
Total this Task			\$5,414.00

Task	500	Consulting services to Parties with manual-read meters
------	-----	--

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II			
Kelty, Clay	1.00	221.00	221.00
Totals	1.00		221.00
Total Labor			221.00
Total this Task			\$221.00
Total this Invoice			\$60,775.35

Description of Services:

Please see attached description of services

Project	940-80-25-12	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services	Invoice	2066190
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Outstanding Invoices

Number	Date	Balance
2065918	12/31/2025	39,659.75
Total		39,659.75

Please direct questions to:

Project Manager Samantha Adams
Principal Greg Chung

GKC



Description of Services Rendered
Project 940-80-25-12
Watermaster Administrative and Technical Services
Invoice Period: January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026

TASK 1 – MEETINGS AND COURT HEARINGS

The work performed for this task includes preparing for and attending Watermaster Board Meetings, TAC Meetings, Court Hearings, and stakeholder Open House meetings. The work performed in this reporting period included:

BOARD MEETINGS

- Corresponded with Watermaster Board officers and legal counsel throughout the month to coordinate meeting agenda items and other Watermaster activities.
- January 2026 Regular Board Meeting:
 - Prepared meeting minutes from December 2025 Regular Board meeting.
 - Prepared, reviewed, and formatted agenda package content. This work included:
 - Organized, compiled, and formatted the public correspondence and consent calendar items.
 - Performed work, including coordination, preparation, and/or review of staff memos or other materials for ten agenda items.
 - Compiled the final agenda package and agenda package addendum and distributed via the stakeholder distribution list and Watermaster website.
 - Prepared PowerPoint Presentation to support the Board meeting discussion.
 - Responded to questions from Board members via email and phone calls regarding the Board package items.
 - Attended the virtual Board meeting on January 21, 2026. The meeting was attended by Samantha Adams, Andy Malone, and Lauren Salberg.
- February 2026 Regular Board Meeting Preparation:
 - Prepared punch list of action items for the Board meeting. Created meeting link and coordinated assignments for preparing the package.

TAC MEETINGS

- Prepared draft text on the Sustainable Management Criteria (measurable objectives and interim milestones) for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels and sent proposal to the TAC for review and comment.

COURT HEARINGS

- No work performed during the reporting period.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- No work performed during the reporting period.

TASK 2 – WATERMASTER ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Director, with support from staff, will organize, oversee, and/or perform the administrative and management aspects of running the Watermaster and administering the Judgment, Rules and Regulations, and GMP. The work performed in this reporting period included:

PREPARE THE WATERMASTER ANNUAL BUDGET

- No work performed during the reporting period.

INSURANCE, ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Prepared the December 2025 Financial Report.
- Communicated with vendors on reporting estimates of billings for inclusion in monthly financials.
- Processed accounts receivable into QuickBooks.
- Processed accounts payable into QuickBooks.
- Cut checks for accounts payable and mailed for signature.
- Drove to US Bank to deposit checks.
- Supported performance of WY 2025 financial audit.
- Send follow-up reminders to Pumpers on outstanding payments owed on Pumping Assessments. Respond to Pumper questions.
- Corresponded with BWD and DWR on final SGM grant reimbursement.
- Coordinated with US Bank representatives and Watermaster Board members to prepare materials for meeting to add additional signatories to the Watermaster's bank account.

MAINTAIN WEBSITE AND GRANT COMMUNICATIONS

- Maintained Watermaster website by updating meeting dates, meeting materials, and Board Resolutions, other documents.

RESPOND TO AND TRACK PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS

- Regularly checked Borrego inbox and provided general as-requested support to the public throughout the month by responding to emails on the following topics:
 - Farmland following in the Basin

AS-NEEDED SUPPORT TO THE BPA PARTIES

- Fulfilled the following data requests:
 - For BWD, transmitted groundwater-level and quality data collected during the Fall 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Event
 - For T2/Rams Hill, transmitted historical groundwater-level measurements for select wells in the South Management Area
 - For the County of San Diego, transmitted all groundwater-level measurements from 2024 to 2025.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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- Updated data request tracking spreadsheet.
- Prepared the 2025 Rams Hill Groundwater Pumping Report to support required reporting to the County of San Diego.

AS-NEEDED ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERMS OF THE JUDGMENT, RULES & REGULATIONS, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Collaborated with BWD and Legal Counsel on proposed approach for documentation and approval of transfer of BPA between BWD – D. Bauer.
- Corresponded with Legal Counsel regarding an application for new De Minimis well in the Basin. Forwarded the well application to the Watermaster Board of Directors for review.
- Finalized draft BWD Meter Read Agreement following review by Legal Counsel and BWD.
- Updated tracking sheet of Entry Agreements for the Watermaster’s Groundwater Monitoring and/or Metering Program to identify the status of the agreements (active vs. inactive).
- Prepared for and attended the second Budget Subcommittee meeting on January 7, 2026. Meeting was attended by Samantha Adams.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT MANAGERMENTS TASKS

- Performed monthly project management tasks including budget, schedule, and scope of work progress evaluations.
- Reviewed final SGM grant payment received from BWD/DWR to confirm amount received matched the amount expected. Corresponded with BWD.
- Corresponded with Jim Bennett and Mike Seley on projected monthly costs through the end of the fiscal year.

TASK 3 – TECHNICAL SERVICES

The objective of this task is for the Technical Consulting team to perform the technical services required by the Judgment, Rules and Regulations, and GMP for WY 2026. The work performed in this reporting period included:

GROUNDWATER PUMPING MONITORING - ANNUAL METER VERIFICATION

- Notified Pumpers and McCall Meters about annual meter verification testing and corresponded with Pumpers throughout the month.
- Reviewed and updated list of wells required to have annual meter verification tests performed in WY 2026 based on pumping status.

GROUNDWATER PUMPING MONITORING - MONTHLY COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF METER READ DATA

- Performed QA/QC of November 2025 pumping data after receiving missing meter reads.
- Cataloged and processed December 2025 monthly meter reads.
- Calculated December 2025 pumping by well.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

- Finalized the Fall 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report.
- Corresponded with BWD with questions related to groundwater-quality results from Spring 2025.
- Coordinated with Blaine Tech to schedule the Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Event.

COOPERATOR DATA COLLECTION, DATA MANAGEMENT, AND REPORTING DATA TO DWR PORTALS

- Performed QA/QC and loaded to HydroDaVE water level transducer data downloaded by DWR staff at MW-6S and MW-6D in fall 2025.
- Submitted fall 2025 groundwater level data to the DWR Monitoring Network Module (MNM).

ANNUAL WATER RIGHTS ACCOUNTING

- This task is complete.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COURT AND DWR

- Finalized the text, tables, figures, and appendices of the WY 2025 Annual Report and submitted for technical and editorial review.
- Completed technical and editorial review of WY 2025 Annual Report.
- Compiled the PDF of the draft WY 2025 Annual Report, published it to the Watermaster website, and noticed the review and hearing to the Watermaster Parties and Distribution list on January 26, 2026.

AS-NEEDED TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUDGMENT, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- No work performed during the reporting period.

TECHNICAL WORK TO REDETERMINE 2030 SUSTAINABLE YIELD

- No work performed during the reporting period.

5-YEAR GMP ASSESSMENT/UPDATE

The objective of this task is to prepare the 5-Year Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) Assessment/Update. The work performed in this reporting period included:

- Created an editable version of the 2020 GMP to prepare a redline version for submission as the 2025 GMP Update.
- Prepared a draft memo on the approach to documenting Project and Management Actions (PMAs) status.
- Continued working on text, tables, and figures for Section 3 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – Recommended corrective actions, including:
 - Continued implementing scope to address DWR RCA #3 on improvements to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for groundwater levels, including:
 - Finalized groundwater elevation use thresholds and Minimum Thresholds (MTs) at Representative Monitoring Wells based on

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

Page 5

- comments received. Updated figures displaying MTs at the Rep. Monitoring Wells in the Basin.
- Finalized Measurable Objectives (MOs) and Interim Milestones (IMs) for groundwater levels based on results from a Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) projection scenario.
 - Developed summary table of proposed SMC (MTs, MOs, and IMs) at Representative Monitoring Wells.
 - Produced hydrographs of proposed SMC (MTs, MOs, and IMs), observed vs. simulated groundwater-levels across two model scenarios (Scenarios 1A and the dry climate scenario) for each Representative Monitoring Well.
- Finalized implementation of the scope to address RCA #4 on improvements to SMC for groundwater storage and documented methods, results, and recommendations in Section 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report.
 - Finalized text to document approach to DWR RCA #6 related to the potential for land subsidence to cause Undesirable Results in the Basin:
 - Finalized figures documenting change in land surface elevation with location of sensitive infrastructure.
 - Documented results and prepared text for the Five-Year Assessment Report.
 - Prepared GMP redline
 - Documented response to address RCA #7 on the relationship between the Judgment and GMP and sent to legal counsel for review and comment.
 - Continued working on text, tables, and figures for Section 6 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – Revised Basin Conditions based on new information.
 - Continued working on text, tables, and figures for Section 8 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – Basin Conditions and Assessment of Sustainability.
 - Developed figures and tables of “Judgment-allowed” pumping, which identifies the volume of pumping in each Management Area based on the BPA assigned to parcels in the Judgment.
 - Began internal editing of the completed portions of the Five-Year Assessment Report.

TASK 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The objective of this task is to support the activities of the EWG in WY 2026. The work performed in this reporting period included:

At its Special November 3, 2025 meeting, the Board selected West Yost to perform the Peer Review of the UCI Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study report. Work to advance the review of the report during this period included:

- Continued preparation of the draft Technical Consultant’s Recommendation Report on the GDE Study Report.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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TASK 5 - STAFF SERVICES BILLED TO WATERMASTER RELATED TO MANUAL-READ METERS

The objective of this task is to coordinate the monitoring and collection of meter data from the parties with manual-read meters. This work is reimbursed by only those Parties with manual-read meters. The work performed in this reporting period included:

- Followed-up with Parties to send December 2025 self-reporting of meter reads.
- Sent email reminders to Parties to perform manual meter reads in January 2026.

PARTY-FUNDED REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

- There are no open requests for information.



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Approved April 9, 2026

BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
 C/O SAMANTHA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 WEST YOST
 25 EDELMAN, SUITE 120
 IRVINE, CA 92618

Invoice Date: March 13, 2026
 Invoice Num.: 257595
 Matter Number: 13056-0001

Re: 13056-0001 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

For professional services rendered through February 28, 2026

Time Detail

<u>Date</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hours</u>
02/02/26	JLM	REVIEW FILING T INTERVENTION DOCUMENTS; WORK ON RESPONSE TO DWR WITH MS. ADAMS	1.50
02/02/26	JCM	REVIEW T2 TILTING T LLC'S APPLICATION FOR INTERVENTION	0.50
02/05/26	JLM	REVIEW DRAFT RESPONSE TO DWR AND LEGAL STANDARD	0.50
02/10/26	JLM	REVIEW AND COMMENT ON STAFF REPORT ON DE MINIMIS NEW PUMPING	1.00
02/12/26	SLF	REPLY TO E-MAIL FROM MS. RODRIGUEZ REGARDING AUDIT LETTER	0.10
02/13/26	JLM	REVIEW LETTER ON BOSQUE	1.00
02/16/26	JLM	REVIEW BOARD MEETING PACKET; REVIEW STAFF REPORT ON BOSQUE	2.50
02/18/26	JLM	PHONE CALL FROM MS. ADAMS; ATTEND BOARD MEETING	3.70
02/19/26	JLM	COMPLETE FIRST DRAFT OF STATUS REPORT TO THE COURT	2.50
02/19/26	JCM	REVIEW AND REVISE DRAFT JOINT STATUS CONFERENCE STATEMENT; CIRCULATE DRAFT STATEMENT TO PARTIES FOR INPUT; COMMUNICATIONS WITH MR. MARKMAN REGARDING SAME	1.60
02/20/26	PMT	REVIEW AND APPROVE AUDIT LETTER	0.20

Item III.F.i

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER

Invoice Date:

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March 13, 2026

Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Num.:

257595

Matter Number:

13056-0001

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hours</u>
02/20/26	JLM	WORK ON EDITS TO CONFERENCE SETTLEMENT	0.60
02/20/26	JCM	REVIEW COMMENTS AND EDITS FROM PARTIES REGARDING JOINT STATUS CONFERENCE STATEMENT; CONFERENCE WITH MR. MARKMAN REGARDING STUDY OF BOSQUE AS POTENTIAL GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEM; E-MAIL WITH PARTY REGARDING INQUIRY AS TO STATUS OF MESQUITE BOSQUE GDE DESIGNATION AND POTENTIAL APPROACHES	0.80
02/23/26	JLM	REVIEW REPORT FOR TAC AND EWG MEETING; REVIEW FINAL COURT STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT	0.70
02/23/26	JCM	REVIEW PARTIES' COMMENTS AND EDITS ON JOINT STATUS CONFERENCE STATEMENT; REVISE AND FINALIZE AND FILE JOINT STATEMENT; E-MAIL WITH MR. MARKMAN AND PARTIES' REGARDING SAME	0.70
02/25/26	JLM	E-MAIL EXCHANGE ON NEED FOR A COURT ORDER ON CHANGE TO EXHIBIT 1	1.10
02/25/26	JCM	PREPARE FOR JOINT STATUS CONFERENCE	0.80
02/26/26	JLM	E-MAILS ON PROCESSING JUDGMENT AMENDMENTS	1.10
02/26/26	JCM	PREPARE FOR AND ATTEND STATUS CONFERENCE; REVIEW PRIOR AGENDAS AND MEETINGS TO FAMILIARIZE WITH CURRENT ISSUES IN ADVANCE OF STATUS CONFERENCE; DRAFT AND FILE NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER; COMMUNICATIONS WITH MR. MARKMAN REGARDING STATUS CONFERENCE	2.20
02/27/26	JLM	E-MAILS ON COST PAYMENT BY APPLICANTS TO ESTABLISH NEW DE MINIMIS USE	0.80
Total			23.90

Timekeeper Summary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
JACOB C. METZ	6.60	275.00	1,815.00
JAMES L. MARKMAN	17.00	400.00	6,800.00
PETER M. THORSON	0.20	350.00	70.00
STEVEN L. FLOWER	0.10	350.00	35.00
Total	23.90		\$8,720.00

Item III.F.i

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Date:
Invoice Num.:
Matter Number:

March 13, 2026
257595
13056-0001

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Cost Detail

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/23/26	POSTAGE 1 FLAT ENVELOPE TO JENNIFER FAY FETZER	2.17
02/23/26	POSTAGE 1 FLAT ENVELOPE TO JENNIFER FAY FETZER (P.O. BOX)	2.17
02/23/26	FIRST LEGAL NETWORK, LLC - ATTORNEY SERVICE - FILING/ORANGE CIVIL ELECTRONIC FILING	38.50
02/26/26	POSTAGE 1 ENVELOPE TO DANIEL LEE FETZER	1.90
02/26/26	POSTAGE 1 ENVELOPE TO JENNIFER FAY FETZER	1.90
02/26/26	FIRST LEGAL NETWORK, LLC - ATTORNEY SERVICE - FILING/ORANGE CIVIL ELECTRONIC FILING	38.50
Total		\$85.14

Item III.F.i

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Date:
Invoice Num.:
Matter Number:

March 13, 2026
257595
13056-0001

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Current Legal Fees.....	\$8,720.00
Current Client Costs Advanced.....	\$85.14
Total Current Fees and Costs.....	\$8,805.14



T 213.626.8484
 F 213.626.0078
 Fed. I.D. No. 95-3292015

350 South Grand Avenue
 37th Floor
 Los Angeles, CA 90071

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BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
 C/O SAMANTHA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 WEST YOST
 25 EDELMAN, SUITE 120
 IRVINE, CA 92618

Invoice Date: March 13, 2026
 Invoice Num.: 257595
 Matter Number: 13056-0001

Re: 13056-0001 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

For professional services rendered through February 28, 2026

Fees	8,720.00
Costs	85.14
Total Amount Due	\$8,805.14

TERMS: PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO

RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON
350 South Grand Avenue, 37th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071



Remit Payment To:
 PO Box 2158
 Davis, CA 95617

February 28, 2026

Invoice Number: 2066530

Accounts Payable	Client Project:	Work Order No. 8
Borrego Springs Watermaster	WY Project No:	940-80-25-12
c/o West Yost Associates	Contract Amount:	584,376.00
25 Edelman, Suite 120	Job Name:	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services
Irvine, CA 92618		

Approved April 9, 2026

Professional Services from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026

Previously Billed :	250,028.17
Total This Period :	43,154.25
Total Amount Billed to Date including This Invoice :	293,182.42
Amount Remaining in Contract :	291,193.58

Task 101 Board Meetings

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I Adams, Samantha	8.00	370.00	2,960.00
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II Malone, Andy	6.00	355.00	2,130.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	13.75	246.00	3,382.50
Totals	27.75		8,472.50
Total Labor			8,472.50
		Total this Task	\$8,472.50

Task 120 TAC Meetings

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I Adams, Samantha	1.75	370.00	647.50
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II Malone, Andy	3.50	355.00	1,242.50
Totals	5.25		1,890.00
Total Labor			1,890.00
		Total this Task	\$1,890.00

Project 940-80-25-12 WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services Invoice 2066530

Task 220 Insurance, Accounting, and Financial Services

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	.25	370.00	92.50
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	1.50	246.00	369.00
Administrative IV			
Ehresman, Leah	.25	176.00	44.00
Administrative III			
Mendoza-Tellez, Maria	6.75	160.00	1,080.00
Totals	8.75		1,585.50
Total Labor			1,585.50
		Total this Task	\$1,585.50

Task 230 Outreach - Records, Docs, Website

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	.75	246.00	184.50
Totals	.75		184.50
Total Labor			184.50
		Total this Task	\$184.50

Task 240 Track/Respond to Public Communications & Requests

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	1.00	355.00	355.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	.50	246.00	123.00
Totals	1.50		478.00
Total Labor			478.00
		Total this Task	\$478.00

Task 250 As-needed support to the BPA Parties

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	.75	370.00	277.50
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	.25	246.00	61.50
Totals	1.00		339.00
Total Labor			339.00
		Total this Task	\$339.00

Project 940-80-25-12 WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services Invoice 2066530

Task 260 As-requested admin. of the Judgment, Rules & Regs, and GMP

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I Adams, Samantha	.25	370.00	92.50	
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II Malone, Andy	1.00	355.00	355.00	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	2.00	246.00	492.00	
Totals	3.25		939.50	
Total Labor				939.50
		Total this Task		\$939.50

Task 270 General administration and project managements tasks

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I Adams, Samantha	1.00	370.00	370.00	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	3.00	246.00	738.00	
Totals	4.00		1,108.00	
Total Labor				1,108.00
		Total this Task		\$1,108.00

Task 310 GWMP - Annual Meter Verification

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	.50	246.00	123.00	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II Kelty, Clay	1.50	221.00	331.50	
Totals	2.00		454.50	
Total Labor				454.50
		Total this Task		\$454.50

Task 311 GWMP - Monthly Meter Reads

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II Kelty, Clay	10.50	221.00	2,320.50	
Totals	10.50		2,320.50	
Total Labor				2,320.50
		Total this Task		\$2,320.50

Project	940-80-25-12	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services	Invoice	2066530
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Task	330	DMS
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Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	.50	246.00	123.00
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II			
Kelty, Clay	2.50	221.00	552.50
Totals	3.00		675.50
Total Labor			675.50
Total this Task			\$675.50

Task	341	WY 2025 Annual Report
------	-----	-----------------------

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	1.50	370.00	555.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	5.50	246.00	1,353.00
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II			
Kelty, Clay	2.50	221.00	552.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist I			
Serafin, Leslie	.50	191.00	95.50
Totals	10.00		2,556.00
Total Labor			2,556.00
Total this Task			\$2,556.00

Task	380	5-Year GMP Assessment
------	-----	-----------------------

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I			
Adams, Samantha	9.00	370.00	3,330.00
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II			
Malone, Andy	5.00	355.00	1,775.00
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I			
Salberg, Lauren	30.75	246.00	7,564.50
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist I			
Serafin, Leslie	15.50	191.00	2,960.50
Technical Analyst I			
Lang, Noelle	2.25	148.00	333.00
Totals	62.50		15,963.00
Total Labor			15,963.00
Total this Task			\$15,963.00

Project 940-80-25-12 WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services Invoice 2066530

Task 420 EWG Meetings and Address Ad Hoc Requests

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I Adams, Samantha	2.75	370.00	1,017.50	
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II Malone, Andy	7.00	355.00	2,485.00	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I Salberg, Lauren	3.25	246.00	799.50	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II Kelty, Clay	3.50	221.00	773.50	
Technical Analyst II Houghton, Cindy	4.75	176.00	836.00	
Totals	21.25		5,911.50	
Total Labor				5,911.50
		Total this Task		\$5,911.50

Task 500 Consulting services to Parties with manual-read meters

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II Kelty, Clay	1.25	221.00	276.25	
Totals	1.25		276.25	
Total Labor				276.25
		Total this Task		\$276.25
		Total this Invoice		\$43,154.25

Description of Services:

Please see attached description of services

Outstanding Invoices

Number	Date	Balance
2066190	1/31/2026	60,775.35
Total		60,775.35

Please direct questions to:

Project Manager Samantha Adams
Principal Greg Chung *GKC*



Description of Services Rendered
Project 940-80-25-12
Watermaster Administrative and Technical Services
Invoice Period: February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026

TASK 1 – MEETINGS AND COURT HEARINGS

The work performed for this task includes preparing for and attending Watermaster Board Meetings, TAC Meetings, Court Hearings, and stakeholder Open House meetings. The work performed in this reporting period included:

BOARD MEETINGS

- Corresponded with Watermaster Board officers and legal counsel throughout the month to coordinate meeting agenda items and other Watermaster activities.
- February 2026 Regular Board Meeting:
 - Prepared meeting minutes from January 2026 Regular Board meeting.
 - Prepared, reviewed, and formatted agenda package content. This work included:
 - Organized, compiled, and formatted the public correspondence and consent calendar items.
 - Performed work, including coordination, preparation, and/or review of staff memos or other materials for ten agenda items.
 - Compiled the final agenda package and distributed via the stakeholder distribution list and Watermaster website.
 - Prepared PowerPoint Presentation to support the Board meeting discussion.
 - Responded to questions from Board members via email and phone calls regarding the Board package items.
 - Attended the virtual Board meeting on February 18, 2026. The meeting was attended by Samantha Adams, Andy Malone, and Lauren Salberg.

TAC MEETINGS

- Corresponded with TAC members regarding questions on Measurable Objectives memo sent out in lieu of TAC meeting.
- Prepared response to TAC comments on Measurable Objectives memo.

COURT HEARINGS

- No work performed during the reporting period.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- No work performed during the reporting period.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

Page 2

TASK 2 – WATERMASTER ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Director, with support from staff, will organize, oversee, and/or perform the administrative and management aspects of running the Watermaster and administering the Judgment, Rules and Regulations, and GMP. The work performed in this reporting period included:

PREPARE THE WATERMASTER ANNUAL BUDGET

- No work performed during the reporting period.

INSURANCE, ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Prepared the January 2026 Financial Report.
- Prepared reporting estimates of February vendor billings for inclusion in monthly financials.
- Processed accounts receivable and payable into QuickBooks.
- Cut checks for accounts payable and mailed for signature.
- Drove to US Bank to deposit checks.
- Supported performance of WY 2025 financial audit.
- Final review of SGM grant payment received from BWD/DWR to confirm amount received matched the amount expected to support questions on the WY 2025 Financial Audit.
- Send follow-up reminders to Pumpers on outstanding payments owed on Pumping Assessments. Respond to Pumper questions.

MAINTAIN WEBSITE AND GRANT COMMUNICATIONS

- Maintained Watermaster website by updating meeting dates, meeting materials, and other documents.

RESPOND TO AND TRACK PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS

- Regularly checked Borrego inbox and provided general as-requested support to the public throughout the month by responding to emails on the following topics:
 - Watermaster Board meetings.
 - Well destruction requirements.
 - Department of Environmental Health and Quality requirements for replacing pumps in existing wells.

AS-NEEDED SUPPORT TO THE BPA PARTIES

- Respond to questions about process of approval for purchasing additional BPA and limits to purchases.
- Discuss Watermaster data request policy.

AS-NEEDED ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERMS OF THE JUDGMENT, RULES & REGULATIONS, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Collaborated with BWD and Legal Counsel on documentation of the approved transfer of BPA over time between BWD and D. Bauer. Updated Exhibit 4 to the Judgment based

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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on approach and shared with BWD legal counsel for review and concurrence it was correctly captured.

- Finalized BWD Meter Read Agreement.
- Updated Party contact information.
- Close out application for a new De Minimis well, including: (i) notifying the applicant of the Board's denial of the application and answering follow-up questions, and (ii) corresponding with a Board member on the application fees.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT MANAGERMENTS TASKS

- Performed monthly project management tasks including budget, schedule, and scope of work progress evaluations.

TASK 3 – TECHNICAL SERVICES

The objective of this task is for the Technical Consulting team to perform the technical services required by the Judgment, Rules and Regulations, and GMP for WY 2026. The work performed in this reporting period included:

GROUNDWATER PUMPING MONITORING - ANNUAL METER VERIFICATION

- Corresponded with pumpers and McCall Meters throughout the month to coordinate annual meter verification testing.

GROUNDWATER PUMPING MONITORING - MONTHLY COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF METER READ DATA

- Cataloged and processed January and February 2026 monthly meter reads.
- Calculated January and February 2026 pumping by well.

GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

- No work performed during the reporting period.

COOPERATOR DATA COLLECTION, DATA MANAGEMENT, AND REPORTING DATA TO DWR PORTALS

- Corresponded to DWR on questions related to a "no measurement" groundwater-level submitted to the DWR Monitoring Network Module (MNM).
- Processed, cataloged, and loaded to HydroDaVE the 2025 groundwater-level and groundwater-quality data collected from the BWD Rams Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) wells from GeoTracker.
- Processed, cataloged, and loaded to HydroDaVE historical groundwater-level measurements (including transducer data) from the Borrego Air Ranch 4 well. Data was received from BWD.

ANNUAL WATER RIGHTS ACCOUNTING

- This task is complete.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COURT AND DWR

- Reviewed and cataloged all written comments received on the draft Annual Report circulated on January 26, 2026.
- Began preparing Appendix I of the Annual Report to document all verbal and written comments and the response to the comments.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

Page 4

- Begin updating the text, tables, figures, and appendices of the draft final WY 2025 Annual Report based on the comments received.

AS-NEEDED TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUDGMENT, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- No work performed during the reporting period.

TECHNICAL WORK TO REDETERMINE 2030 SUSTAINABLE YIELD

- No work performed during the reporting period.

5-YEAR GMP ASSESSMENT/UPDATE

The objective of this task is to prepare the 5-Year Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) Assessment/Update. The work performed in this reporting period included:

- Continued working on text, tables, and figures for Section 3 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – *Recommended Corrective Actions (RCA)*, including:
 - Continued implementing scope to address DWR RCA #3 on improvements to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for groundwater levels, including:
 - Finalized implementation of the scope to address RCA #4 on improvements to SMC for groundwater storage and documented methods, results, and recommendations in Section 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report. This included the addition of BVHM-estimated change in storage and updates to text, tables, and figures in Section 3 and redlining the 2020 GMP with updates to the SMC for groundwater storage.
 - Continued implementing scope to address DWR RCA #5 on improvements to SMC for groundwater quality.
 - Continued preparation of a response to address RCA #7 on the relationship between the Judgment and GMP:
 - Coordinated with legal counsel to finalize the draft response
 - Held a meeting with legal counsel and Judgment attorneys to discuss edited response to RCA #7. Meeting was held on February 25, 2026 and was attended by Samantha Adams.
- Finalized text, tables, and figures for Section 6 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – *Basin Setting Based on New Information* and documenting recommended changes to the 2020 GMP.
- Finalized text, tables, and figures for Section 7 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – *Monitoring Network* and documenting recommended changes to the 2020 GMP.
- Continued working on text, tables, and figures for Section 8 of the Five-Year Assessment Report – *Basin Conditions and Assessment of Sustainability*, including:
- Continued internal editing of the completed portions of the Five-Year Assessment Report, and formatting and finalizing figures and tables.
- Continued preparation of update to the 2020 GMP based on completed portions of the Five-Year Assessment Report.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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TASK 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The objective of this task is to support the activities of the EWG in WY 2026. The work performed in this reporting period included:

At its Special November 3, 2025 meeting, the Board selected West Yost to perform the Peer Review of the UCI Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study report. Work to advance the review of the report during this period included:

- Completed the draft Technical Consultant’s Recommendation Report on the GDE Study Report and distributed the draft report to the TAC, EWG, and Board on February 13, 2026.
- Prepared budget tracking table for the approved scope of work to perform the review of the GDE Study Report to share with the Watermaster Board.
- Prepared for the joint TAC-EWG meeting to discuss the GDE Study Report, held on February 26, 2026, including:
 - Prepared the joint TAC-EWG agenda, memo, and final package and distributed to the TAC, EWG, and public distribution list via email.
 - Prepared PowerPoint Presentation to support the February 26, 2026 joint TAC-EWG working meeting.
 - Conducted the joint TAC-EWG meeting on February 26, 2026. The meeting was attended by Andy Malone and Clay Kelty.
 - Prepared draft meeting minutes from the February 26, 2026 joint TAC-EWG meeting and emailed to TAC and EWG to request review of meeting minutes.

TASK 5 - STAFF SERVICES BILLED TO WATERMASTER RELATED TO MANUAL-READ METERS

The objective of this task is to coordinate the monitoring and collection of meter data from the parties with manual-read meters. This work is reimbursed by only those Parties with manual-read meters. The work performed in this reporting period included:

- Followed-up with Parties to send January 2026 self-reporting of meter reads.
- Sent email reminders to Parties to perform manual meter reads in February 2026.

PARTY-FUNDED REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

- There are no open requests for information.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2026
AGENDA ITEM IV.A**

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Board Comments on the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report and Update

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction to Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Information and Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost Estimate: \$	

Recommended Action

Direct Watermaster Staff to:

- (1) Prepare the draft 5-Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) and 2026 GMP Update for public release incorporating approved changes based on Board feedback,
- (2) Provide notice to stakeholders and Parties via email and website of the Watermaster's intent to update the GMP and submit the Assessment Report to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by June 25, 2026 and publish the draft documents for a 30-day comment period, and
- (3) Direct Legal Counsel to initiate the process to amend the Judgment to update Exhibit 1 to replace the 2020 GMP with the 2026 GMP Update Exhibit 1 of the Judgment.

Fiscal Impact: Completing the reports per the recommended edits described in this memo fit within the scope of work and initial budget prepared by Staff. That said, there is a shortfall in the WY 2026 budget of about \$15,000 due to not carrying forward unspent budget in WY 2025. This shortfall (budget overage) was projected and reported by Staff in November 2025. A separate Board discussion is included in Agenda Item IV.B. *WY 2026 – Q2 Watermaster Budget Status Report (as of March 31, 2026)* to address Staff's request for additional budget.

Background

The Borrego Springs Subbasin (Basin) is managed under a court-approved Stipulated Judgment and Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), which together constitute the Physical Solution for achieving sustainable groundwater management under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as an Alternative Plan.

On June 25, 2021¹, the Watermaster submitted the Judgment and GMP to the DWR as an Alternative Plan under SGMA. On February 25, 2025, DWR approved the Borrego Springs Alternative. The DWR also provided seven recommended corrective actions (RCAs) for Watermaster consideration, with the

intent of enhancing the approach to achieving sustainability. The approval also provided a due date of June 25, 2026 for completion of the first Assessment Report.

Over the past year and a half, the Watermaster has been working to develop the *Five-Year Assessment of the Judgment and Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* (5-Year Assessment Report) and update to the 2020 GMP (2026 GMP Update) by evaluating current Basin conditions, incorporating new monitoring data and model projections, addressing DWR's RCAs, and facilitating Board, TAC, and stakeholder input through a series of meetings and workshops.

In March, Watermaster staff prepared administrative drafts¹ of the:

- **5-Year Assessment Report**, which evaluates Basin conditions, implementation progress, progress toward the Sustainability Goal, and describes responses to the DWR's RCAs. Additionally, the 5-Year Assessment Report explains all the proposed updates to the GMP.
- **2026 GMP Update**, which incorporates recommended revisions to the 2020 version of the GMP. All edits to the 2020 version of the GMP are shown in redline text.

The administrative draft reports were published on March 11, 2026. Following publication of the administrative draft reports for Board review, Watermaster staff hosted a Special Board Workshop on March 17 - 18, 2026 to provide the Board with an overview of the administrative draft reports and solicit initial verbal feedback. Board members were then given about three weeks to continue reviewing the draft reports and submit any additional comments in writing through April 7, 2026.

The objective of this memo is to present the recommended edits to incorporate into the administrative draft reports so they can be published for public review.

Discussion

In addition to extensive feedback during the Board workshop, written comments were received from Board members representing the following Parties:

- County of San Diego (Jim Bennett)
- Agriculture Sector (Tyler Bilyk and Michele Staples, representing AAWARE)
- Municipal Sector (Trey Driscoll and Steve Anderson, representing BWD)

Written [Board comments received on 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update](#) are available in a OneDrive folder.²

Staff have compiled all the verbal Board Workshop and written comments received on the administrative drafts and prepared recommended responses, which are included in the attached tables:

- Table 1. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

¹ Administrative drafts were intended only for Board review and comment prior to releasing a public review draft.

² Written Board comments on the administrative draft reports can be accessed using the following link: https://westyost-my.sharepoint.com/:f/p/lsalberg/lgDlp_jcZ-mRTIV1Quo0DgPTARL2RmA9ha33ByQ6_h0tiYE?e=Cj48sO

- Table 2. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 2026 GMP Update

Each table contains the following, organized by Report Chapter:

- **Index Row Number.** This is an index listing that enables identification of comments and cross-referencing of similar comments.
- **Commenter.** Four commenters are identified as: Board Workshop, County, Bilyk/AAWARE, and BWD.
- **Description of Comment.** This is a summary description of each comment. Where specific language is proposed that we feel we want the Board to approve, it is included.
- **Staff Recommendation.** This column describes Staff's recommendation with respect to addressing the comment. Where specific new language is proposed that affects the intent of the management plan, it is included to facilitate Board approval. In most cases, we recommend accepting the comments. The exceptions to this are in ***Index Rows: 8, 24, 37, 40-43, 44/46, 57, 60, 61, 91, and 97*** of Table 1 and in ***Index Rows: 18-21*** of Table 2. The exceptions in Table 2 are on comments similar to those excepted in Table 1.
- **Additional Notes.** This column contains any pertinent additional notes, such as clarifying information or responses to questions posed in a comment.

Next Steps

At the Board meeting, Staff is requesting Board approval to:

- (1) Prepare the draft 5-Year Assessment of the GMP and 2026 GMP Update for public release incorporating approved changes based on Board feedback,
- (2) Provide notice to stakeholders and Parties via email and website of the Watermaster's intent to update the GMP and submit the Assessment Report to the DWR by June 25, 2026 and publish the draft documents for a 30-day comment period, and
- (3) Work with Legal Counsel to initiate the process to amend the Judgment to update Exhibit 1 to replace the 2020 GMP with the 2026 GMP Update Exhibit 1 of the Judgment.

For ease of implementation, Index Row numbers will need to be referenced for any cases where the Board wishes to implement a different approach than the Staff recommendation. Based on Board direction, Staff will incorporate approved edits and feedback and proceed to prepare public review drafts, provide public notices, and work with Legal Counsel on initiating a Judgment Amendment process.

If approved to proceed at the meeting, the schedule to complete the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update is as follows:

- April 24, 2026 –
 - Notice of Intent to Amend Exhibit 1 of the Judgment and submit the Assessment Report to the DWR by June 25, 2026

- Release Public Review Draft Documents (begins 30-day review period)
- April 30, 2026 – Public informational session to explain the documents and receive verbal input (virtual meeting, to be held at 1:00 pm for 90 minutes)
- May 26, 2026 – 30-Day comment period closes
- June 3rd or 4th (date TBD) - Special Board Meeting to discuss any changes to draft reports based on public comments (this meeting will also include other regular Board business items)
- June 22nd – 24th (date TBD) - Special Board meeting for Hearing to Approve GMP Update, file Judgment Amendment, and direct Reports to be submitted to DWR (this meeting will also include other regular Board business items, if needed)
- June 25, 2026 – 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP Update submitted to the DWR

Enclosures

Table 1. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

Table 2. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 2026 GMP Update

Table 1. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

**Includes verbal feedback received during the March 17-18, 2026 Board Workshop and written feedback received by April 7, 2026*

Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Executive Summary				
1	Board Workshop	Clarify the differences between 2020 GMP vs. GMP vs. 2026 GMP	Terminology will be updated to clarify when we refer to the GMP generally, and specifically to the 2020 version and the 2026 Update.	This will be applied to all Chapters of the report and the 2026 GMP Update.
2		Add footnote or statement/disclaimer to say that any changes in the GMP do NOT override the Judgment language	The recommended statement is: "The 2026 Update to the GMP does not change or override any provision of the Judgment. As currently stated in Section A of the Judgment, "The provisions of this Judgment control over and supersede any contrary provisions contained in the GMP."	This will be applied here and in the 2026 GMP Update
3		Add a disclosure about projected groundwater levels and running a BVHM projection "Judgment Scenario " (pg. 3 of ES)	Add disclosure.	The disclosure already exists in a number of places in the report and we will use the same language for all added disclosures.
4		Title page should state that the report is "prepared by Borrego Springs Watermaster prepared for by DWR, with West Yost abled assistance."	We recommend to include both a Report Cover and an inside cover page. Both will make clear that the report is a Borrego Springs Watermaster Report. The inside cover will still include the signatures and professional licensure of the authors of the report. West Yost nor the authors will be referenced on the main cover page.	
5	County of San Diego	None		
6	Bilyk/AWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
7		Add entire text of the Title 23, CCR 356.4 regulations and taking credit throughout for Watermaster's engagement with the public	Implement recommendation.	This will also be implemented in Chapter 2 - Administration, Coordination & Engagement
8		Add links to all references to websites and documents.	Not recommended. Level of effort to implement this would contribute to cost overages.	Chapter 2 - Administration, Coordination & Engagement, provides detailed information on how to find all relevant information and documents on Watermaster's website.
9		The new MTs are based on an incorrect assumption that the most sensitive agricultural wells have pumps below the perforations. However, many agricultural wells have pumps above the perforations at a higher elevation. The difference in elevation could be significant and was not considered in Watermaster's modeling. That difference may change the calculated thresholds for those agricultural wells. TAC review and input is needed	Refer to recommended approach in Index Row 40 for Chapter 3 - Sustainable Management Criteria.	See Index Row 40 .
10		The April 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Plan said that the 5-year update to the GMP would include a statistical analysis of trends in COC concentrations to analyze how projected changes in pumping might affect the fate and transport of COCs. Please discuss. Also, please see comments on Chapter 3	Refer to response in Index Row 46 for Chapter 3 - Sustainable Management Criteria.	See Index Row 46 .
11		Add estimated pumping by De Minimis Pumpers and/or describe why it is excluded from total pumping estimates in some cases.	Implement recommendation.	This will also be applied to similar text in Chapter 8.

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Executive Summary				
13	BWD	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
14		One of the primary goals of intra-sub basin transfers was to optimize water quality by providing suitable quality for intended use. Somehow this has become lost and water transfers are now solely focused on stabilizing groundwater levels. A pumping depression is not necessarily an UR and that needs to be better evaluated in terms of potential significant and unreasonable UR.	The description of PMA No. 6 will be updated to add additional details as it was originally described in the 2020 GMP.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed. Updates will also be applied consistently in Chapter 4 - Management Action Implementation Status
15		Clarify that voluntary land fallowing is occurring	Implement recommendation.	Updates will also be applied in Chapter 4 - Management Action Implementation Status.
16		The pumping scenarios do not account for model and climatic uncertainty and variability. This should be recognized and addressed in the future.	A note will be added to caution that there are model limitations, which are described in Chapters 3, 6, and 8.	Chapters 3, 6, and 8 all address modeling limitations. The modeling work did consider climate variability and uncertainty by analyzing a long term dry period through 2040.
Chapter 1. Regulatory Background and Assessment Objectives				
17	Board Workshop	None		
18	County of San Diego	None		
19	Bilyk/AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
20	BWD	None		
Chapter 2. Administration, Coordination & Engagement				
21	Board Workshop	None		
22	County of San Diego	None		
23	Bilyk/AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents. - primarily adding Judgment language	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
24		Add links to all references to websites and documents.	Not recommended. Level of effort to implement to do this would contribute to cost overages.	Consistent with recommendation in Index Row 8 .
25	BWD	None		

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Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 3. Recommended Corrective Actions				
26	Board Workshop	RCA No. 1 - Change the language to ensure it is clear that management areas cannot be used to regulate transfers. This is not an intended context.	Implement recommendation.	
27		RCA No. 2 - Section 3.3.2, last bullet needs to differentiate that while Watermaster can deny a new well that threatens or causes Undesirable Results, there are no restrictions on a BPA owner who installs a replacement well.	Implement recommendation.	
28		RCA No. 2 - Recommendation to add a description about what happens if domestic/de min wells go dry and need emergency supplies (like a contact list that identifies locals who can provide water)	Added a bullet to Section 3.3.2 that states: "Watermaster will research existing mechanisms for obtaining emergency supplies and will publish the information on its website."	This commits Watermaster to additional actions in the next five-year period.
29		PMA No. 3 - Revise Sustainability Goal for groundwater levels (in regards to stabilization of groundwater levels). Current phrasing is "Trends in groundwater levels are stable or increasing" and could be interpreted as every well has to display this trend. The criteria should be more general such that a few exceptions is not a problem.	Recommended revision to this part of the Sustainability Goal: "Trends in groundwater levels are generally stable or increasing in all management areas"	
30		PMA No. 3 - Highlight that there are more Representative Monitoring Wells in the monitoring network compared to the 2020 GMP	Implement recommendation.	
31		PMA No. 3 - Remove the transducer data on the hydrograph time-series so it doesn't show that GWLs are below the MTs	We will remove the pumping water levels from the figure.	Consistent with response to Index Row 95 .
32		PMA No. 3 - Discussion on Minimum Thresholds for groundwater levels: o MTs are not set equitably for all wells, they are based on well construction and the Judgment states that we treat all pumpers equally o Discussion on 10 ft well losses included in User Thresholds - MTs should not consider factors that are the responsibility of the well owner, not the Watermaster. And this could set a precedent that the WM would be liable for an additional 10 ft o BWD proposed increasing (making more shallow) the MTs set in the NMA	Following extensive discussion of the topic, and walking through a number of examples of how the MTs might change with slightly different values for well losses, it was shown that it would not meaningfully impact the MTs or the interpretation of results. We thus, recommend no changes to the methods or MTs presented in Chapter 3.4. We also recommend qualifying the limitations of the approach, noting that new well construction data will be considered if it becomes available, and that the MTs will be revisited during the next 5-year Assessment to improve ability to protect the most sensitive users.	See also additional edits recommended to this section described in Index Row 40 .

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Chapter 3. Recommended Corrective Actions				
33	Board Workshop	PMA No. 4 - Add language that describes that Carryover is a senior water right and once it's purchased it can be exercised	Implement recommendation.	
34		PMA No. 4 - Add language from RCA No. 7 to be explicit that the Judgment is SGMA compliant and is conservative compared to what the original GSP would have allowed under a straight-line Rampdown (not accelerated).	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Rows 38 and 86.
35		PMA No. 5 - Emphasize the increase in the number of Rep. MWs for groundwater-quality compared to the 2020 GMP	Implement recommendation.	
36		PMA No. 5 - Use correct date is used in reference to pre-post SGMA	Implement recommendation.	
37		PMA No. 5 - Recommend setting the Water Quality MTs, IMs, and MOs all the same value to "check the box" that values have been identified.	No change recommended. As described in the workshop, we strongly disagree that we should show the MO or IMs as equal to an MT as it could be interpreted to say we have the means to follow that path. It is not possible to do so.	
38	County of San Diego	RCA No. 4 – Section 3.5 - SMC for Reduction of Groundwater Storage. Clarify the relationship between the Judgment and SGMA...Revise to explicitly state that the Judgment rampdown is consistent with SGMA and was designed to meet—and in practice exceed—SGMA’s sustainability requirements.	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Rows 34 and 86.

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Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 3. Recommended Corrective Actions				
39	Bityk/AWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
40		RCA No 3 - The new MTs are based on an incorrect assumption that the most sensitive agricultural wells have pumps below the perforations. However, many agricultural wells have pumps above the perforations at a higher elevation. The difference in elevation could be significant and was not considered in Watermaster's modeling. That difference may change the calculated thresholds for those agricultural wells. TAC review and input is needed.	As discussed on Index Row 32, we do not recommend changing the MTs as presented in the draft report.	
41		RCA No 3 -The assumption that pump bowls are placed at the bottom of well screens is incorrect.	However, we acknowledge that there are challenges with the simplifying assumptions made for agricultural well constructions. We recognize that not all wells are constructed the same, pump depth data is likely available from most pumpers, and therefore this is a data gap and limitation in our method establishing MTs based on well use (and not the individual well). Additionally, we recognize that because we assume that pumpers would be capable of lowering their pumps if well construction allowed, we are not fully assessing the possibility that this could be needed for any given pumper during the Rampdown because we don't have the actual pump depths. To acknowledge these limitations we recommend the following additions to the text of RCA No. 3:	
42		RCA No 3 -Well construction [pump depth] information is available and should be requested from well owners [in relation to understanding if BVHM projections show any impacts to beneficial users]	*Emphasize the limitation in the assessment of Ag wells as noted above due to differences in well construction and acknowledge that a data gap exists as to pump depths.	Note that addressing the edit per the commenter request will impact the budget and schedule for completing the reports.
43		RCA No 3 -The analysis of Undesirable Results, MOs and IMs are subject to change based on more complete information, recalculation and TAC input	*Note that the Ag sector requests that the MTs be improved over the next five-year period by collecting the pump depth data and updating MTs as appropriate. *In the interim before MTs are formally updated for the next 5-year update, all available pump depth data will be considered in any assessment of impacts to groundwater levels or individual pumpers from Watermaster management actions (such as transfers, new well approvals, implementation of PMAs, etc.)	

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Chapter 3. Recommended Corrective Actions				
44	Bityk/AAWARE	RCA No. 5 - Consider establishing MTs for agricultural water supplies within the areas of well groupings used for Groundwater-Elevation Use Thresholds where there are no domestic or municipal wells. It seems unreasonably restrictive to establish MTs based on drinking water standards in irrigation wells. TAC input is needed	<p>We do not recommend attempting to set Ag-specific MTs because we believe that DWR will not accept this as protective of beneficial uses for municipal and domestic wells in areas where they are in close proximity to ag wells.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concern that relying on Title 22 drinking water standards could imply that exceedances of MCLs in ag wells could be considered an Undesirable Result, even if a domestic well is not nearby. That is not the intent of the SMC. To clarify, we propose using language from RCA No. 5 that explains how that an exceedance of an MT is not inherently an undesirable result; an undesirable result will consider historical trends (pre-SGMA concentrations), current trends (post-SGMA), and Watermaster actions. We will take this clarifying language that is in the Undesirable Results subsection and reinforce these points in subsequent sections, including the specific examples demonstrating that many wells already exceed MTs due to pre-SGMA concentrations, which is not considered an undesirable result.</p> <p>We also recognize that Ag users want water quality suitable for irrigation use, as stated in the sustainability goal. We will update the existing language to clarify how Watermaster will analyze groundwater quality data for each beneficial use, including irrigation, to assess if an ag well may be impacted.</p>	Note that addressing the edit per the commenter request will impact the budget and schedule for completing the reports.
45		RCA No. 5 - Clarify that Sustainability Goal for groundwater quality is not changing. The goal differentiates between potable water supply wells and agricultural water supply wells	Implement recommendation.	

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Chapter 3. Recommended Corrective Actions				
46	Bilyk/AAWARE	RCA No. 5 - Missing a GWQ analysis that evaluates pumping impacts on fate/transport, as committed in the 2023 GWMP	No change recommended.	A response to a TAC comment West Yost made in the 2023 GWMP states that the groundwater quality data will be used in the 5-Year Assessments of the GMP to statistically analyze trends, fate and transport, and potential impacts of pumping. It was not intended to mean in every 5-Year assessment, but more generally. At this time insufficient data is available to characterize fate and transport and pumping impacts. This is an expensive endeavor and would need to be properly scoped and approved before we can to that level of analysis.
47		Insert groundwater quality standards for irrigation water supplies	See response to Index Row 44 .	
48		Referring to shallow wells can mistakenly be confused with the depth of the bottom of the well	Text will be clarified.	
49	BWD	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents, grammatical revisions, and note about inconsistencies in capitalization	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
50		Clarifying questions on the hydrogeologic conceptual model (i.e. time period referenced for groundwater flow direction, thickness of aquifer layers, and connectivity between CMA and SMA)	Minor text additions or edits will be made for clarification, including: 1) identifying the natural/historical direction of groundwater flow, 2) clarifying that the total thickness in the CMA is in reference to all three aquifer layers in the CMA, and 3) clarifying a statement about the connectivity between the SMA-CMA.	

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Chapter 4. Management Action Implementation Status				
51	Board Workshop	In description of following standards, clarify that text so that it does not presume additional requirements will be imposed, but rather options for best practices.	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Row 58 .
52		Add disclaimer about using BVHM projections based on future pumper plans (pg. 4-11)	Add disclaimer.	The disclaimer already exists in a number of places in the report and we will use the same language for all added disclosures.
53		Add Judgment language that any restrictions or transfers require input from the TAC (pg. 4-4)	Implement recommendation.	
54		In the summary table, update the description of PMA No. 6 to describe the physical conveyance system as its described in the Judgment	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Row 14 .
55	County of San Diego	None		
56	Bilyk/AWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents. - primarily changing language to match Judgment or grant scope of work	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
57		Recommend to track temporary following by parcel	No recommended change to the text.	Can discuss this recommendation with the Board as a future action item. Consistent with Index Row 61 .
58		Remove the statement "including any recommendations to modify the minimum following standards in Exhibit 3 of the Judgment". The following study is not to impose additional mandates on agricultural well owners. Its stated purpose was to prioritize land parcels for biological restoration	Accept deletion.	
59	BWD	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents, grammatical revisions, and note about inconsistencies in capitalization	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
60		A UR is when a GWL or GWS MT is exceeded. This is different than groundwater levels stabilizing, which is a MO. Are we conflating these two SMC when evaluating location of pumping.	No change recommended.	The section does not call or imply that declining water levels are an Undesirable Result. Declining water levels is inconsistent with the sustainability goal for the Basin, and is equally important to consider as exceedance of MTs.
61		Recommend that Watermaster track temporary following by parcel to holistically understand pattern of exiting and potential future following	No recommended change to the text.	Can discuss this recommendation with the Board as a future action item. Consistent with Index Row 57 .

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Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 4. Management Action Implementation Status				
62	BWD	<p>Recommended a revised description of the modeling work to evaluate shifts in pumping consistent with PMA No. 6:</p> <p>"As part of this evaluation, Watermaster also developed model projections to consider how potential implementation of PMA No. 6 (intra-subbasin water transfers) could alleviate the potential for localized groundwater-level impacts under future conditions. This analysis was exploratory and intended to inform understanding of potential management flexibility, rather than to determine the necessity or timing of any specific action. Given the temporal distance of the modeled impacts, existing model uncertainty, and current monitoring results, no determination has been made that implementation of PMA No. 6 is warranted at this time. In addition, documented adverse impacts to beneficial uses and users in the southern CMA and SMA have not arisen to date. The requirement to redetermine Sustainable Yield in 2030 provides the opportunity to revisit the issue when more data and model improvements are available"</p>	Accept redline.	<p>Original text that is replaced with revision:</p> <p>"Based on the results and interpretations of the Scenario 1A projection, and to determine if groundwater levels could stabilize under the concept proposed by PMA No. 6, two additional BVHM scenarios were developed where the volume of pumping remains the same as in Scenario 1A, but the location of pumping is redistributed to increase future pumping in the NMA and reduce future pumping in the CMA and SMA. The scenarios considered northward shifts of average future pumping of 920 afy (Scenario 1B) and 1,876 afy (Scenario 1C). Overall, the results from the analysis of groundwater-level responses to various pumping distributions indicate that achieving groundwater sustainability under the Rampdown to the 2025 Sustainable Yield depends in part on where pumping occurs within the Basin. Scenarios that redistribute pumping northward (Scenarios 1B and 1C) result in improved groundwater-level stability in the CMA and SMA, while groundwater levels in the NMA remain stable in all BVHM scenarios."</p>

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Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 5. New Information				
63	Board Workshop	None		
64	County of San Diego	None		
65	Bityk/AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	
66	BWD	None		
Chapter 6. Basin Setting Based on New Information				
67	Board Workshop	Add disclaimer about using BVHM projections based on future pumper plans	Add disclaimer.	See response to Index Row 60
68	County of San Diego	None		
69	Bityk/AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
70		clarify if "under pumping" is a modeling restriction rather than an actual physical restriction	Implement recommendation.	Underpumping as described in Chapter 6 is a model discrepancy and no an actual physical or policy restriction.
71		clarify time period used to calculate water budget	Implement recommendation.	
72	BWD	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
73		Requested clarification on BVHM, such as: 1) under pumping, 2) units for aquifer properties, and 3) estimated ET	Minor text additions or edits will be made for clarification, including: 1) adding a footnote summarizing the "under-pumping" discrepancy in the model and a reference to the documentation that describes it in further detail, 2) changing units of specific yield to percentages (to match table header), 3) confirming specific storage values, and 4) adding a brief description that evapotranspiration of groundwater is estimated by the Farm Process.	Consistent with response to Index Row 92 .

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Chapter 7. Monitoring Network				
74	Board Workshop	On monitoring network maps, add major roads to figures to more clearly identify where the monitoring wells are located	Update the figure with roads labeled.	
75		In the future activities section, add a goal as a reducing redundancies/making monitoring program more efficient C66	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Row 79
76		Differentiate between true data gaps vs. improvements to the monitoring network	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Rows 78, 81, and 82
77		Add a footnote/statement that identifies the full time-period that Rams Hill has had metered pumping	Implement recommendation.	
78	County of San Diego	Revise terminology throughout Section 7 to distinguish between true data gaps and areas identified for improvement in the monitoring network.	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Rows 76, 81, and 82
79		Add a bullet point stating that the monitoring network will be periodically evaluated for efficiency and redundancy.	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Row 75
80	Bilyk/AWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Updates will also be made to the 2026 GMP Update for consistency, as needed.
81		Distinguish between an actual data gap vs. areas of improvement	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Rows 76, 78, and 82
82		Include the text of regulations 352.4 and 354.34(c), and re-framing discussion as improving monitoring rather than “filling data gaps”. The existing monitoring network appears to satisfy the requirements rather than containing “data gaps” as defined in the regulations: Each Agency shall develop a monitoring network capable of collecting sufficient data to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater and related surface conditions, and yield representative information about groundwater conditions as necessary to evaluate Plan implementation	Implement recommendation.	Consistent with Index Rows 74, 77, and 81
83	BWD	None		
Chapter 8. Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainability				
84	Board Workshop	Calculate the amount of Carryover that wasn’t purchased over the past few water years and give the Pumpers credit for the volumed not pumped (and saved for the Basin)	We will perform this calculation and reference the amount of Judgment-authorized storage declines that will not be utilized because Carryover was not purchased.	
85		Remove the transducer data on the hydrograph time-series so it doesn’t show that GWLs are below the MTs	We will remove the pumping water levels from the figure.	This is consistent with response to Index Row 31 .
86		add language from RCA No. 7 to be explicit that the Judgment is SGMA compliant and is conservative compared to what the original GSP would have allowed under a straight-line Rampdown (not accelerated).	Implement recommendation.	This is consistent with response to Index Rows 34 and 38 .
87	County of San Diego	Revise the opening paragraph of Section 8.1 to clearly distinguish the roles of monitoring data and modeling.	Implement recommendation.	
88		Add an introductory sentence to Section 8.1.2 the final paragraph to clarify that the pumping projections used in the BVHM represent recent Basin conditions and a reasonable planning scenario, rather than full exercise of water rights.	Implement recommendation.	This will be written to be consistent with other similar disclaimers, and rely on the suggested text provided by Jim Bennett.

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Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 8. Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainability				
89	Bityk/AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents. , grammatical revisions, and note about inconsistencies in capitalization	Accept redline text.	
90		Add new introduction paragraph to Section 8.1.2 as follows: "Consistent with the requirements of SGMA, the Basin is to achieve the sustainability goals within a 20-year implementation period (by 2040). SGMA defines "sustainable groundwater management" as "the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results" (West's Ann.Cal.Water Code § 10721). SGMA defines the broader "planning and implementation horizon" as "a 50-year time period over which a groundwater sustainability agency determines that plans and measures will be implemented in a basin to ensure that the basin is operated within its sustainable yield" (West's Ann.Cal.Water Code § 10721). This 50-year horizon through 2070 provides the long-term framework within which the 20-year implementation period operates, allowing agencies to plan for sustained management beyond the initial achievement of sustainability goals."	Accept redline text, with minor corrections.	
91		Revise progress towards SMC for GWL (specifically MTs), based on recommended changes to the SMC (see Chpt. 3 comments)	See recommended approach to address this comment in Index Row 40.	
92		Clarify model extension details and the term "under-pumping")	Minor text edits to: 1) describe the simulation period of the historical BVHM used to estimate the 2025 Sustainable Yield, and 2) clarify the term "under-pumping"	Consistent with response to Index Row 73.
93		Clarify that GWQ exceedances were in few wells that are not domestic or municipal water supply wells, and that no treatment beyond chlorination is currently required for municipal water supplies to meet drinking water standards	Implement recommendation.	

Table 1. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 5-Year GMP Assessment Report

**Includes verbal feedback received during the March 17-18, 2026 Board Workshop and written feedback received by April 7, 2026*

Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 8. Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainability				
94	BWD	Redline text edits to add clarification, improve understanding, or add Judgment references and direct quotes. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents, grammatical revisions, and note about inconsistencies in capitalization	Accept redline text.	
95		Redline edit that qualifies use of BVHM projections related to PMA No. 6 as follows: "Results from Scenarios 1A and 1A-Dry were exploratory and intended to inform understanding of potential management flexibility, rather than to determine the necessity or timing of any specific action. Given the temporal distance of the modeled impacts, existing model uncertainty, and current monitoring results, no determination has been made that implementation of PMA No. 6 is warranted at this time. In addition, documented adverse impacts to beneficial uses and users in the southern CMA and SMA have not arisen to date. The requirement to redetermine Sustainable Yield in 2030 provides the opportunity to revisit the issue when more data and model improvements are available."	Accept redline text.	The original text stated: "Results from Scenarios 1A and 1A-Dry indicate that while Basin-wide pumping under the Rampdown to the 2025 Sustainable Yield is not projected to adversely impact beneficial users, localized groundwater-level declines may persist after 2040 in the southern CMA and SMA. This means that one of the two conditions of the Sustainability Goal is not projected to be met."
96		Redline edit that adds cautionary language about using BVHM results due to uncertainty as follows: "The projected trends in Scenario 1A and 1A-Dry suggest that under the spatial distribution of pumping there is an imbalance of recharge and discharge in the Basin and that reductions in total Basin-wide pumping under the Rampdown alone may not be sufficient to achieve sustainability across the Basin. However, the model exhibits spatial bias and shows high residuals in portions of the Basin, particularly in the southwestern area,. For example, while the mean absolute error in the northern and central management areas is approximately 9.8 and 9.7 ft, respectively, the mean absolute error in the SMA is approximately 20.8 ft. At some wells in the SMA (e.g., ID1-2, RH-3, and RH-4), the model significantly overestimates groundwater levels, with mean errors greater than 60 ft. This indicating that simulated groundwater levels do not match observed conditions. In these areas, the magnitude of pumping redistribution associated with transfer scenarios is likely may produce differences in groundwater levels that are comparable to or smaller than model residuals, limiting the model's ability to resolve the effects of these changes. PMA No. 6 (Intra-Subbasin Water Transfers) of the GMP, which envisions a future shift(s) in pumping, could be relied on to address this outcome."	We recommend a less-technical revision that doesn't specify residuals that were calculated by Intera and that we have not been able to verify. We will communicate the intent of the edit, with less detail.	The original text stated: "The projected trends in Scenario 1A and 1A-Dry suggest that under the spatial distribution of pumping there is an imbalance of recharge and discharge in the Basin and that reductions in total Basin-wide pumping under the Rampdown alone may not be sufficient to achieve sustainability across the Basin. PMA No. 6 (Intra-Subbasin Water Transfers) of the GMP, which envisions a future shift(s) in pumping, could be relied on to address this outcome."
97		Redline edit that qualifies the finding that no MT is projected to be exceeded in the future, as follows: "Groundwater levels do not reach or exceed the minimum threshold at any Representative Monitoring Well. However, given spatial bias and elevated residuals in portions of the Basin, particularly in the southwestern area, this result should be interpreted with caution. While simulated groundwater-level conditions remain above minimum thresholds, uncertainty in model performance limits confidence in whether these conditions will remain protective of the most sensitive beneficial users across the Basin under the redistribution of pumping."	Given numerous prior disclaimers about the modeling and its limitations, and that of the pumping plans, we recommend that that we do not further qualify individual interpretations. We do not recommend accepting this edit.	The original text stated: "Groundwater levels do not reach or exceed the minimum threshold at any Representative Monitoring Well. This means that the groundwater-level conditions will remain protective of the most sensitive beneficial users across the Basin under the redistribution of pumping."

Table 2. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 2026 GMP Update

**Includes written feedback received by April 7, 2026 and verbal feedback received during March 17-18, 2026 Workshop*

Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Executive Summary				
1	Board Workshop	None		Changes may be made in cases where responses to Board feedback in the 5-Year Assessment Report need to be mirrored in the 2026 GMP Update for consistency.
2	AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification and add Judgment references. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Edits are consistent with comments/edits in the 5-Year Assessment Report
3		Add link to Watermaster website page containing Annual Reports.	Implement recommendation	Only one website link needed
4	BWD	None		Changes may be made in cases where responses to Board feedback in the 5-Year Assessment Report need to be mirrored in the 2026 GMP Update for consistency.
Chapter 1. Introduction				
5	Board Workshop	None		
6	AAWARE	None		
7	BWD	None		
Chapter 2. Plan Area and Basin Setting				
8	Board Workshop	None		
9	AAWARE	Clarify the simulation period of the 2022 BVHM to make compatible with the water budget discussion	Add the simulation period of the 2022 BVHM used to produce the water budget summaries	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 8 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
10		Add column headings for tables on all pages [for tables that break across multiple pages]	Implement the formatting recommendation.	
11		Please clarify what it means that the wells were not able to pump their assigned rates	Add a footnote summarizing the "under-pumping" discrepancy in the model and a reference to the documentation that describes it in further detail	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapters 6 and 8 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
12		Redline text edit to add the following statement: "The BVHM is subject to change based on updated information, analysis and input through the TAC process."	Accept redline text.	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 8 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
13		Recommendations to keep original text in the 2020 GMP (proposed to be deleted), including: 1) Sentences describing the use of wells in the different Management Areas in Section 2.2.4 because "Water quality Sustainability Criteria are not changing and differentiate between potable and irrigation water supplies" 2) Sentences describing land use and groundwater level declines in the NMA and CMA in Sections 2.2.4.1 - 2.2.4.2	Accept recommendation.	
14		Recommendation to delete the following sentence added to the Updated GMP in Section 2.2.4 because it seems inconsistent with the text: "The management areas were not delineated to assign specific sustainable management criteria to avoid undesirable results, such as minimum thresholds."	Accept recommendation. We will clarify that this has not been done yet, but could be considered in the future.	
15	BWD	Typo on Table 2.2	Corrected the typo.	

Table 2. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 2026 GMP Update

**Includes written feedback received by April 7, 2026 and verbal feedback received during March 17-18, 2026 Workshop*

Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 3. Sustainable Management Criteria				
16	Board Workshop	None		Changes will be made in cases where responses to Board feedback in the 5-Year Assessment Report need to be mirrored in the 2026 GMP Update for consistency.
17	AAWARE	Redline text edits to add clarification or improve understanding. These edits do not change the meaning of the text, the interpretations of data, or management intents.	Accept redline text.	Edits are consistent with comments/edits in the 5-Year Assessment Report
18		The new MTs are based on an incorrect assumption that the most sensitive agricultural wells have pumps below the perforations. However, many agricultural wells have pumps above the perforations at a higher elevation. The difference in elevation could be significant and was not considered in Watermaster’s modeling. That difference may change the calculated thresholds for those agricultural wells. TAC review and input is needed	This is the same comment provided for Chapter 3 of the 5-Year Assessment Report. See Index Row 40-43 in Table 1 for how this will be addressed.	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
19		Well construction information is available and should be requested from well owners [in relation to understanding if BVHM projections show any impacts to beneficial users]	This is the same comment provided for Chapter 3 of the 5-Year Assessment Report. See Index Row 40-43 in Table 1 for how this will be addressed.	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
20		The analysis of Undesirable Results, MOs and IMs for groundwater levels are subject to change based on more complete information, recalculation and TAC input	This is the same comment provided for Chapter 3 of the 5-Year Assessment Report. See Index Row 40-43 in Table 1 for how this will be addressed.	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
21		Consider establishing MTs for agricultural water supplies within the areas of well groupings used for Groundwater-Elevation Use Thresholds where there are no domestic or municipal wells. It seems unreasonable restrictive to establish MTs based on drinking water standards in irrigation wells. TAC input is needed	This is the same comment provided for Chapter 3 of the 5-Year Assessment Report. See Index Row 44 in Table 1 for how this will be addressed.	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report
22	Insert groundwater quality standards for irrigation water supplies	This is the same comment provided for Chapter 3 of the 5-Year Assessment Report. See Index Row 44 in Table 1 for how this will be addressed.	Consistent with recommended edits to Chapter 3 of the 5-Year GMP Assessment Report	
23	BWD	None		

Table 2. Summary of Board Comments on the Administrative Draft 2026 GMP Update

**Includes written feedback received by April 7, 2026 and verbal feedback received during March 17-18, 2026 Workshop*

Index Row	Commenter	Description of Comment	Staff Recommendation	Additional Notes
Chapter 4. Projects and Management Actions				
24	Board Workshop	None		Changes will be made in cases where responses to Board feedback in the 5-Year Assessment Report need to be mirrored in the 2026 GMP Update for consistency.
25	AAWARE	Recommendation to add references to the Judgment: 1) Sections III.I(5) and III.L of the Judgment protects against Undesirable Results and impairment of existing wells as a result of changes in pumping locations 2) Sections III.I(5) and III.L of the Judgment protects against Undesirable Results and impairment of existing wells as a result of changes in pumping locations	Implement recommendation.	
26	BWD	None		Changes will be made in cases where responses to Board feedback in the 5-Year Assessment Report need to be mirrored in the 2026 GMP Update for consistency.
Chapter 5. Plan Implementation				
27	Board Workshop	None		
28	AAWARE	None		
29	BWD	None		

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2026
AGENDA ITEM IV.B**

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: WY 2026 – Q2 Watermaster Budget Status Report (as of March 31, 2026)

<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction to Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost Estimate: \$	

Provide Direction to Staff

Staff is seeking approval to re-submit its request for a Budget amendment to carry forward unspent funds collected in WY 2025 to cover the cost needed to complete the Five-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update. In November 2025, the Board deferred taking action on this request to see if it would be possible to complete the work without a carry-forward of funds collected in WY 2025.

Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board

On June 18, 2025, the Board adopted the water year (WY) 2026 Budget. The budget was amended in November 2025 to increase the budget for the Environmental Working Group (EWG) line-item, in support of the scope of work to review the UCI GDE Study Report.

The purpose of this memo is to report the WY 2026 budget status as of March 31, 2026 (end of the second quarter) as compared to the amended WY 2026 Budget.

Discussion

Table 1, enclosed, compares actual budget to date to the amended WY 2026 Budget. The table shows:

- The Watermaster budget categories and the relevant line items in the WY 2026 Budget, including: revenues, expenditures (administrative services, legal services, technical/engineering services, Environmental Working Group, services to Parties with manual read meters), liabilities on Payment Terms, and cash reserves
- The amended WY 2026 Budget amount for each category and the associated line-item detail
- The year-to-date values as of March 31, 2026
- The percent of budget expended to date for each category and line item (computed as actual divided by budget)

- The variance of actual compared to budget for each category and line item (computed as budget minus actual)
- The projected year-end values and associated percent of budget for each category and line item
- Any pertinent notes that explain the budget status and any anticipated overages in a line item

As of March 31, 2026 (50% into WY 2026):

- A total of 48% of planned revenues has been accrued to date.
- A total of 53% of planned expenditures have been spent to date.
- Watermaster has paid off the entirety of its vendor liability (\$0).
- Cash reserves are \$876,064. This is equivalent to 13.5 months of the average projected monthly operating expenditure.
- Total expenditures are projected to be \$738,574 at the end of the WY, which is about \$20,217 under budget. In most categories, Staff is projecting to complete the year at 100% of budget, with the exception of the following:
 - Board meetings is projected to be **over-budget by \$2,589** due to holding a special meeting in November 2025. Depending on the duration of future meetings, it may be possible to complete the year on-budget. This is the same status reported in Q1.
 - TAC meetings are projected to be **under-budget by \$2,176** due to reducing the length of meetings held to date.
 - Administration and Management is projected to be **over-budget by \$2,415** due to cumulative small overages across the categories of finances and accounting, tracking public information requests, and project management. The majority of the overages were for work related to close-out of the SGM grant in late 2025, early 2026.
 - Insurance is projected to be **under-budget by \$6,933** due to a revised policy that will go into effect in June 2026. (Most of the cost savings of the revised policy will be realized in WY 2027).
 - Interest on vendor liabilities is **under-budget by \$4,418** due to Watermaster paying off its balance earlier than projected, thus incurring only 19% of the interest charges assumed for WY 2026.
 - Legal Services is projected to be **under-budget by \$10,000** due to lower than average run-rates compared to budget thus far in WY 2026.
 - Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters is projected to be **under-budget by \$1,852** due to the Borrego Water District performing the official meter reads.
 - General Technical Consultant services is projected to be **under-budget by \$14,250** due to various efficiencies in the tasks, such the Annual Report.
 - The 5-year Assessment and Update of the GMP is projected to be **over-budget by about \$15,000** to perform the planned scope of work. Staff had requested a budget amendment to carry forward unspent budget from WY 2025 to cover the cost, but the

Watermaster deferred to consider the need for the amendment to see if efficiencies can be found in completing the work. Staff still requires the requested funding to complete the final steps of the 5-Year Assessment Report to deliver the report to DWR by June 2026 and is **requesting the Board to reconsider the amendment to Carry-Forward the unspent funds from WY 2025 to the current WY at the May 2026 meeting. This requires a super-majority vote of the Board.**

Next Steps

If agreed to by the Board, staff will bring a budget amendment to the May Board meeting to facilitate completion of the 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update.

The third quarterly WY 2026 budget status report will be presented in July 2026 for the period ending on June 30, 2026.

Enclosures

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2026 as of March 31, 2026

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2026
as of March 31, 2026 (2nd Fiscal Quarter)

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Approved WY 2026 Budget (as Amended)	Actual WY 2026 Year-to-Date	Percent (%) of Budget	Variance to Date (Budget minus Actual)	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Variance	Year End % of Budget	Notes
Revenues	\$ 361,020	\$ 175,024.32	48%	\$ 185,995.68	\$ 362,020	\$ (1,000)	100%	
Pumping Assessments Invoiced	\$ 350,000	\$ 175,024.32	50%	\$ 174,975.68	\$ 350,000	\$ -	100%	First installment was due 12/31/25
<i>payments received</i>		\$ 173,712.18	50%					
Bad Debt (non-payment on Assessments)	\$ (1,000)	\$ -	0%	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ -	\$ (1,000)	0%	No bad debt has been recorded
Overproduction Penalty Assessments	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Revenues Collected for Pass thru Expenses	\$ 12,020	\$ -	0%	\$ 12,020.00	\$ 12,020	\$ -	100%	Meter read reimbursement invoices to be sent May 2026
<i>payments received</i>		\$ -	0%					
Total Expenditures	\$ 758,793	\$ 403,275.37	53%	\$ 355,517.33	\$ 738,574.93	\$ 20,217.77	97%	
Administrative Services	\$ 301,671	\$ 148,964.30	49%	\$ 152,706.70	\$ 293,088.05	\$ 8,582.95	97%	
Watermaster Staff Admin Services	\$ 237,254	\$ 115,855	49%	\$ 121,398.51	\$ 240,082.44	\$ (2,828.44)	101%	
<i>Board Meetings</i>	\$ 104,752	\$ 60,674.55	58%	\$ 44,077.45	\$ 107,341.00	\$ (2,589.00)	102%	Unplanned Special Meeting held in November 2025
<i>Technical Advisory Committee Meetings</i>	\$ 32,950	\$ 11,004.00	33%	\$ 21,946.00	\$ 30,774.00	\$ 2,176.00	93%	
<i>Court Hearings</i>	\$ 1,512	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 1,512.00	\$ 1,512.00	\$ -	100%	
<i>Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops</i>	\$ 12,846	\$ 6,455.50	50%	\$ 6,390.50	\$ 12,846.00	\$ -	100%	
<i>Administration and Management</i>	\$ 85,194	\$ 37,721.44	44%	\$ 47,472.56	\$ 87,609.44	\$ (2,415.44)	103%	Trending high due to support in finalizing SGM grant in late 2025/early 2026
Other Administrative or Vendor Services	\$ 64,417	\$ 33,108.81	51%	\$ 31,308.19	\$ 53,005.61	\$ 11,411.39	82%	
<i>Financial Audit</i>	\$ 8,812	\$ 8,312.00	94%	\$ 500.00	\$ 8,812.00	\$ -	100%	This task is complete
<i>Insurance</i>	\$ 48,142	\$ 23,676.12	49%	\$ 24,465.88	\$ 41,148.92	\$ 6,993.08	85%	Note: This is a pre-paid expense: to date value reflects balance sheet amount
<i>Misc. Expenses</i>	\$ 2,000	\$ 76.00	4%	\$ 1,924.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	100%	
<i>Interest on Vendor Terms During Prop 68 Grant Period</i>	\$ 5,463	\$ 1,044.69	19%	\$ 4,418.31	\$ 1,044.69	\$ 4,418.31	19%	Final interest was paid to vendors in October 2025 following receipt of DWR Reimbursement #9
Pass Through Expenses	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
<i>Reimbursement to BWD for GSP</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
<i>Pumper-Funded Request for Information</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Legal Services	\$ 110,000	\$ 33,850	31%	\$ 76,149.86	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	91%	

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2026 as of March 31, 2026 (2nd Fiscal Quarter)

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Approved WY 2026 Budget (as Amended)	Actual WY 2026 Year-to-Date	Percent (%) of Budget	Variance to Date (Budget minus Actual)	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Variance	Year End % of Budget	Notes
Technical/Engineering Services	\$ 297,462	\$ 183,448.93	62%	\$ 114,012.77	\$ 297,678.38	\$ (217)	100%	
General Technical Consultant Services	\$ 224,870	\$ 125,118.93	56%	\$ 99,751.07	\$ 210,620.38	\$ 14,250	94%	
Coordinate/Implement meter reading program	\$ 33,584	\$ 12,269.00	37%	\$ 21,315.00	\$ 27,362.50	\$ 6,222	81%	
Groundwater Monitoring Program	\$ 116,969	\$ 49,617.33	42%	\$ 67,351.67	\$ 113,950.28	\$ 3,019	97%	
Data Management and Reporting Data to DWR	\$ 12,276	\$ 6,201.00	51%	\$ 6,075.00	\$ 12,276.00	\$ -	100%	
Annual Report to the Court and DWR	\$ 51,221	\$ 46,369.85	91%	\$ 4,851.15	\$ 46,369.85	\$ 4,851	91%	This task is complete.
As-needed technical support	\$ 10,820	\$ 10,661.75	99%	\$ 158.25	\$ 10,661.75	\$ 158	99%	This task is complete. At its September 17, 2025 meeting, the Board authorized use of the Technical As-Needed Budget to fund the Scenario 1C Pumping Projections.
Consulting Services with TAC Support/Input	\$ 72,592	\$ 58,330.00	80%	\$ 14,261.70	\$ 87,058.00	\$ (14,466)	120%	
5-Year Assessment and Update of the GMP (includes addressing DWR RCAs)	\$ 56,850	\$ 58,330.00	103%	\$ (1,480.30)	\$ 71,316.00	\$ (14,466)	125%	Scope of work to perform remaining tasks requires an additional \$14,466. This Carryover was requested and not approved and deferred for later consideration at the Board's November 19, 2025 Regular Board meeting.
Technical Work to Support 2030 SY Update	\$ 15,742	\$ -	0%	\$ 15,742.00	\$ 15,742.00	\$ -	100%	
Environmental Working Group	\$ 37,640	\$ 35,705.50	95%	\$ 1,934.50	\$ 37,640.00	\$ -	100%	
Ad Hoc EWG Meetings/Requests	\$ 37,640	\$ 35,705.50	95%	\$ 1,934.50	\$ 37,640.00	\$ -	100%	
Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters	\$ 12,020	\$ 1,306.50	11%	\$ 10,713.50	\$ 10,168.50	\$ 1,852	85%	Official meter read frequency reduced to two times per year and will be performed by BWD staff.
Liabilities on Payment Terms								
Beginning Balance	\$ 149,988	\$ -		\$ 149,988				
Year-End Balance (Budget) and Current Balance	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Outstanding vendor balances are paid off; Vendor Terms have ended.
Cash Reserves								
Beginning Cash Reserves	\$ 560,559	\$ 738,996.64		\$ (178,437.88)				We had more cash in reserve at start of year than budgeted
Average Target Reserve and Actual Reserve	\$ 618,281	\$ 876,064.47	142%	\$ (257,783.34)	\$ 618,281	\$ -	100%	We have more cash in reserve than our average target
Target and Actual Number of Months of Operating Expenses in Reserve	9.00	13.56	151%	-4.56	8.02	0.98	89%	8.02 months of operating expenses in reserve is based on an estimated average reserve target of \$615,654 in WY 2027 based on the projected expenditures for WY27, as shown in the original WY 2026 budget

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2026
AGENDA ITEM IV.D**

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Proposed Process and Schedule for Revised BPA Transfer Approval Approach

-
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction to Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Discussion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost Estimate: \$ | |
-

Recommended Action

Review proposed process and schedule to update the transfer review approach and provide direction to Staff to proceed.

Fiscal Impact: TBD.

Background

The Judgment authorizes the transfer of Baseline Pumping Allocation (BPA) and requires the Watermaster to review and approve transfers, and provides the authority to restrict transfers, with input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), to avoid undesirable results. Specifically:

“In order to protect the Basin and protect against Undesirable Results, the Watermaster, with input from the Technical Advisory Committee, may restrict Permanent Transfers and Leases to specific areas of the Basin based on reasonable, evidenced-based concern that the Permanent Transfer or Lease will cause or exacerbate Undesirable Results...” (Judgment, Section III.I.5).

As previously discussed in multiple meetings, recent groundwater modeling and ongoing technical work suggests that the Basin could potentially experience an imbalance of recharge and discharge in the future that results in continued decline of water levels in some areas of the Basin, specifically the southern portion of the Central Management Area and the South Management Area¹. While overall pumping is being reduced through the Rampdown, shifts in pumping location could be contributing to the imbalance.

¹ There are a number of limitations to this interpretation, including: the future pumping scenario simulates less pumping during the Rampdown than is allowed by the Judgment; the future pumping scenario presumes that certain future transfers would occur though they have not actually been reviewed and approved by the Watermaster; and there are discrepancies in the model in the CMA and SMA that should be further studied before making definitive conclusions.

As a result, there is a need to develop a more technically robust process for reviewing permanent transfers of BPA in accordance with the requirements of the Judgment.

At the March 18, 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved an agenda item to discuss an approach to updating the transfer approval process, in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Judgment.

Discussion

Historically, transfers have been evaluated primarily for administrative compliance. Moving forward, the Watermaster should consider incorporating a technical evaluation of transfers to assess future Basin conditions to determine if the transfer:

- Is consistent with the Basin’s sustainability goal to stabilize groundwater levels by 2040 and beyond
- Could cause or contribute to undesirable results
- Could adversely impact other pumpers

Staff recommends the following phased approach to develop and implement an updated transfer review process.

April/May – Staff Develop Draft Concepts for Consideration. Staff will define a preliminary framework for evaluating transfers, including:

- Rationale for technical evaluation
- Consideration of source and destination locations of pumping
- Identification of potentially sensitive transfer types
- Initial technical evaluation approach(es)

As part of this effort, staff anticipates incorporating:

- Use of the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) or other tools to evaluate location-based impacts
- Development of screening-level criteria to identify transfers requiring detailed review
- A clear, repeatable process for applicants and decision-makers

May – TAC Review and Technical Input. Staff present draft concepts to TAC for input on:

- What level of technical analysis is appropriate?
 - Should model simulations be required for all transfer types?
 - What level of analysis is appropriate for typical vs. complex transfers?

- What is the appropriate baseline condition?
 - Existing pumping distribution?
 - Projected conditions under the Rampdown?
- How should impacts be evaluated?
 - Groundwater levels
 - Storage changes
 - Potential interference with nearby wells
- What role should TAC play?
 - Case-by-case recommendations to the Board?
 - Development of standardized screening criteria?

June/July – Board Discussion on Draft Review Process. Staff will present a draft approach to the Board in consideration of TAC input to receive policy-level feedback and direction on key decision points (*e.g.*, level of technical rigor, thresholds for concern, who bears the cost of the analysis, etc.).

July/August – Refine Approach with TAC (if needed). Staff will incorporate Board direction on the revised transfer review process and, if needed, meet with the TAC to refine technical methods and evaluation criteria.

August/September – Final Policy for Board Consideration. If not approved after the first review, Staff will present the final recommended transfer review process for consideration of adoption.

September – Notify Parties of Revised Policy. Upon approval, Staff will notify the Parties of the revised process and Staff will prepare for implementation in advance of anticipated transfer applications.

Next Steps

Staff is seeking Board input on the proposed process. If the proposed approach is supported by the Board, Staff will:

1. Develop a draft conceptual framework for discussion with the TAC
2. Initiate TAC review in May
3. Return to the Board in June or July with a preliminary policy recommendation

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2026
AGENDA ITEM IV.E**

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Review of Judgment Requirements on Approval of New De Minimis Wells

-
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction to Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Discussion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost Estimate: \$ | |
-

Provide Direction to Staff

Provide direction to Staff and Legal Counsel on whether to pursue an amendment to the Judgment to modify the standard applicable to review and approval of new de minimis well applications.

Fiscal Impact: TBD. Estimated legal and staff costs for amending the Judgment can be prepared if the Board determines it will pursue an amendment.

Background

Section III.H of the Judgment requires the Watermaster to evaluate applications for new de minimis pumping and to deny an application if the proposed pumping would contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results. As reflected in the Board’s recent consideration of a de minimis well application, this standard requires a determination of approval or denial based on the potential for Undesirable Results to occur, without provision for consideration of magnitude or de minimis contribution.

At the March 18, 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved an agenda item to review the Judgment requirement related to approval of de minimis wells and consider options for amending the Judgment.

Discussion

The Board may wish to consider whether the current language in the Judgment provides sufficient flexibility for evaluating de minimis well applications, or whether revisions should be explored to clarify or refine the applicable standards for approval or denial of applications.

Staff requests the Board discuss concerns and/or benefits of the current language and provide direction to Staff and Legal Counsel on whether (and when) to pursue a potential amendment to the Judgment to modify the standard applicable to review and approval of new de minimis well applications.

Next Steps

If directed, Staff and Legal Counsel will return to the Board at a future meeting (timing to be selected by the Board) with options for consideration, or as otherwise directed.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2026
AGENDA ITEM IV.F**

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Review of New Well Application Cost Recovery

Recommended Action **Provide Direction to Staff** **Information and Discussion**
 Fiscal Impact **Cost Estimate: \$**

Recommended Action

Provide direction to Staff on if and how to update the approach for cost recovery provided for in Resolutions 21-02 and 21-03 with respect to reviewing and processing applications for new de minimis wells and non-de minimis wells.

Fiscal Impact: TBD. A change in policy could result in increased cost recovery potential relative to the Watermaster’s existing policy.

Background

The Judgment requires the Watermaster to evaluate the potential impacts of new well construction and new pumping on Basin conditions and beneficial users. Specifically:

- **Section III.L (Changes in Point of Extraction and New Wells)** requires that new or replacement wells may only be constructed if they do not cause Undesirable Results or interfere with existing wells, thereby necessitating Watermaster review of non-de minimis well applications.
- **Section III.H (De Minimis Pumpers)** requires that any person seeking to initiate new de minimis pumping must submit an application to the Watermaster, which must evaluate and deny the application if it would contribute to Undesirable Results.

The Board adopted Resolution 21-03 (new/replacement wells) and Resolution 21-02 (de minimis wells) to establish the process and requirements for implementing these obligations. The processes provide Watermaster with the ability to recover the cost of processing applications that are approved.

To date, two applications for new De Minimis wells have been received and processed under these procedures:

- **One application was approved in 2022.** In this case the Watermaster recovered \$933 in application-related costs.

- **One application was denied in 2026.** The review and processing of the application required approximately 5 hours of staff time at a total cost of \$1,775.

In response to a question from the Board about recovering the cost of the 2026 application, Staff and legal counsel reviewed the applicable Resolutions and determined that the current policy framework does not provide for recovery of costs when an application is denied. As currently structured, cost recovery is effectively tied to successful approval of an application, rather than the cost of the process and review itself.

At the March 18, 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved an agenda item to discuss the cost recovery process and consider if it should be updated.

Discussion

The Watermaster incurs costs for Staff time to receive, review, and analyze all applications, regardless of the outcome to approve or deny the application. The Board requested the opportunity to discuss the current policy framework and determine if the cost recovery approach should be amended to achieve cost recovery for all applications processed.

Staff requests the Board to discuss the following questions related to cost recovery and provide direction to staff on if and how to update the processes provided for in Resolutions 21-02 and 21-03 (attached herein for reference).

1. Cost Recovery Applicability

- Should the Watermaster recover some or all costs incurred to review submitted applications, regardless of whether the application is approved or denied?

2. Differentiation by Outcome

- Should there be a difference in the amount of cost recovery between approved and denied applications (e.g., full cost recovery for approved applications and partial recovery for denied applications)?

3. Fee Structure and Timing

- Should the Watermaster require an upfront deposit or retainer to cover anticipated review costs?
- Should applicants be invoiced for actual costs at the conclusion of the review process?
- Should a hybrid approach be considered where an initial deposit is collected, with a final invoice issued for additional costs?

4. Cost Certainty vs. Actual Cost Recovery

- Should the Watermaster establish a standardized application fee for predictability, or continue with (or move toward) full cost recovery based on actual time and effort?

5. Consistency Across Application Types

- Should the same cost recovery approach apply to both de minimis and non-de minimis well applications?

Next Steps

Based on Board input, staff can develop proposed revisions to the existing Resolutions and/or a draft fee policy for consideration at a future meeting.

Enclosures

Resolution 21-02 to Establish a Process to Approve or Deny Applications New De Minimis Pumping in the Borrego Springs Subbasin

Resolution 21-03 to Establish a Process to Approve or Deny Applications for the Construction of New or Replacement Non-De Minimis Wells in the Borrego Springs Subbasin

RESOLUTION NO. 21-02
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO APPROVE OR DENY APPLICATIONS FOR NEW DE MINIMIS PUMPING
IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS SUBBASIN

WHEREAS, a Stipulated Judgment (Judgment) was entered in the Superior Court of California on April 8, 2021 that determined and adjudicated all groundwater rights in the Borrego Springs Subbasin (Subbasin) and established the Borrego Springs Watermaster (Watermaster) to administer and enforce the provisions of the Judgment including its Physical Solution.

WHEREAS, the Judgment defines a De Minimis Pumper as "any Party who pumps two acre-feet or less per year for use on real property overlying the Basin.

WHEREAS, Section III.H of the Judgment states: "...All persons who are not Pumping as of the date of filing the Complaint who seek to initiate Pumping as a De Minimis Pumper in the future shall submit an application to the Watermaster and the Watermaster shall determine whether the proposed Pumping will contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Basin, and the application shall be denied if it contributes to or threatens to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Basin..."

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) is responsible for reviewing applications and issuing permits for the construction of new water wells in San Diego County.

WHEREAS, the DEHQ requires any person or party that applies for a permit to construct a new water well in the Subbasin to obtain approval from the Watermaster prior to DEHQ issuing the permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Borrego Springs Watermaster, that:

1. The Board of Directors hereby establishes the process to approve or deny applications for new De Minimis Pumping in the Borrego Springs Subbasin that complies with Section III.H of the Judgment, as described in the attached Exhibit 1.
2. The Board of Directors hereby approves the application form for New De Minimis Pumping in the Borrego Springs Subbasin in the attached Exhibit 2.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Borrego Springs Watermaster held on the 9th day of December 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Smith, Seley, Jorgensen, Bennett

NOES:

ABSENT:



David Duncan, Chairperson
Board of Directors



Shannon Smith, Secretary of the Board
ATTEST

**PROCESS TO APPROVE OR DENY APPLICATIONS
FOR NEW DE MINIMIS PUMPING IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS SUBBASIN**

The applicant for new De Minimis Pumping will need to complete two (2) forms and submit them to the Watermaster:

- i. A County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) permit application for construction of new domestic water well. The DEHQ permit application is available on the DEHQ [website](#).¹ Applicants are required to submit certain information about the proposed new well on the DEHQ permit application. This information will assist the Watermaster in its determination of whether the proposed new De Minimis Pumping will contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Borrego Springs Subbasin (see 3. below).
- ii. A Watermaster application for New De Minimis Pumping in the Borrego Springs Subbasin (a draft application is enclosed as Exhibit 2 of Resolution 21-02). The Watermaster application will be made available on the Watermaster website, and will ask the proposed new De Minimis Pumper for the following:
 - a. A commitment that the pumping rate from the well will be equal to or less than two acre-feet per year.
 - b. A commitment that the well will be drilled, constructed, and developed by a California-licensed well drilling contractor.
 - c. A commitment to install and maintain a calibrated totalizing in-line flow meter on the well's discharge piping to measure the volume of groundwater pumped by the well.
 - d. A commitment to submit to Watermaster the following information upon well and wellhead completion:
 - (1) The Well Driller's Log with the as-built well construction information.
 - (2) Flow meter information, including: manufacturer; meter name, model number, serial number; units of measurement; and a photograph of the flow meter face and meter reading prior to well startup.
 - (3) Other information and data associated with well construction, including but not limited to: well development data (e.g. pumping rates, depth-to-water measurements); water-quality test results; the final pumping rate.
 - e. A commitment to provide Watermaster access to the well for semi-annual meter reading in April and October. The well owner will report semi-annual

¹ https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/lwqd/lu_water_wells.html

meter reads to the Watermaster in January and July, including a photograph of the meter reading.

- f. A commitment to pay Watermaster fees:²
 - (1) A one-time fee to cover the Watermaster's costs for application processing and the evaluation for Undesirable Results (see 2. below).
 - (2) An annual fee to cover the Watermaster's costs for semi-annual meter reading. This fee will be pro-rated in the first year depending on the date of well completion relative to the beginning of the water year (October 1).
 - g. Signature of the applicant.
2. Watermaster Staff will provide a copy of the application to the Borrego Water District.
 3. Watermaster Staff will determine whether the proposed new De Minimis Pumping will contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Basin. This determination will be conducted on a case-by-case basis and would consider all information provided on the proposed well, its proximity to other wells, and total De Minimis Pumping that occurs within the subbasin, among other factors. Section I.A.60 of the Judgment defines *Undesirable Results* consistent with Water Code section 10721[x].
 - a. If Watermaster Staff determines that the new De Minimis Pumping **will** contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Borrego Springs Subbasin, then the applicant and the DEHQ will be notified, with technical explanation, and the new De Minimis Pumping application will be denied.
 - b. If Watermaster Staff determines that the new De Minimis Pumping **will not** contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Borrego Springs Subbasin, then the application process continues as described below.
 4. Watermaster Staff will invoice and collect the one-time application fee from the applicant (1.ii.f.(1) above).
 5. The Chairperson of the Watermaster Board will sign the application signifying Watermaster approval and the determination that the new De Minimis Pumping **will not** contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Borrego Springs Subbasin.
 6. Watermaster staff will send the signed permit application to the applicant with a cover letter that outlines their commitments to the Watermaster (1.ii. above). The applicant will need the signed Watermaster permit application to complete the DEHQ permit application for construction of the new water well.

² Watermaster fees will be calculated and invoiced to the applicant on a case-by-case basis and will be dependent on the staff time required to execute the work and the current hourly rate schedule for staff as approved by the Watermaster Board.

7. If Watermaster Staff denies the application, the applicant shall be provided thirty (30) days from the date of the notice of denial to file a written appeal of that Staff decision to the Watermaster Board. That Board shall conduct a hearing on that appeal within forty-five (45) days of its receipt and shall either affirm or deny the appeal by Resolution containing appropriate findings of fact and legal conclusions. If the Watermaster Board affirms the denial of the application, the applicant may appeal that denial to the Court within ninety (90) days of the date of the Watermaster Board action and that appeal shall be conducted in accordance with Section VII A. 1. of the Judgment. If the application is approved at any stage of the appellate process established in this paragraph 6, the Watermaster Staff will then collect, and the applicant will pay, the one-time application fee and the Chairperson of the Watermaster Board shall then sign the Watermaster application.

**APPLICATION FOR NEW DE MINIMIS PUMPING
IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS SUBBASIN**

BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER

23692 Birtcher Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630
Tel. 949-420-3030

BorregoSpringsWM@westyost.com

The adjudication of groundwater pumping rights in the Borrego Springs Subbasin was filed in the Superior Court of California on April 8, 2021: *Borrego Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right To Extract Groundwater in the Borrego Valley Groundwater Subbasin No. 7.024 Whether Based on Appropriation, Overlying Right, or Other Basis of Right, and/or Who Claim a Right to Use of Storage Space in the Subbasin; et al.* (Case No. [37-2020-00005776](#)). All persons who desire to become new De Minimis Pumpers of groundwater in the Subbasin after April 8, 2021 (*i.e.*, pumping of two acre-feet per year or less for use on real property overlying the Subbasin) must first obtain approval from the Watermaster prior to obtaining a well permit from the County of San Diego. Follow the instructions below to seek Watermaster approval:

1. Complete a **Water Well Permit Application** which is available on the San Diego County, Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) [website](#). [Do not send the application to the DEHQ until you have received a signed copy of this application for New De Minimis Pumping from the Borrego Springs Watermaster]
2. Complete and sign this application.
3. Submit both applications to the Borrego Springs Watermaster at the mailing or email address above.

Applicant Name: _____ APN for Well Location: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I hereby commit to the following as a new De Minimis Pumper in the Borrego Springs Subbasin:

- The pumping rate from the well will always be equal to or less than two (2) acre-feet per year.
- The new well will be constructed by a California-licensed well drilling contractor.
- I will install and maintain a calibrated totalizing in-line flow meter on the well’s discharge piping pursuant to Watermaster’s well metering regulations.
- I will submit the following information to Watermaster upon well and flow-meter installation:
 - a. The Well Driller’s Log with the as-built well construction information.
 - b. Flow-meter information, including: manufacturer; meter name, model number, serial number; units of measurement; and a photograph of the flow meter face and meter reading prior to well startup.
 - c. Other information and data associated with well construction including but not limited to: well development data (e.g. pumping rates, depth-to-water measurements); water-quality test results; the final pumping rate.
- I will provide Watermaster access to the well for meter reading in April and October each year.
- I will self-report meter reads to Watermaster in January and July each year.
- I agree to be invoiced, and pay to Watermaster, the following fees:
 - a. A one-time fee to cover the Watermaster’s costs for application processing and the evaluation for Undesirable Results.
 - b. An annual fee to cover the Watermaster’s costs for semi-annual meter reading.

Applicant Signature	Date	Chairperson of the Watermaster Board	Date
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This *Application for New De Minimis Pumping in the Borrego Springs Subbasin* will be approved and signed under the following conditions: (i) Watermaster determination that the new De Minimis Pumping **will not** contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interest related to the Subbasin; (ii) your payment of the one-time fee to cover the Watermaster’s costs for application processing and the evaluation for Undesirable Results (you will receive a separate invoice for the fee); and (iii) your future compliance with the commitments listed above. Non-compliance with any commitment on this application is grounds to revoke Watermaster approval.

You must submit a final approved copy of this application, signed by the Chairman of the Watermaster Board, to the San Diego County DEHQ to obtain approval of your **Water Well Permit Application**.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-03
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO APPROVE OR DENY APPLICATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW OR REPLACEMENT NON-DE MINIMIS WELLS IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS SUBBASIN

WHEREAS, a Stipulated Judgment (Judgment) was entered in the Superior Court of California on April 8, 2021 that determined and adjudicated all groundwater rights in the Borrego Springs Subbasin (Subbasin) and established the Borrego Springs Watermaster (Watermaster) to administer and enforce the provisions of the Judgment including its Physical Solution.

WHEREAS, Section IV.E.8. of the Judgment: *"The Watermaster shall undertake any action, including bringing any motion to the Court, necessary to enjoin unauthorized Pumping."*

WHEREAS, Section III.L. of the Judgment states: *"Parties may change the point of Pumping on their real property for any BPA [Baseline Pumping Allocation] or portion thereof to another point of Pumping on the same Party's real property, whether by County-permitted new wells or replacement wells, so long as such change of point of Pumping does not cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party."*

WHEREAS, a non-de minimis pumper is defined as any Party who pumps greater than two acre-feet per year for use on real property overlying the Basin.

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) is responsible for reviewing applications and issuing permits for the construction of new water wells in San Diego County.

WHEREAS, the DEHQ requires any person or party that applies for a permit to construct a new water well in the Subbasin to obtain approval from the Watermaster prior to DEHQ issuing the permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Borrego Springs Watermaster, that:

1. The Board of Directors hereby establishes the process to approve or deny applications for the construction of new or replacement non-de minimis wells in the Borrego Springs Subbasin that complies with Sections IV.E.8 and III.H of the Judgment as described in the attached Exhibit 1.

2. The Board of Directors hereby approves the application form for a New or Replacement Non-De Minimis Well in the Borrego Springs Subbasin in the attached Exhibit 2.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Borrego Springs Watermaster held on the 9th day of December 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Smith, Seley, Jorgensen, Bennett

NOES:

ABSENT:



David Duncan, Chairperson
Board of Directors



Shannon Smith, Secretary of the Board
ATTEST

**PROCESS TO APPROVE OR DENY APPLICATIONS
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW OR REPLACEMENT NON-DE MINIMIS WELLS
IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS SUBBASIN**

1. The applicant for the construction of a new or replacement non-de minimis well will need to complete two (2) forms and submit them to the Watermaster:
 - i. A County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) permit application for construction of a new water well. The DEHQ permit application is available on the DEHQ [website](#).¹ Applicants are required to submit certain information about the proposed new well on the DEHQ permit application. This information will assist the Watermaster in its determination of whether pumping from the well will cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party (see 3. below).
 - ii. A Watermaster application for a New or Replacement Non-De Minimis Well in the Borrego Springs Subbasin (Exhibit 2 of Resolution 21-03). The Watermaster application will be made available on the Watermaster website, and will ask the applicant for the following:
 - a. The applicant understands and acknowledges that all water production on the property identified in this Application is authorized and constrained in accordance with the terms and provisions contained in the Judgment and the Watermaster Rules and Regulations (adopted and amended from time to time in order to implement the terms of the Judgment).
 - b. The applicant agrees to obtain the necessary water rights prior to extracting groundwater, in accordance with the requirements of the Watermaster Board.
 - c. A commitment that the well will be drilled, constructed, and developed by a California-licensed well drilling contractor.
 - d. A commitment to submit to Watermaster the following information upon well and wellhead completion:
 - (1) The Well Driller's Log with the as-built well construction information.
 - (2) Flow meter information, including: manufacturer; meter name, model number, serial number; units of measurement; and a photograph of the flow meter face and meter reading prior to well startup.
 - (3) Other information and data associated with well construction, including but not limited to: well development data (e.g. pumping rates, depth-to-water measurements); water-quality test results; the final pumping rate.

¹ https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/lwqd/lu_water_wells.html

- e. A commitment to pay a one-time fee to cover the Watermaster's costs for application processing and the evaluation for Undesirable Results (see 3. below).²
 - f. Signature of the applicant.
2. Watermaster Staff will review the application to ensure that the applicant has the necessary water rights for non-de minimis pumping in the basin, and will check with the Borrego Water District to confirm that no water right limitations exist for the specific well location.
3. Watermaster Staff will determine whether pumping from the proposed new or replacement well will cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party. This determination will be conducted on a case-by-case basis and will consider all information provided on the proposed well, its proximity to other wells, and its proposed pumping rate, among other factors. Section I.A.60 of the Judgment defines *Undesirable Results* consistent with Water Code section 10721[x].
 - i. If Watermaster Staff determines that pumping from the new or replacement well **will** cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party, then the applicant and the DEHQ will be notified, with technical explanation, and the application will be denied.
 - ii. If Watermaster Staff determines that pumping from the new or replacement well **will not** cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party, then the application process continues as described below.
4. Watermaster Staff will invoice and collect the one-time application fee from the applicant (1.ii.e above).
5. The Chairperson of the Watermaster Board will sign the application signifying Watermaster approval and the determination that the new or replacement well **will not** cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party.
6. Watermaster staff will send the approved and signed application to the applicant with a cover letter that outlines their commitments to the Watermaster (1.ii. above). The applicant will need the approved and signed Watermaster application to complete the DEHQ permit application for construction of the new water well.
7. If Watermaster Staff denies the application, the applicant shall be provided thirty (30) days from the date of the notice of denial to file a written appeal of that Staff decision to the Watermaster Board. That Board shall conduct a hearing on that appeal within forty-five (45) days of its receipt and shall either affirm or deny the appeal by Resolution containing appropriate findings of fact and legal conclusions. If the Watermaster Board affirms the denial of the application, the applicant may appeal that denial to the Court within ninety (90) days of the date of the Watermaster Board action and that appeal shall be conducted in accordance with Section VII.A.1. of the Judgment. If the application is approved at any stage of the

² Watermaster fees will be calculated and invoiced to the applicant on a case-by-case basis and will be dependent on the staff time required to execute the work and the current hourly rate schedule for staff as approved by the Watermaster Board.

appellate process established in this paragraph 6, the Watermaster Staff will then collect, and the applicant will pay, the one-time application fee and the Chairperson of the Watermaster Board shall then sign the Watermaster application.

**APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A
NEW OR REPLACEMENT NON-DE MINIMIS WELL
IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS SUBBASIN**

BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
23692 Birtcher Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630
Tel. 949-420-3030
BorregoSpringsWM@westyost.com

The adjudication of groundwater pumping rights in the Borrego Springs Subbasin (Judgment) was filed in the Superior Court of California on April 8, 2021: *Borrego Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right To Extract Groundwater in the Borrego Valley Groundwater Subbasin No. 7.024 Whether Based on Appropriation, Overlying Right, or Other Basis of Right, and/or Who Claim a Right to Use of Storage Space in the Subbasin; et al.* (Case No. [37-2020-00005776](#)). All persons who desire to construct a new or replacement non-de minimis well in the Subbasin for the purpose of pumping greater than two acre-feet per year must first obtain approval from Watermaster prior to obtaining a well permit from the County of San Diego. Follow the instructions below to seek Watermaster approval:

1. Complete a **Water Well Permit Application** which is available on the San Diego County, Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) [website](#). [Do not send the application to the DEHQ until you have received a signed copy of this application from the Borrego Springs Watermaster]
2. Complete and sign this application.
3. Submit both applications to the Borrego Springs Watermaster at the mailing or email address above.

Applicant Name: _____ APN for Well Location: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

With my signature below, I hereby commit to the following (please check all boxes):

- I understand and hereby acknowledge that any and all water production on the property identified in this Application is authorized and constrained in accordance with all terms and provisions contained in the Judgment and contained in Watermaster Rules and Regulations (adopted and amended from time to time in order to implement the terms of the Judgment).
- I agree to obtain the necessary water rights prior to extracting groundwater, in accordance with the requirements of the Watermaster Board.
- The new well will be constructed by a California-licensed well drilling contractor.
- I will submit the following information to Watermaster upon well and flow-meter installation:
 - a. The Well Driller’s Log with the as-built well construction information.
 - b. Flow-meter information, including: manufacturer; meter name, model number, serial number; units of measurement; and a photograph of the flow meter face and meter reading prior to well startup.
 - c. Other information and data associated with well construction including but not limited to: well development data (e.g. pumping rates, depth-to-water measurements); water-quality test results; the final pumping rate.
- I agree to be invoiced, and pay to Watermaster, a one-time fee to cover the Watermaster’s costs for application processing and the evaluation for Undesirable Results.

Applicant Signature	Date	Chairperson of the Watermaster Board	Date
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This **Application for a New or Replacement Non-De Minimis Well in the Borrego Springs Subbasin** will be approved and signed under the following conditions: (i) Watermaster determination that pumping from the well **will not** cause Undesirable Results or interfere with an existing well of another Party; (ii) your payment of the one-time fee to cover the Watermaster’s costs for application processing and the evaluation for Undesirable Results (you will receive a separate invoice for the fee); and (iii) your future compliance with the commitments listed above. Non-compliance with any commitment on this application is grounds to revoke Watermaster approval.

You must submit a final approved copy of this application, signed by the Chairman of the Watermaster Board, to the San Diego County DEHQ to obtain approval of your **Water Well Permit Application**.

To: Board of Directors
From: Andy Malone, Technical Consultant
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Technical Consultant Report – April 2026

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the monthly Technical Consultant (TC) Report is to share information with the Board on the status of technical efforts being performed, including those with guidance and input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Environmental Working Group (EWG). Additional details and topics that may arise after publishing this report will be presented during the Board meeting.

At the April 15, 2026 Board meeting, I intend to report on the following topics:

- Next TAC Meeting
- Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Event
- Status update: Review of the UCI GDE Study Report

TAC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 4, 2026

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for 10am on May 4, 2026. At its March 2026 meeting, the Board approved the following agenda topics for the TAC meeting:

- WY 2027 Budget Discussion
- 5-Year GMP Assessment Report and GMP Update – This topic is a placeholder only and will only be included if directed by the Board during Agenda Item IVA)

SPRING 2026 GROUNDWATER MONITORING EVENT

The Spring 2026 groundwater monitoring event will be conducted by West Yost staff during the week of April 27, 2026.

REVIEW OF THE UCI GDE STUDY REPORT TO DETERMINE IF IT REPRESENTS “BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE”

On February 26, 2026, the TAC and EWG held a joint meeting to discuss the draft Technical Consultant (TC) Recommendation Report¹ on the UCI GDE Study Report. Since that meeting, TAC and EWG members have submitted additional feedback on the UCI GDE Study Report and several recommendations for what the Watermaster should consider for next steps regarding the Mesquite Bosque. We used this feedback (as well as prior comment letters from the TAC and EWG members) to prepare a draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report. The Recommendation Report was published on April 1, 2026 in the agenda packet for a joint TAC/EWG meeting held on April 8, 2026. All materials for both TAC/EWG meetings can be reviewed [here](#).²

¹ The TC Recommendation Report was distributed to the Board, TAC, and EWG on February 13, 2026 and can be viewed at this [link](#).

² <https://borregospringswatermaster.com/technical-advisory-committee-meetings/>

The objective of the TAC/EWG meeting was to confirm that the draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report is an accurate and complete summary of the input received from each TAC/EWG member that provided comments, including:

- Their assessment of whether the UCI GDE Study Report represents BAS
- Their viewpoint on whether or not the Mesquite Bosque is a GDE
- Their recommendations for next steps and/or management actions for Board consideration

At the meeting:

- During public comment periods, members of the public (mainly the authors of the UCI GDE Study Report) expressed support for the UCI study as BAS and urged the Watermaster to use the report findings to improve its understanding of the groundwater basin and update the Groundwater Management Plan to recognize the Mesquite Bosque as a GDE. There were some statements encouraging the Watermaster to collaborate with UCI in the future, as UCI is continuing monitoring efforts.
- The TC presented the draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report and summarized the viewpoints expressed. Most TAC/EWG members that submitted comments expressed that it generally summarized their comments accurately in the draft report.
- The TAC/EWG members expressed a range of perspectives on whether the UCI study represents BAS, whether or not the Mesquite Bosque is a GDE, and what recommendations should be forwarded to the Board. There were various and differing technical interpretations of the available data expressed at the meeting.
- A future monitoring program is generally agreed upon by most TAC/EWG members as a recommendation.
- The County of San Diego representative recommended the preparation of a memorandum for legal review to clarify what SGMA requires in response to potential GDEs.
- Most TAC/EWG members said they will submit comments and feedback to finalize the TAC/EWG Recommendation Report.
- One TAC member and one EWG member submitted comments **after the submittal deadline** and were not documented in the draft Recommendation Report. One additional EWG member stated they intend to submit comments soon. These individuals verbally described their comments at the meeting. One EWG member has not submitted comments and has not attended any meetings. **I request direction from the Board on how to handle late submittals of comments, as adding them to the Recommendation Report may affect the schedule and budget.**

In summary, because of the range of perspectives and differing technical opinions expressed by the TAC/EWG members, **it does not appear that the TAC/EWG will reach a consensus recommendation to the Board.** Therefore, the TAC/EWG Recommendation report will describe the various and differing perspectives and recommendations of the TAC/EWG members.

The next steps include:

- Receiving written feedback on the draft Recommendation Report from the TAC/EWG by April 22, 2026
- Using the feedback to prepare a draft-final TAC/EWG Recommendation Report
- Circulating the draft-final report by email to finalize the report

- Publishing the final TAC/EWG Recommendation Report for Board review and discussion at its meeting on May 20, 2026. I will also be publishing my final TC Recommendation Report for that Board meeting.

As noted above this schedule may be impacted if the Recommendation Report is to be updated to accommodate the late submissions.

At its February 18, 2026 meeting, the Watermaster Board requested monthly updates on the budget status to perform the approved scope of work to review the UCI GDE Study Report. The budget status as of April 10, 2026, including the total budget, amount spent to-date, and remaining budget, is shown on the budget tracking table on the following page. As a reminder, the budget is spread across two line items in the budget related to TAC and EWG processes.

WY 2026 Budget to Perform the Approved Scope of Work to Review the GDE Study Report

**Scope and budget approved by the Board at its November 3, November 19, and December 17, 2025 meetings*

Task	Approved Budget	Billed to-date in WY 2026						Total Spent	Remaining Budget
		Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26 (DRAFT)		
Total	\$53,382	\$3,911.50	\$5,977.75	\$8,689.75	\$5,154.50	\$5,911.50	\$5,801.00	\$35,705.50	\$17,676.50
EWG Meetings and Address Ad Hoc Requests: <i>GDE Report Review</i>	\$37,640	\$3,911.50	\$5,977.75	\$8,689.75	\$5,154.50	\$5,911.50	\$5,801.00	\$35,705.50	\$1,934.50
Technical Work to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield*	\$15,742	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,742

**Staff will bill time to Technical Work to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield once the EWG budget is expended.*

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Executive Director Report – April 2026

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the monthly Executive Director (ED) Report is to share information with the Board on the status of key administrative items, including identifying recommended items for future discussion and action. At our April 15, 2026, Board meeting, I intend to report out on the following items. Some information for each item is provided herein, where available. Additional details and topics that arise after publishing this report may be presented during the meeting.

At the April 15, 2026 Board meeting, I intend to report on the following topics:

- Annual Meter Verifications
- Mid-Year Pumping Report
- First and Second Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026
- BPA and Party Updates

ANNUAL METER VERIFICATIONS

- Annual meter testing is nearly complete.
- Results for wells with completed testing were delivered the week of March 27th and were analyzed for compliance with calibration standards. Of the confirmed 71 BPA Party wells in the Basin:
 - 20 wells didn't require tests – these wells will not be operated in WY 2026. This includes
 - 8 officially decommissioned wells
 - 12 wells that are not in operation (confirmed with meter reads)
 - 44 wells were tested for accuracy and all tests demonstrated the meters meet the accuracy standard (within accuracy standard of +/-5%)
 - 7 wells were not tested and Watermaster staff continues to follow up with the owners to remind them the wells must be scheduled for testing.

MID-YEAR PUMPING REPORT

- March 31, 2026 was the mid-point of WY 2026.
- BWD performed the first of two annual “official” meter reads on and around March 31, 2026.
- At the May meeting, Watermaster staff will present the mid-year pumping report to the Board, summarizing total pumping in the first half of WY 2026. As a reminder, the Board directed staff to reduce the scope of the mid-year pumping reporting to eliminate preparation of individual reports to the Parties and instead provide a single condensed communication to all parties simultaneously that includes a table listing total pumping by Party for October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

FIRST AND SECOND INSTALLMENT OF PUMPING ASSESSMENTS FOR WY 2026

- The first installment invoices for the WY 2026 Pumping Assessments, totaling \$175,024, were issued in November 2025, with payments due by December 31, 2025.
 - As of this writing, a total of \$173,712 has been received and the outstanding balance of payments past-due is \$1,312.
 - Reminders of past-due payments were sent to Parties the week of April 6th.
- The second installment invoices for the WY 2026 Pumping Assessments will be generated and sent to the Parties in May 2026, with payment due by June 30, 2026.

BPA AND PARTY UPDATES

- There remains one Party that out of compliance with the Judgment and is not in contact with the Watermaster:
 - The current outstanding balance owed to Watermaster is now \$392.56.
 - The assumed annual pumping by this party is 1.20 acre-feet per year based on water-duty methods performed during the development of the GMP.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2026
AGENDA ITEM VI**

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: April 10, 2026
Subject: Establishing Agenda for May 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Process

To set the May agenda, the Board will:

1. Review the initial May agenda topics planned by Staff, as listed below
2. Review the June and July 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 April 2026 Board meeting (such as during public comment)
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the May 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). The Agenda/items are approved by majority vote (3 of 5 directors)

Staff's Initial Agenda for May Regular Meeting

The May 20, 2026 Regular meeting (held virtually) will include all standard items of: public correspondence, consent calendar (meeting minutes, financial reports, staff invoices, etc.), verbal Staff and Chair reports, establishing the agenda for the subsequent meeting, Board member comments, listing of future meeting dates, and adjournment.

In addition to the standard items, the initial agenda planned by Staff for May 2026 includes the following business items for consideration and possible action:

1. GMP Assessment and Workshop: Revised 5-Yr Assessment Report and GMP Update
2. Report out from April TAC meeting
3. TC and TAC/EWG Recommendations on Next Steps related to the GDE Study Report
4. Review of Draft Water Year 2027 Budget
5. WY 2026 Budget Amendment (Staff requested item)
6. Review of Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026

Staff's Tentative Topics for June and July

Two June Special Board Meetings will be held. Dates TBD, June 3 – 4th and June 22 – 24th

First Meeting

1. 5-Yr Assessment Report and GMP Update
 - a. Request approval of changes to reports based on public review period
 - b. Direct Legal Counsel to notice intent to amend the Judgment and schedule hearing date
2. Report out from May TAC meeting
3. WY 2027 Budget (could be revisited at 2nd meeting as well)

Second Meeting

1. Consideration of Approval of 5-Yr Assessment Report and GMP Update
2. WY 2027 Budget

July Agenda Topics

1. Updated Transfers Approval Process
2. Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
3. WY 2025 – Q3 Budget Status Report (as of June 30, 2026)