

# **Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting**

May 20, 2026

# I. Opening Procedures

\*\*\*This meeting is being recorded

- A. Call to Order and start meeting recording
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Approval of Agenda



# II. Public Correspondence

## II.A – Written Correspondence

- May 6, 2026 Letter from The Nature Conservancy
- May 13, 2026 Letter from David Garmon

## II.B – Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

*Limited to 3 min per speaker*

### Instructions for Public Comment

The public may address the Board on items within the Watermaster’s Jurisdiction that are included or not included on the meeting agenda.

To address the Board on items that are not included on the meeting agenda, the public may request to speak during **Agenda Item III – Public Correspondence**. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker.

To address the Board on items that are included on the meeting agenda, the Board Chairperson will call for public comments immediately following the agenda item’s staff report presentation and prior to Board discussion.

*The Board may direct staff to include topics brought forward during Public Correspondence and Comment on a future meeting agenda. No action or discussion is otherwise taken by the Board.*

# III. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – April 15, 2026
- B. Approval of April 2026 Financial Report

# IV.A Next Steps Related to UCI GDE Study Report

## Recommended Actions:

1. Direct legal counsel to prepare a legal opinion on whether the Watermaster's management and proposed monitoring programs satisfy SGMA requirements regarding consideration of potential GDEs
2. Direct staff to include a scope-of-work and budget to prepare a "Monitoring Work Plan for the Mesquite Bosque" in the Watermaster's draft scope and budget for WY 2027

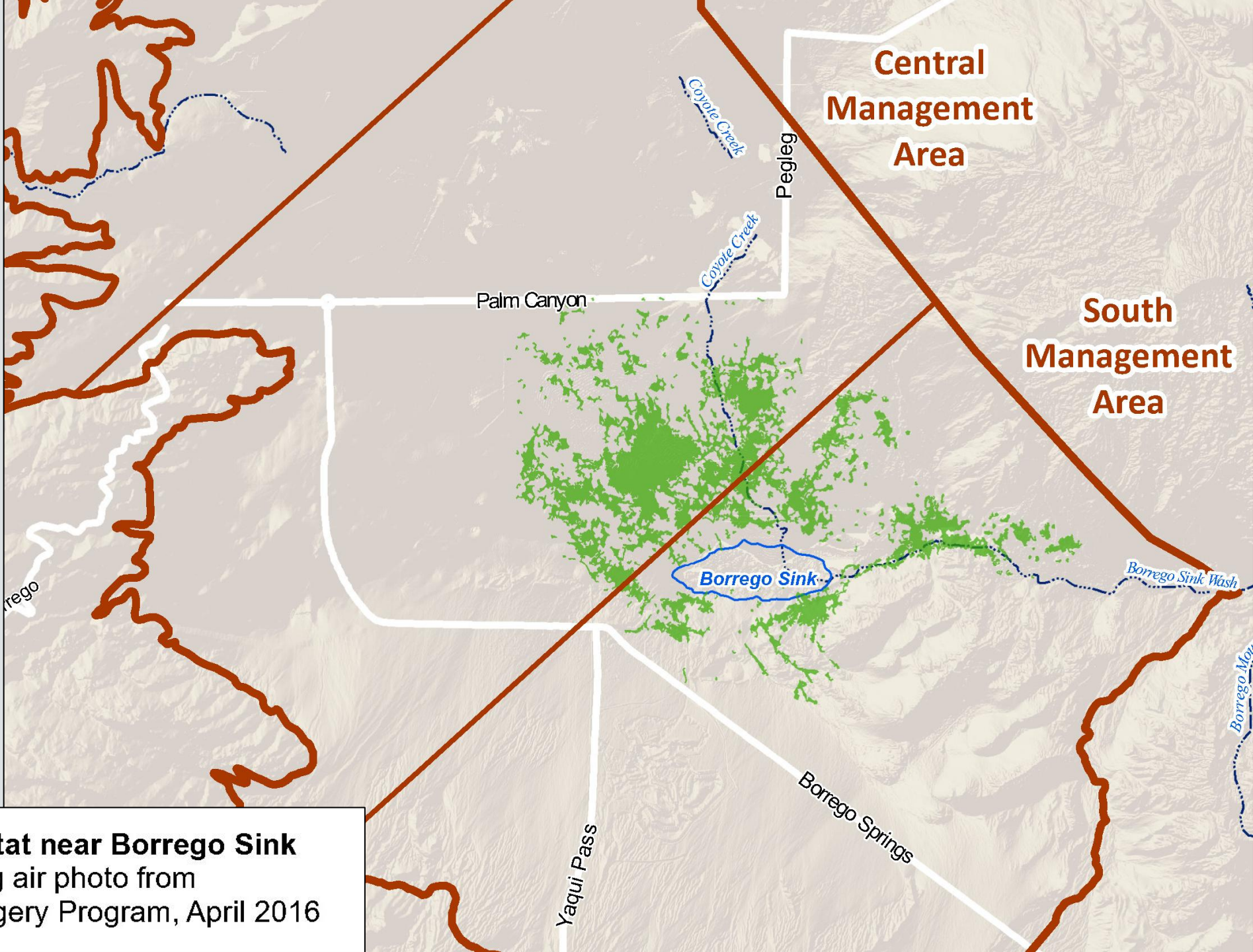
## Fiscal Impact:

1. The estimated cost to prepare the legal memo is **\$7,500**. Sufficient funds are available for legal services in the approved WY 2026 budget
2. The estimated cost to prepare a "Monitoring Work Plan for the Mesquite Bosque" is **\$35,421**
  - With Board direction, the scope-of-work and cost estimate would be included in the draft WY 2027 budget for consideration at its June 24, 2026 meeting (it is accounted for in the draft budget in Item IV.C)

# Overview of this Presentation

## *Technical Review of UCI GDE Study Report and Recommended Next Steps*

- Background
- TAC/EWG Recommendation Report
  - Findings
  - Recommendations
- Technical Consultant Recommendation Report
  - Findings
  - Recommendations
- Recommended Next Steps
  - Legal Opinion
  - Monitoring Program Work Plan



**Mesquite Bosque Habitat near Borrego Sink**  
As mapped by UCI using air photo from  
National Agriculture Imagery Program, April 2016



Early 1900s (before pumping)

Mesquite canopy



Ground surface (0 ft)

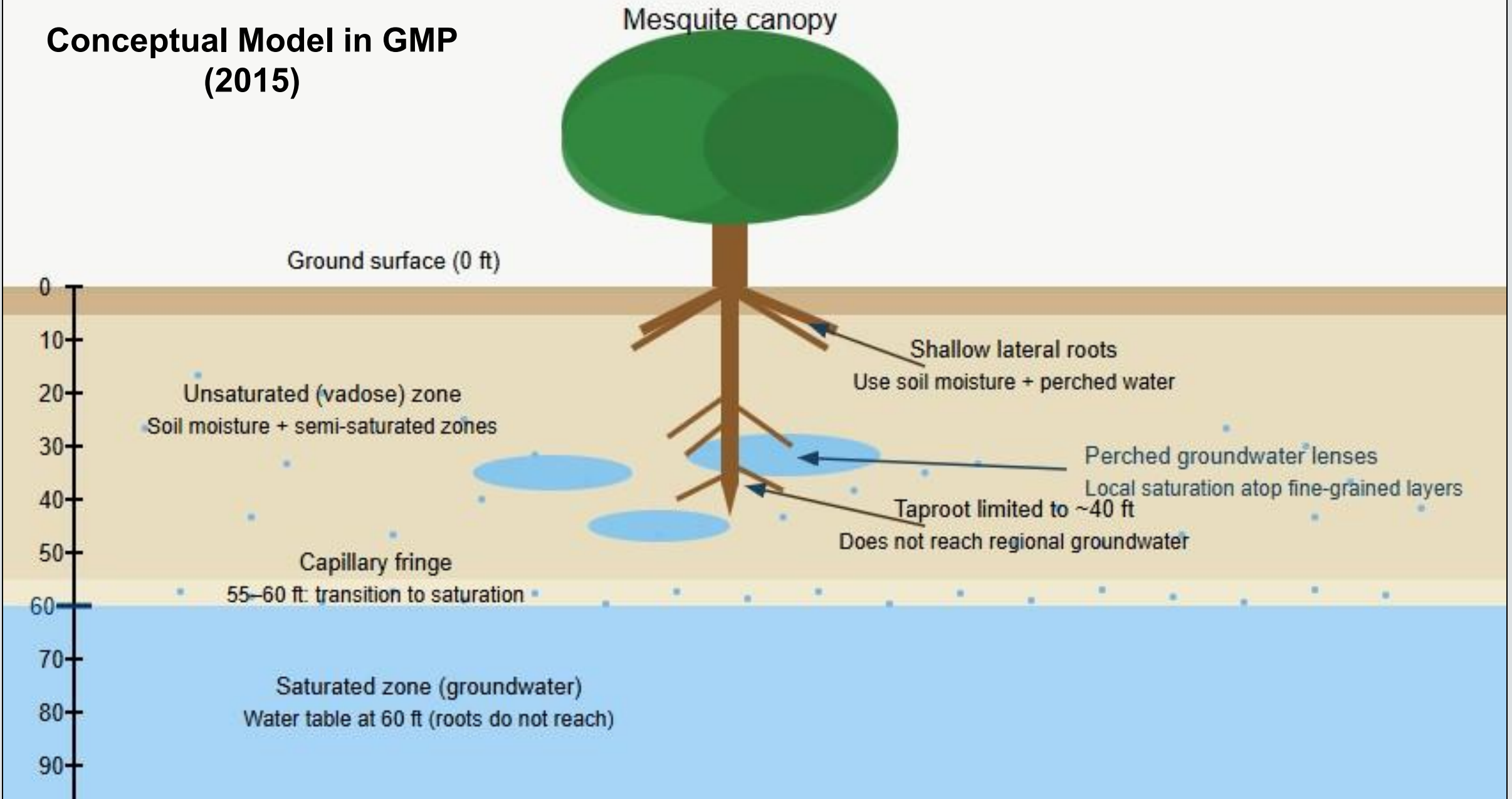


Groundwater is near the ground surface supporting the Mesquite Bosque as a GDE

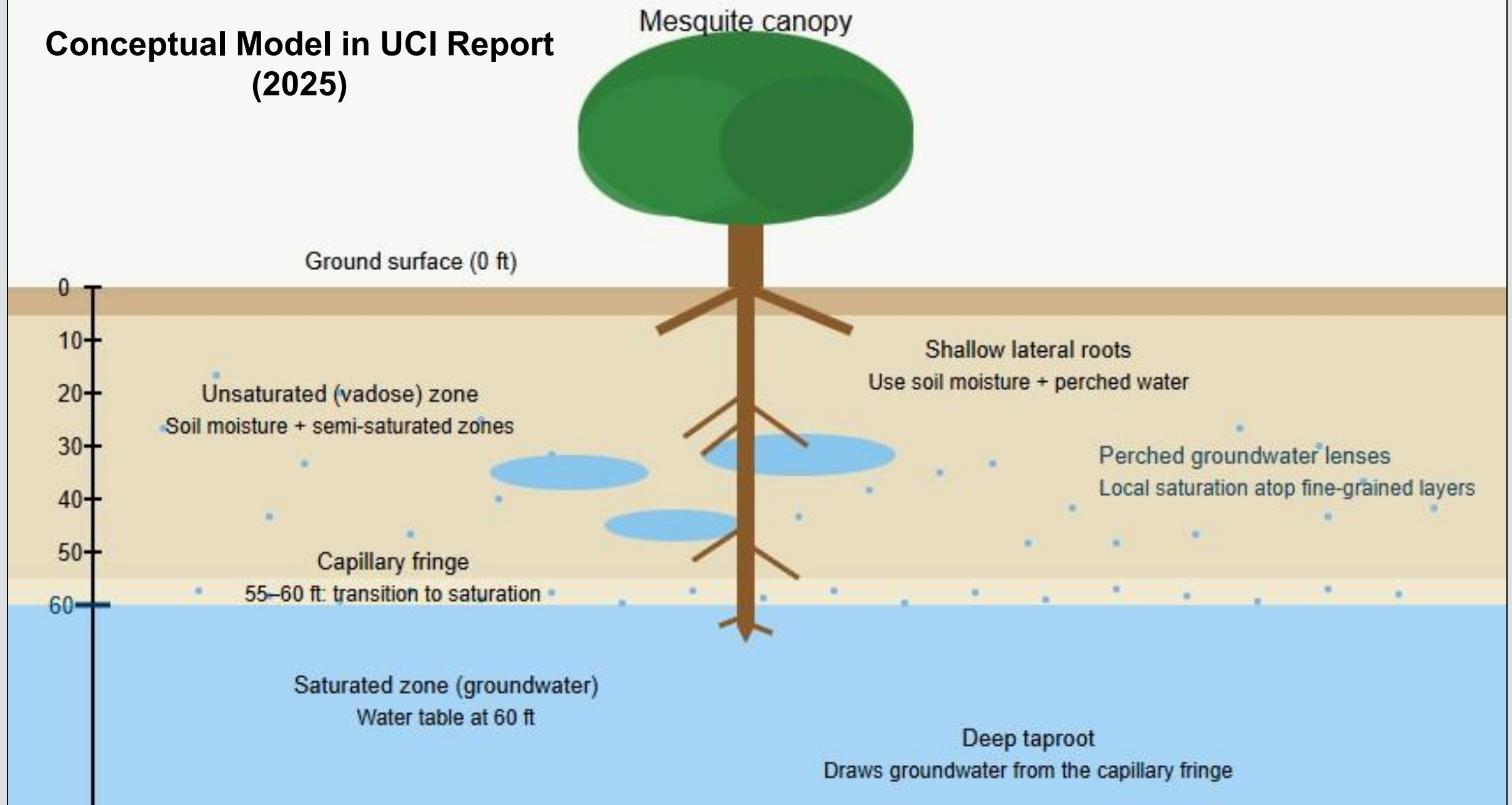
### Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model

Groundwater ET in 1945 = ~ **9,800 acre-ft/year**

# Conceptual Model in GMP (2015)



# Conceptual Model in UCI Report (2025)



# SGMA Requirements related to Environmental Beneficial Users

- SGMA Agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses or users of groundwater including **environmental users of groundwater**
- If an environmental beneficial use is recognized in a Basin, that beneficial use must be considered by the SGMA Agency when making decisions to avoid Undesirable Results
- Undesirable Result = significant and unreasonable negative impacts caused by groundwater conditions in the Basin
- SGMA enacted in 2015 → No requirement to manage or mitigate for pre-SGMA impacts

# UCI GDE Study Report

- Arrived at ***definitive*** conclusions based on multiple lines of evidence:
  - The Mesquite Bosque is connected to regional aquifer, and therefore, is an environmental beneficial user of the Basin groundwater
  - The Mesquite Bosque is continuing to decline in health during post-SGMA (2015-2024), which is primarily driven by declining groundwater levels

# UCI GDE Study Report

- Recommendations:
  - Designate the Mesquite Bosque as an environmental beneficial user of groundwater in the GMP
  - Allocate 645 acre-feet-per-year of groundwater to the Mesquite Bosque in the water budget
  - Establish minimum thresholds for groundwater elevations and rates of groundwater-level decline at key wells
  - Conduct hydrologic and biologic monitoring of the BS Mesquite Bosque:
    - Groundwater levels at key wells
    - Changes in groundwater levels
    - Changes in vegetation health via remote-sensing and field surveys
    - Evapotranspiration (ET) by the Mesquite Bosque
  - Restore mesquite bosque habitat
  - Explore potential strategies to improve groundwater conditions

# Watermaster Policy on the Use of Best Available Science (BAS)

- Permits the use of technical information not generated by the Watermaster to inform its policy decisions
- Watermaster shall not rely on or use such technical information to take action or make policy decisions without an independent review and recommendation by the TAC, EWG, and/or its TC as BAS
- Technical information shall constitute BAS only if it is:
  - Relevant to the decision being made by the Watermaster,
  - Available to the Watermaster within a reasonable time in advance of the Watermaster's decision, and
  - Consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice

# Watermaster Policy on the Use of Best Available Science (BAS)

- The policy question at hand with respect to the UCI Report:

Is the Mesquite Bosque an environmental beneficial user of the regional aquifer system such that Watermaster should change its management plan to:

- i. Identify it as an environmental beneficial user of Subbasin groundwater, and
  - ii. Define and implement new management criteria and/or management actions?
- The use of the term “BAS” always refers to its full policy definition:

***BAS that (by itself) can be relied upon by Watermaster to take action or make policy decisions***

**Table 1. Scope of Work to Perform a Technical Review of the UCI GDE Study Report**

Task Description	Schedule
Review UCI GDE Study Report	November 2025
Review TAC/EWG comments on UCI GDE Study Report	
Prepare a Draft Technical Consultant (TC) Recommendation Report	Nov. 2025 – Jan. 2026
TAC/EWG meeting to review Draft TC Recommendation Report	February 2026
Prepare a Draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report	March 2026
TAC/EWG meeting to review Draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Report and receive additional TAC/EWG feedback	April 2026
Prepare Draft-Final TAC/EWG Recommendation Report (based on TAC/EWG feedback)	
Prepare Final TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports	May 2026
Board meeting to present the Final TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports, including discussion on recommended next steps	May 20, 2026

# Objectives of TAC/EWG and TC Recommendation Reports

1. Document the technical review of the UCI GDE Study Report to answer the question:

**Is the UCI report BAS that can be relied upon by the Watermaster to take action or make policy decisions?**

2. Provide the Board with recommendations for next steps

# TAC/EWG Recommendation Report – *Findings*

- Four TAC members and two EWG members submitted comments and recommendations by the requested deadline to have their input included in the TAC/EWG Recommendation Report
  - All TAC/EWG comments are included as a link in the report
- TAC/EWG members expressed a range of perspectives
  - Some believe the UCI Report constitutes BAS and the Mesquite Bosque should be recognized as a GDE
  - Some believe the UCI Report is not BAS and the Mesquite Bosque is not a GDE
  - Some were more circumspect, and recognizing uncertainty in the study, believe the UCI report is useful information but not sufficient to make policy decisions or take management actions
- **No consensus reached amongst the TAC/EWG**

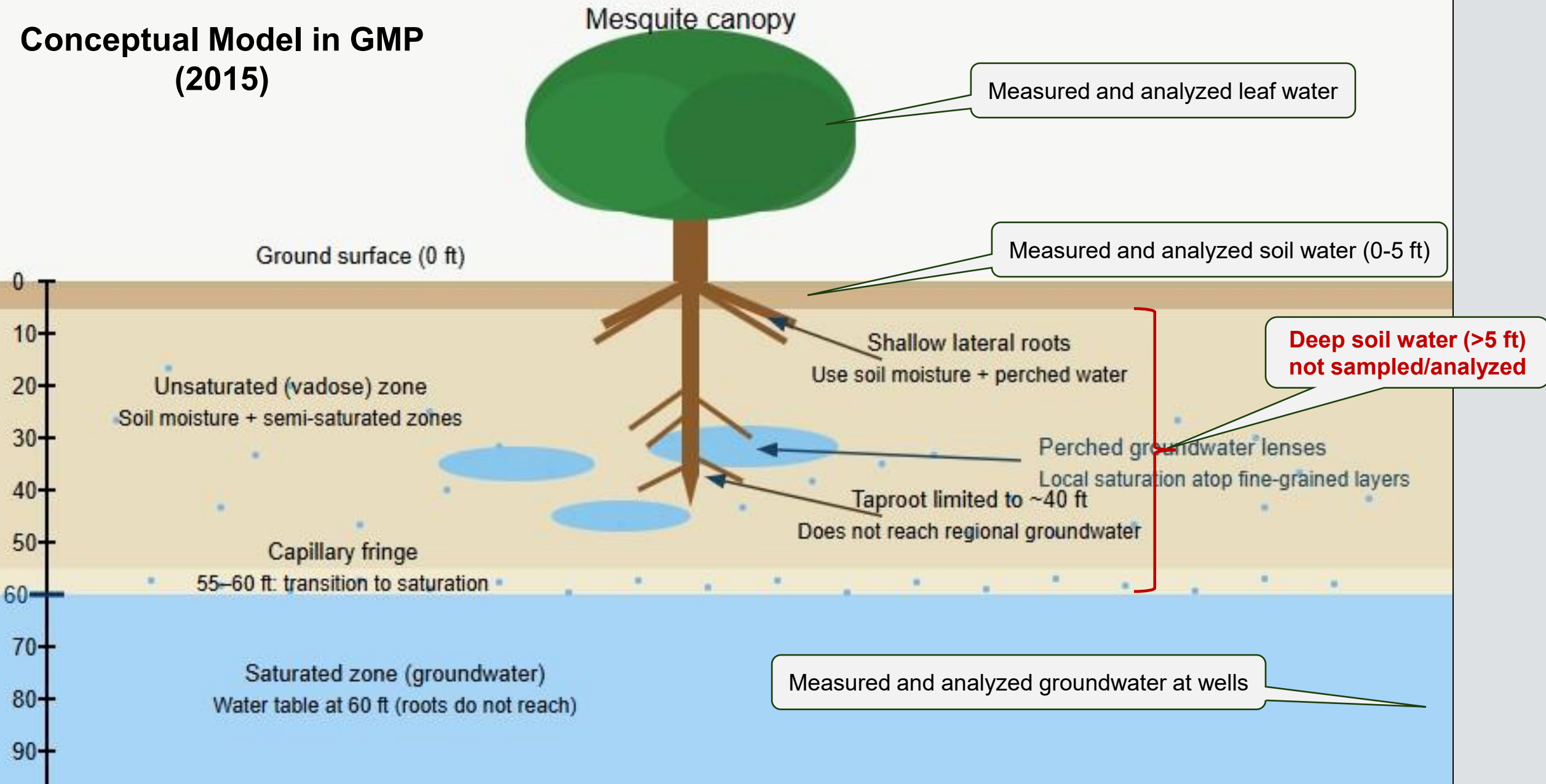
# TAC/EWG Recommendation Report – *Recommendations*

- Most EWG members recommend implementation of the recommendations in the UCI report, such as:
  - Recognize the Mesquite Bosque as a GDE in the GMP
  - Allocate 645 afy of groundwater to the Mesquite Bosque
- Most TAC members recommended to:
  - Not rely *solely* on the UCI report to make management/policy decisions
  - Maintain focus on core management activities (e.g., pumping Rampdown, groundwater stabilization, monitoring-driven adaptive management)
  - Some form of expanded monitoring and investigation to generate more information to inform future Watermaster policy and management decisions
  - Continued stakeholder and TAC engagement

# TC Recommendation Report – *Main Findings*

- There are several gaps in understanding in the UCI Report that call into question UCI's interpretations, and hence, its ability to arrive at its ***definitive*** conclusions:
  - The current Mesquite Bosque is a GDE
  - The Bosque will experience degradation caused by the pumping Rampdown and the gradual stabilization of groundwater levels
- Primary gap in understanding → Role of deep soil moisture that could supply some or all of the ET demands of the Mesquite Bosque
  - Deep soil moisture could be replenished by periodic flooding and infiltration

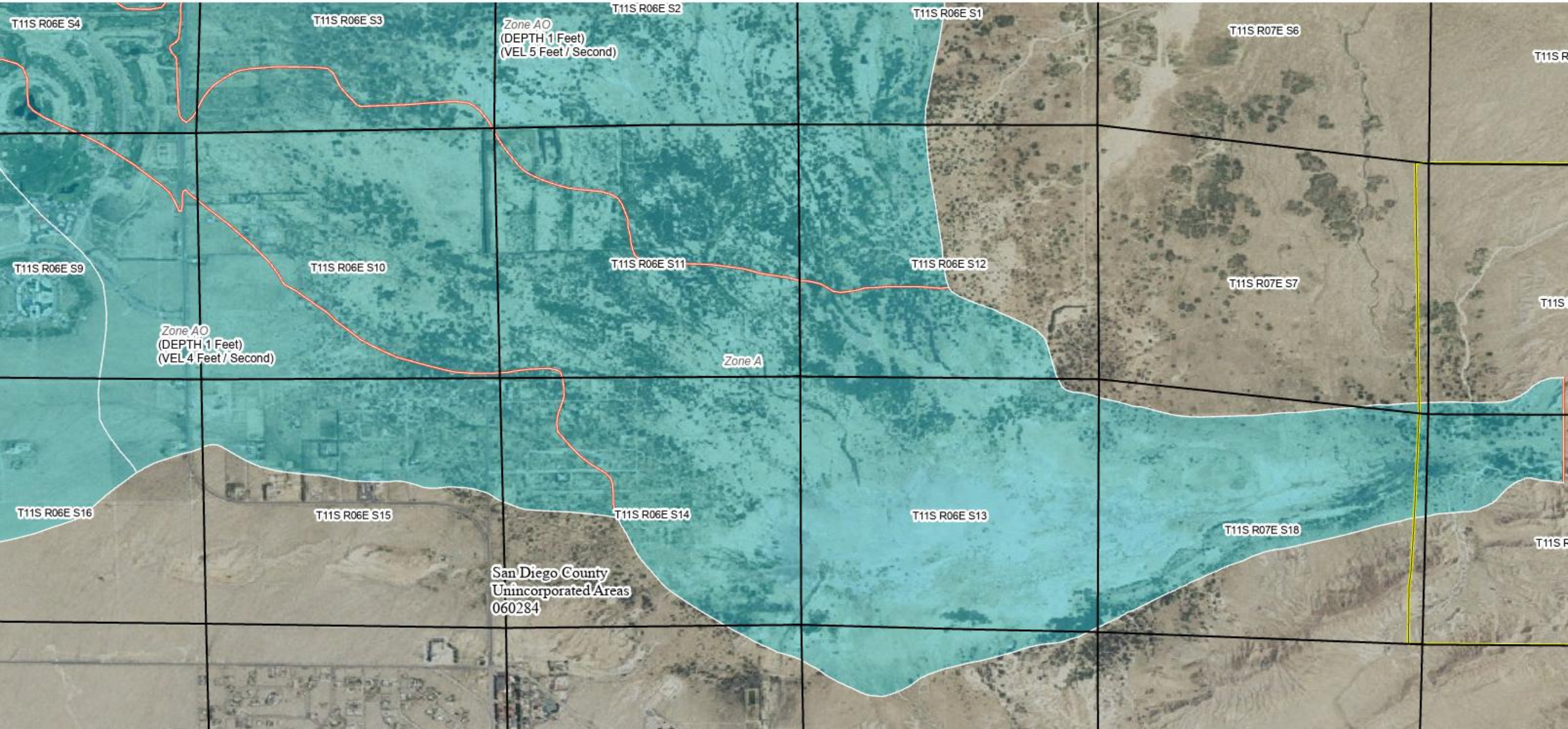
# Conceptual Model in GMP (2015)



# Flooding in Coyote Creek



# FEMA National Flood Insurance Program – Flood Hazard Area



# TC Recommendation Report – *Main Findings*

- It remains an open and important question whether what remains of the BS Mesquite Bosque today is dependent on:
  - Soil moisture in the vadose zone
  - The deeper saturated zone of the regional aquifer system
  - Or both of the above, in different areas of the Bosque and to different degrees
- The UCI report did not sufficient recognize the limitations in the data, nor did it appropriately consider alternative explanations
- Therefore, the *unqualified and definitive* conclusions of the UCI Report, and its management recommendations, are not “consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice” → **Should not be considered BAS that, by itself, should be relied upon by the Watermaster to take action to change its management plan or make policy decisions**

# TC Recommendation Report – *Recommendations*

- That said → the UCI report presents evidence that that indicates the current Mesquite Bosque could be, at least in part, a GDE, particularly in areas surrounding the Borrego Sink where groundwater is shallowest and where the healthiest stands of Mesquite exist → **“Potential GDE”**
- Watermaster should implement an adaptive management framework to:
  - Through monitoring/investigation, determine if declining groundwater levels caused by the pumping Rampdown are causing or could cause significant and unreasonable degradation of the Bosque
  - If shown to be necessary, develop and implement adaptive management actions to protect the environmental beneficial uses in the Basin
- It should be noted → Watermaster is currently implementing the most important management action to slow and halt declining groundwater levels:  
**Pumping Rampdown**

# TC Recommendation Report – *Recommendations*

- Prepare a **Monitoring Program Work Plan for the Mesquite Bosque** with the following objectives:
  - Track the Mesquite Bosque health during the pumping Rampdown
  - Track relevant factors that could be affecting the Mesquite Bosque health:
    - Changes in groundwater levels
    - Temperature and precipitation
    - Surface water inflows
    - Pests, fire, and human disturbance
  - Prioritize and fill gaps in understanding → These activities are more intensive and may not be economically feasible without grants and/or partnerships
- Monitoring program results could inform the need for adaptive management to protect the Bosque

# TC Recommendation Report – *Recommendations*

- Evaluate and use the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM)
  - The BVHM includes functionality to simulate Groundwater ET as part of the water budget of the groundwater Basin
  - BVHM results are used to estimate the Sustainable Yield (SY) of the Basin:

**Sustainable Yield =  
Inflows – Natural Outflows**

<b>Water Budget Component</b>	<b>Annual Average (afy)</b>
<b>Long-Term Natural Inflows (1945-2022)</b>	<b>6,218</b>
Streambed Recharge	4,129
Mountain Front Recharge (subsurface inflow)	2,089
<b>Return Flows under Modern Irrigation Methods (1980-2022)</b>	<b>2,518</b>
Unsaturated Zone Recharge	2,518
<b>Short-Term Natural Outflows (2007-2022)</b>	<b>784</b>
Evapotranspiration of Groundwater	479
Subsurface Outflow	305
<b>2025 Sustainable Yield</b>	<b>7,952</b>

# TC Recommendation Report – *Recommendations*

- Evaluate and use the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM)
  - We don't have a sufficient understanding of where and how the BVHM simulates groundwater ET
  - Model evaluation could lead to recommendations to update the BVHM to improve its ability to estimate groundwater ET and the Sustainable Yield
    - This effort was tentatively approved by the Board to assist in Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield by 2030 (*Agenda Item IV.B*)
  - BVHM can also be used to predict future changes in groundwater levels and groundwater ET beneath the Mesquite Bosque under various assumptions for future pumping and climate

# TC Recommendation Report – *Recommendations*

- Prepare a legal opinion → whether Watermaster's management and proposed monitoring programs satisfy SGMA requirements regarding consideration of potential GDEs
  - History and current understanding of the Mesquite Bosque as a potential GDE
  - Watermaster's current management program to achieve sustainability
  - Any proposed monitoring and modeling efforts for the Mesquite Bosque area
  - SGMA statutory and regulatory provisions re: consideration of potential GDEs
- Legal opinion should precede all other recommended activities

## IV.A Next Steps Related to UCI GDE Study Report

### Recommended Actions:

1. Direct legal counsel to prepare a legal opinion on whether the Watermaster's management and proposed monitoring programs satisfy SGMA requirements regarding consideration of potential GDEs.
2. Direct staff to include a scope-of-work and budget to prepare a "Monitoring Work Plan for the BS Mesquite Bosque" in the Watermaster's draft scope and budget for WY 2027.

### Fiscal Impact:

1. The estimated cost to prepare the legal memo is **\$7,500**. Sufficient funds are available for legal services in the approved WY 2026 budget.
2. The estimated cost to prepare a "Monitoring Work Plan for the BS Mesquite Bosque" is **\$35,421**. With Board direction, the scope-of-work and cost estimate will be included in the draft budget for WY 2027 for Board consideration at its June 24, 2026 meeting.

## IV.A Next Steps Related to UCI GDE Study Report



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BOARD DISCUSSION

## **IV.B TAC Recommendations on Scope of Work to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030**

### **Recommended Actions:**

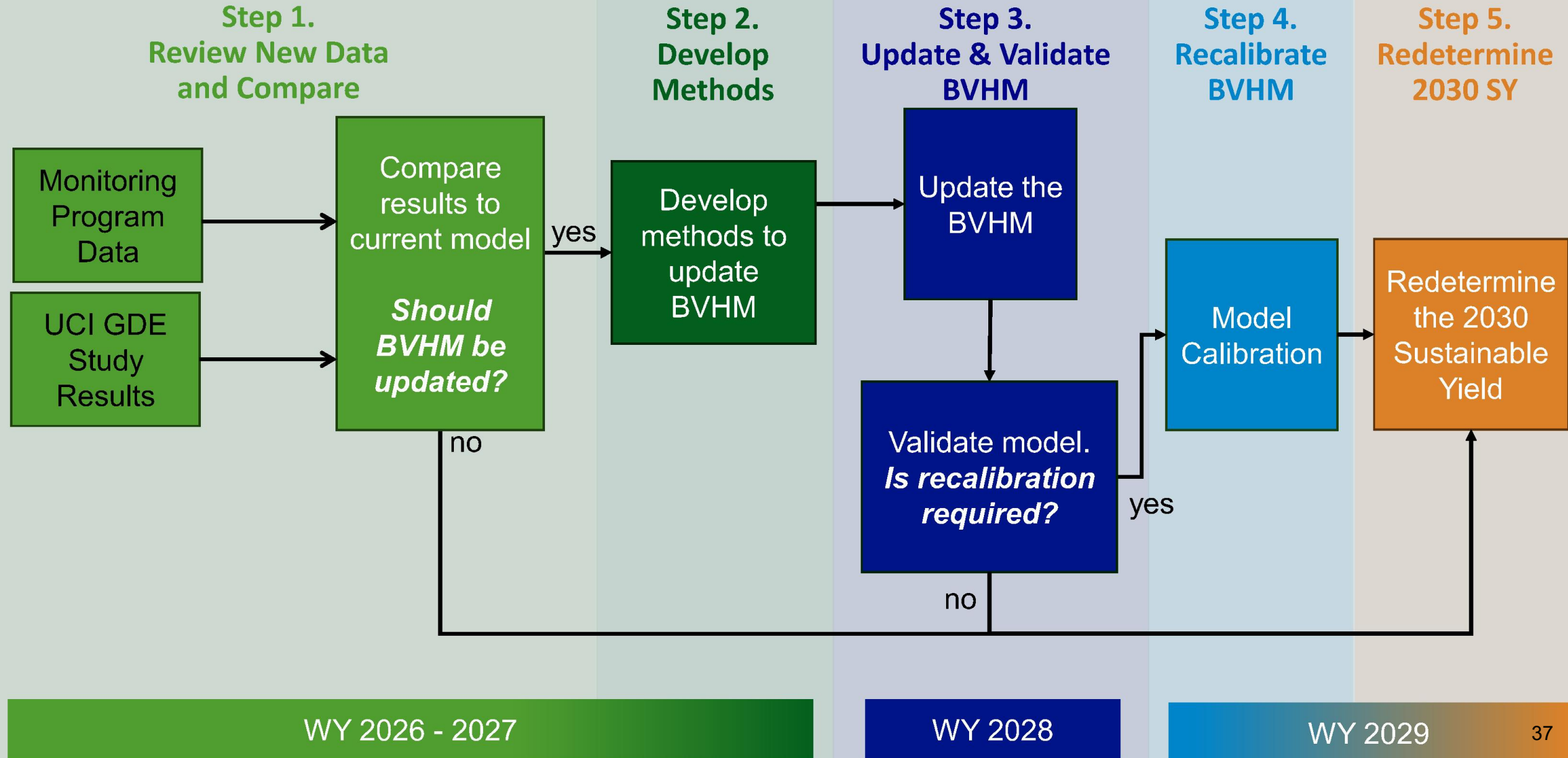
Provide direction to staff on any additional input needed from the TAC to finalize the WY 2027 budget as it related to the technical scope-of-work to redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2030.

## IV.B - TAC Recommendations on Scope of Work to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030

- December 2024: Board approved an initial scope for the 2030 Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield to determine if BVHM improvements are needed
  - **Evaluate Groundwater ET** (using information obtained during review of the UCI report)
  - **Evaluate Monitoring Data** (measured pumping and groundwater levels)
- The scope follows a “work flow” over WY 2026-29 with “off ramps” depending on interim results
  - No work has been performed to date, except review of the UCI report

Figure 1. Workflow to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield for WY 2026-2029

*\*approved December 2024*



## IV.B - TAC Recommendations on Scope of Work to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030

- Since December 2024, additional work has revealed BVHM discrepancies in the southern portion of the Basin
  - There is complex hydrogeology that is not well represented in the BVHM
  - The BVHM may not be well calibrated in southern portion of the Basin
- Based on these findings, the TAC identified two additional technical tasks that could address the BVHM discrepancies:
  - **Evaluate the HCM.** Using new information, evaluate and potentially update the HCM, particularly in the southern portion of the Basin → Recalibration likely needed
  - **Upgrade to Latest Model Platform**

## IV.B - TAC Recommendations on Scope of Work to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030

- At its May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the TAC was informed of Board priorities to focus on Judgment requirements and the need for efficiency. TAC input:
  - **Evaluate Groundwater Evapotranspiration (~\$27,000)**. Unanimous recommendation to perform task in WY 2027 to understand where and how the BVHM simulates groundwater ET.
  - **Evaluate Monitoring Data (~\$35,000)**. Unanimous recommendation to perform task in WY 2028, after all pumping and groundwater level data have been collected through WY 2027.
  - **Evaluate the HCM (~\$63,000)** . Two TAC members recommended. Two TAC members did not recommend. One TAC member did not provide an opinion.
  - **Upgrade to Latest Model Platform (~\$60,000)** . Four TAC members did not recommend. One TAC member recommended

# IV.B TAC Recommendations on Scope of Work to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030

## Recommended Action:

Provide direction to staff on any additional input needed from the TAC to finalize the WY 2027 budget as related to the technical scope-of-work to redetermine the Sustainable Yield by 2030

- The draft WY 2027 Budget is the subject of ***Agenda Item IV.C.***
- To support your understanding of the difference in costs to include or exclude the task to **Evaluate the HCM**, Staff has presented an **Option A** budget that includes the HCM evaluation in WY 2027 and an **Option B** that excludes the HCM evaluation from the scope of work entirely.
- The task to migrate the BVHM to the latest model platform is not presented in the budget

## IV.B TAC Recommendations on Scope to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030



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BOARD DISCUSSION

## **IV.C Draft WY 2027 Budget**

### **Recommended Actions:**

Provide direction to staff on changes to the draft WY 2027 scope of work and budget

### **Fiscal Impact:**

TBD upon finalization of the draft budget.

## IV.C - Draft WY 2027 Budget

- Draft WY 2027 budget tables show **revenues, expenditures, and cash reserves** for 2027, and a projection for four years following (WY 2028 to 2031)
- Draft WY 2027 is compared to Actual WY 2025 and Budget/Projected WY 2026
- The projection of cash reserves was prepared using the Watermaster's financial planning model, and supported determination of Pumping Assessments required to maintain cash reserves at target levels
- All assumptions applied in preparing the draft WY 2027 budget are described in the Staff memo

## IV.C - Draft WY 2027 Budget

### Key Assumptions

- Pumping Assessment set to constant rate from WY 2027-2031
- Reductions in scope defined at April meeting applied
- Includes cost to develop GDE monitoring workplan describe in Agenda Item IV.A
- Two “options” presented with variation only on the work performed for the determination of the 2030 Sustainable Yield, per work described in Agenda Item IV.B
  - Option A = Evaluate HCM, ET, and new monitoring data as part of the workflow to redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield
  - Option B = Evaluate only ET and new monitoring data as part of the workflow to redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield

## IV.C - Draft WY 2027 Budget

Draft Budget Option	Pumping Assessment	WY 2027 Expenditure	Average Cash Reserve Target
Option A (with HCM review)	\$625,000	\$640,833	\$477,052
Option B (without HCM review)	\$600,000	\$578,139	\$440,908

- WY 2025 Expenditure: \$1,449,651
- WY 2026 Expenditure: \$773,688

## IV.C - Draft WY 2027 Budget

### Items for Discussion

- What should be the Overproduction Penalty Assessment Rate?
  - \$500/af minimum, and level adopted in all prior years
- Pumping Assessment method – constant or variable?
  - Variable would be to set it to the lowest level necessary to maintain target reserves and have assessment vary from year to year (average value of a variable assessment would be about equal to the constant rate)
- Which 2030 Sustainable Yield Scope of Work option?
- Include GDE Monitoring Workplan?
- What further changes to the scope of work to achieve cost savings?
- Is there anything that was not included that should be?

# Next Steps

- **June 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting** – Present updated draft WY 2027 Budget for Board discussion or consideration of approval
  - Budget approval requires a Supermajority vote of the Board (4 of 5 members)
- **June 24, 2026 Special Board Meeting** – Consideration of approval of WY 2027 Budget (*if not previously approved*)
- **July 1, 2026** - Judgment deadline to establish budget
- **July 31, 2026** – Deadline for any challenges to the Budget
- **August 2026 Board Meeting** – Present “Statement of Work” for West Yost services to the Board for consideration of approval

## IV.C Draft WY 2027 Budget



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BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.D Technical Review of Transfer Applications

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to summarize TAC input received during the May 4, 2026 TAC meeting regarding development of a technical framework for evaluating transfer applications and to obtain Board direction on next steps

### **Recommended Actions:**

Provide direction to Staff on next steps to developing a technical framework for evaluating applications to transfer water rights.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

TBD upon finalization of the draft budget.

## IV.D - Technical Review of Transfer Applications

### May 4<sup>th</sup> TAC Meeting

- The TAC met on May 4th to discuss the Board's request for input regarding how to perform technical review of transfers to facilitate transfer approval process
- The meeting covered:
  - The Judgment and technical context that necessitate a technical review framework
  - Key considerations in providing input, such as the need to be able to evaluate Carryover transfers by October 2026, how to use what we know in the context of BVHM uncertainty, etc.
  - A strawman technical framework provided for discussion purposes only, to facilitate conversation – it described an approach whereby model is used to evaluate all transfers

## IV.D - Technical Review of Transfer Applications

### Memo Overview

- Judgment Context
- Related Actions and Board Direction
- Summary of TAC Input and Questions
- Next Steps

## IV.D - Technical Review of Transfer Applications

### Judgment Context

- Section III.I.(5) of the Judgment provides Watermaster with the responsibility to restrict transfers under specific conditions
- Section III.I.(5) also requires that Watermaster consult with the TAC prior to implementing restrictions on transfers
- Section IV.E.9 further provides that the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) “shall” be used (i.e., is required) “to support the implementation of this Judgment”
  - This provision establishes that Watermaster is required to rely on BVHM simulations and available data in making decisions, while also allowing for refinement and adjustment as new information becomes available.

## IV.D - Technical Review of Transfer Applications

### TAC Input

- Definition of Undesirable Results in the Context of Transfer Evaluation
- Ability of the BVHM to Evaluate Incremental Transfer Impacts
- Evaluating Transfers Across a Range of Future Conditions
- Level of Effort, Cost, and Practical Implementation
- Equity Considerations

# IV.D - Technical Review of Transfer Applications

## Potential Paths Forward

- **Option 1 – Interim Framework Using Existing Information**

- Staff would proceed with development of an interim technical framework utilizing:
  - Existing BVHM results and a comparison of pumping locations in a Judgment Scenario as compared to the BVHM scenarios already evaluated, as recommended by a TAC member.
  - Currently available monitoring data and technical understanding of Basin conditions.

- **Option 2 – Additional Technical Analysis Prior to Framework Development**

- Staff would proceed with additional technical analysis prior to development of a transfer evaluation framework:
  - Development and simulation of one additional BVHM scenario intended to evaluate future Basin conditions under a Judgment Scenario (\$33,000)
  - Develop a proposed technical framework and present it to the TAC for input prior to returning to the Board for consideration
- Requires budget amendment and super-majority vote to proceed

## **IV.D - Technical Review of Transfer Applications**

### **Key Inputs Needed Regardless of Path Forward**

- Definition of Undesirable Results in the Context of Transfer Evaluation
- Clarity on Equity Considerations

## IV.D Technical Review of Transfer Applications



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BOARD DISCUSSION

## IV.E June 2026 TAC Meeting Agenda

### Recommended Actions:

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

### Fiscal Impact:

None. TAC meetings were included in the approved WY 2026 budget.

## IV.E – TAC Meeting Agenda

- TAC meeting is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am
- Agenda items:
  - WY 2027 Budget Discussion
  - Technical Analysis for Water Rights Transfers

## IV.E June 2026 TAC Meeting Agenda



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BOARD DISCUSSION

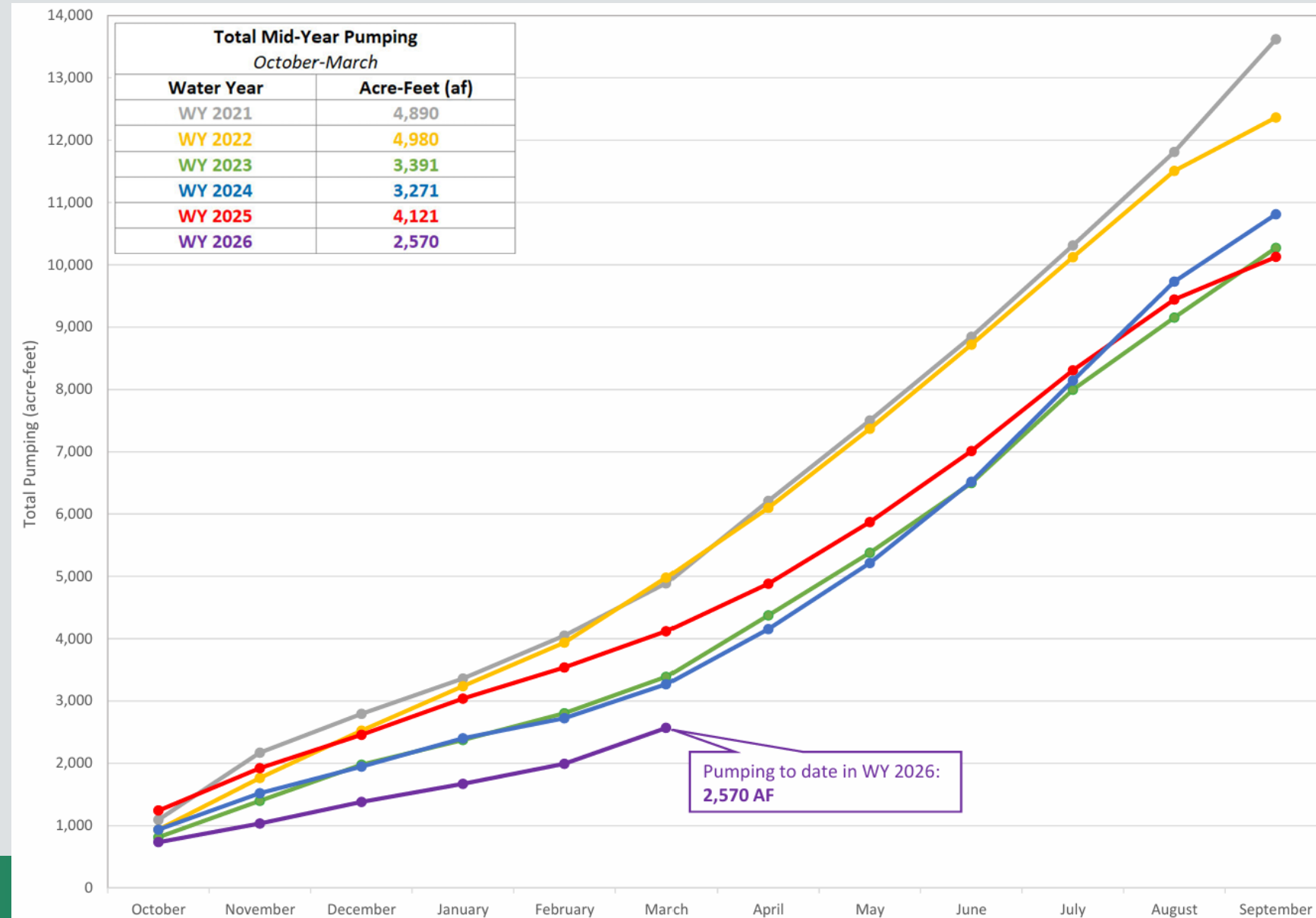
## IV.F Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026

Monthly measured groundwater production data for the first half of WY 2026 (Oct-Mar) was assessed to:

1. Determine if individual Parties and the Basin are on-track to meet, exceed, or pump less than the Annual Allocation for WY 2026.
2. Identify and notify any Parties that may be at risk of pumping in exceedance of their maximum allowable pumping for the WY.
3. Compare groundwater pumping during the first six months of the current WY (WY 2026) to the same period from the prior WYs (WY 2021-2025).

# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026: October 2025 – March 2026

- Groundwater pumping in WY 2026 is:
  - 1,551 af less than WY 2025
  - The lowest volume pumped since WY 2021
- 3 Parties are at risk of pumping in exceedance of their Maximum Allowable Allocation
  - 1 Party has nearly pumped its total allowable



# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026: By Sector

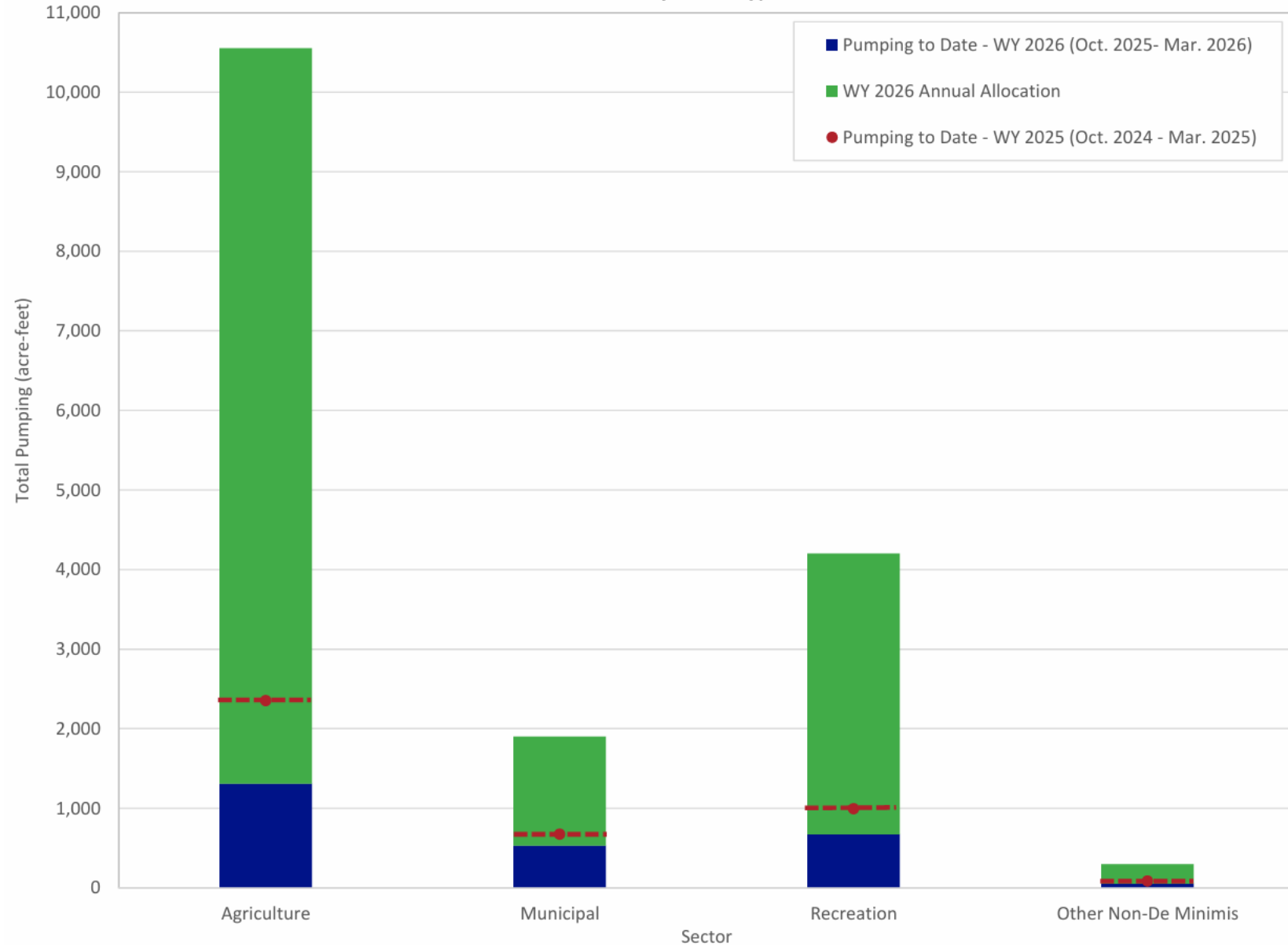
- Agriculture sector pumped the most (51% of total pumping)
- Other Non-De Minimis pumped the least (2% of total pumping)
- All sectors pumped less in WY 2026 compared to WY 2025
  - Agriculture sector decreased the most by 1,048 AF

Exhibit 4. Total Mid-Year Pumping (October to March) by Sector – WY 2026 vs. WY 2025

Sector	WY 2026		WY 2025	
	Total Mid-Year Pumping ( <i>acre-feet</i> )	Percent of Total Mid-Year Pumping	Total Mid-Year Pumping ( <i>acre-feet</i> )	Percent of Total Mid-Year Pumping
Agriculture	1,310	51%	2,358	57%
Municipal	533	21%	677	16%
Other Non-De Minimis	52	2%	89	2%
Recreation	675	26%	998	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,570</b>		<b>4,121</b>	

# Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026 Compared to Annual Allocation

Exhibit 2. Pumping-to-date (October 2025 - March 2026) Compared to WY 2026 Annual Allocation  
By Sector Type



- WY 2026 Annual Allocation is 73.27% of BPA
- 25% = average percent of Annual Allocation pumped across all Parties

# Next Steps

**May 2026** - Parties notified of their pumping-to-date

**July 2026** - Parties notified of the Overproduction Penalty Assessment and reminded to execute lease or transfer Carryover or Annual Allocation to avoid any Penalty Assessments by end of Water Rights Accounting Process (October 2026)

## IV.F Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026



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BOARD DISCUSSION

# V.A – Legal Counsel Report

# V.B – Technical Consultant Report

## TAC Member Update

- John Peterson has resigned from the TAC effective April 7, 2026
- Mr. Peterson remains a member of the EWG

## Report Out: Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Event

- Semi-Annual Monitoring Event was performed April 26 – 30<sup>th</sup>
- Groundwater-level data were collected at 58 of the 59 wells in the network
  - Palleson well not measured due to property access issues
- Groundwater-quality data were collected at 38 of the 40 wells in the network
  - NMA-1 and NMA-8 wells were not sampled because they are permanently offline
  - Replacement wells will likely be needed
- Results will be presented in the Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report following receipt and analysis of all data

# V.B – Technical Consultant Report

## Budget Status: Scope of Work to Review GDE Study Report

### 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	Apr-26 (DRAFT)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$53,382</b>	<b>\$3,911.50</b>	<b>\$5,977.75</b>	<b>\$8,689.75</b>	<b>\$5,154.50</b>	<b>\$5,911.50</b>	<b>\$5,801.00</b>	<b>\$6,539.00</b>	<b>\$42,244.50</b>	<b><u>\$11,137.50</u></b>
EWG Meetings and Address Ad Hoc Requests: <i>GDE Report Review</i>	<b>\$37,640</b>	\$3,911.50	\$5,977.75	\$8,689.75	\$5,154.50	\$5,911.50	\$5,801.00	\$1,929.00	<b>\$37,634.50</b>	<b><u>\$5.50</u></b>
Technical Work to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield*	<b>\$15,742</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,610.00	<b>\$4,651.00</b>	<b><u>\$11,132.00</u></b>

# V.C – Executive Director Report

## Public Information Session on the 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update

- Session held on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:15 pm to discuss April 24<sup>th</sup> public draft reports
- 21 attendees!
- Public questions and comments included:
  - **UCI GDE Study Report** – majority of comments were focused on this:
    - Concerns that results are not presented in draft report
    - Emphasis on the urgency to take action
    - Perceived disconnected between optimistic conclusions of the assessment on the Basin’s progress towards sustainability compared to UCI’s characterization of mesquite bosque
    - Recommendations to include GDE-related data in draft reports and reassess sustainability conclusions
  - **Groundwater Monitoring Program** – Question about how changing the number of monitoring wells in the monitoring program could impact data quality and program effectiveness
  - **Public Review Process** – Concern about timeline to receive, review, and incorporate public comments in draft report
  - **Sustainable Yield and BVHM** – Questions about climate projections, increase in Sustainable Yield, and model discrepancies

# V.C – Executive Director Report

## Annual Meter Verifications

- 2 additional tests were submitted since April 2026 report-out. Both wells were in compliance
- Watermaster is still awaiting results from 5 wells (3 Parties)
  - 2 Parties have indicated they have scheduled verification tests
- Watermaster staff continues to follow up with the owners to remind them the wells must be tested and results reported to remain in good standing with the Watermaster

## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026

- Invoices for 1<sup>st</sup> installment were issued in November 2025 (due Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>)
- 99% in payment has been received to-date (\$173,712)
- <1% of invoiced amount still pending (\$1,312)
  - Reminders of past-due invoices were sent out the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Invoices for 2<sup>nd</sup> installment will be issued by May 31, 2026; payment is due June 30, 2026

## V.C – Executive Director Report

### BPA Party Updates

- T2 Tilting T LLC is now officially a Party to the Judgment with full access to the BPA rights associated with the Permanent BPA Transfer with Land Conveyance.
  - The Court granted the application for Intervention as a Defendant Transferee on April 9, 2026
  - The Notice of Entry of Order is available upon request
- One Party remains out of compliance:
  - Outstanding balance = \$392.56
  - Assumed pumping is 1.20 afy (based on Water Duty estimates)

# V.D – Chairperson’s Report

# VI. Establishing Agenda for June 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting

## Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for June 3, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

## Process:

1. Review the initial June agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the tentative topics planned by Staff and previously requested items by Board members, as listed below
3. List out additional items that have arisen during the current Board meeting
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the June 2026 or other future agenda
5. Consider motion(s) to approve the agenda (the agenda can be approved in a single motion or multiple motions to cover each item).

Note: The Agenda/items are approved by majority vote (3 of 5 directors)

# Initial Agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> June Special Meeting

1. Consideration of Approval of Changes to the 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update
  - a. Review public comments on the reports
  - b. Request approval of any recommended response to comments and/or changes to the reports based on comments received
  - c. Direct Legal Counsel to formally notice intent to consider approval to amend the Judgment at the June 24, 2026 meeting and schedule Court hearing date
2. WY 2027 Draft Budget – opportunity to further review and refine the budget prior to approval

## Future Agenda Items

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Special June Meeting (June 24<sup>th</sup>):

1. Consideration of Approval of the WY 2027 Budget
2. Consideration of Approval of the 5-Yr Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update:
  - a. Finalize the 5-Yr Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update, with any final recommended changes
  - b. Submit the reports to DWR by June 25, 2026
  - c. File a motion with the Court to amend the Judgment to replace Exhibit 1 with the 2026 GMP Update
3. Report out from June 10, 2026 TAC meeting - *Anticipate discussion on next steps with respect to technical review of transfers*

### July

Propose canceling if no urgent topics

### August

1. Technical Review of Transfers
2. Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Results
3. WY 2026 – Q3 Budget Status Report (as of June 30, 2026)
4. Consideration of Approval of Amendment to West Yost Contract to perform WY 2027 Services
5. WY 2027 Meeting Schedule and Priorities

# Set Agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> June Special Meeting (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)

1. Consideration of Approval of Changes to the 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update
  - a. Review public comments on the reports
  - b. Request approval of any recommended response to comments and/or changes to the reports based on comments received
  - c. Direct Legal Counsel to formally notice intent to consider approval to amend the Judgment at the June 24, 2026 meeting and schedule Court hearing date
2. WY 2027 Draft Budget – opportunity to further review and refine the budget prior to approval

# VI. Establishing Agenda for June 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting



TAKE PUBLIC  
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

# VII. Board Member Comments

## **VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster**

- Special Board Meeting – June 3, 2026
- Special Board Meeting – June 24, 2026
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – June 10, 2026

## IX. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!