

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Directors Present	Chair Tyler Bilyk – Agricultural Sector
	Vice Chair Jim Bennett – County of San Diego
	Treasurer Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector
	Secretary Gina Moran – Borrego Water District (BWD)
	Mark Jorgensen – Community Representative
Watermaster Staff Present	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost
	Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost
	Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost
Others Present	David Garmon
	Geoff Poole
	Gina Moran, BWD Board Member
	Jessica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Office
	Jim Dax, Board Alternate - Community Representative
	Kathy Dice, BWD Board Member
	Laurel Brigham, UCI
	Rich Pinel, Board Alternate - Recreational Sector
	Rodney Bruce, Rams Hill
	Stephanie and Thomas DiPalma
	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](https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the May 20, 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.

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:00
- B. Chair Bilyk led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. 00:00:13
- C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present. 00:00:32
- D. Approval of Agenda. The Board discussed the agenda topics for the May 20, 2026 Board meeting. 00:01:00

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

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen, seconded by Chair Bilyk to approve the Agenda. 00:01:23

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. 00:01:44

B. *Public Comments.* Chair Bilyk called for public comments. Public comment was made by: 00:02:47

- David Garmon on the topic of the University of California Irvine (UCI) Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study Report and the Technical Consultant (TC) and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports.
- Jim Dax on the topic of the UCI GDE Study Report and the TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports.

III. Consent Calendar

Chair Bilyk called for discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the May 20, 2026 agenda package. 00:07:55

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

Motion: Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve the Consent Calendar. 00:10:01

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

IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action

A. *Technical Consultant and TAC/EWG Recommendations on the Next Steps Related to UCI GDE Study Report.* Andy Malone gave a presentation on the TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports. 00:10:28

- Public comments were made by David Garmon, Rich Pinel, Tammy Baker, Stephanie DiPalma, and Jim Dax.
- The Board directed Staff to proceed with preparing a legal opinion on whether the Watermaster's management and proposed monitoring programs satisfy SGMA requirements regarding consideration of potential GDEs. The legal opinion should be prepared using WY 2026 budget, be submitted with sufficient time for review by the Settling Party attorneys, and be brought to the Board for review at the August Board meeting.

Motion: Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Director Smith, to create a subcommittee of Directors Smith and Jorgensen and directing them to proceed with inquiring about irrigating mesquite on private land. 01:59:27

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

- B. *TAC Recommendations on Technical Scope-of-Work to Redetermine Sustainable Yield by 2030.* Mr. Malone gave a presentation summarizing TAC feedback received at its May 4, 2026 TAC meeting and the memo included in the agenda package. 02:01:31
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued. Following discussion, the Board directed Staff to: i) use Budget Option B (no HCM update) in the draft WY 2027 budget, and ii) not bring this topic back to the TAC for further discussion.
- C. *Draft WY 2027 Budget.* ED Adams summarized the draft WY 2027 budget included in the agenda package and requested Board feedback. 02:18:12
- Public comment was made by Rich Pinel.
 - Board discussion ensued. Following discussion, the Board directed Staff to prepare the draft final budget for WY 2027 in consideration of the Board's input.
- D. *Technical Review of Transfer Applications.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 02:44:32
- Public comment was made by Trey Driscoll.
 - Board discussion ensued. Following discussion, the Board directed Staff to proceed with developing a draft interim framework for transfer evaluations using existing information (Option #1 in the agenda package) and obtaining TAC feedback on the draft framework at the June TAC meeting.
- E. *Consideration of Approval of June 2026 TAC Meeting Agenda.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 03:48:34
- No public comments were made.
 - Board discussion ensued to determine action.
- Motion:** Motioned by Vice Chair Bennett, seconded by Chair Bilyk, to approve the June TAC agenda, including (i) discussion on the technical analysis for water rights transfers, and (ii) a 15-minute presentation by Trey Driscoll on his memo to the Board and TAC. 03:52:44
- Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*
- F. *Review of Pumping-to-Date in WY 2026.* Lauren Salberg reviewed the status of pumping-to date in WY 2026. 03:53:20
- Public comment was made by Tammy Baker.
 - Board discussion ensued and no action was taken.

V. Reports.

A. *Legal Counsel Report.* Mr. Markman had no topics to report on. 04:03:48

- There was no Board discussion.

B. *Technical Consultant Report.* Mr. Malone reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 67 through 68 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 04:03:55

- There was no Board discussion.

C. *Executive Director Report.* ED Adams reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 69 through 71 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 04:06:40

- There was no Board discussion.

D. *Chairperson's Report.* Chair Bilyk had no report. 04:12:53

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for June 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting

ED Adams reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the next several Board meetings listed in the agenda package. 04:13:03

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

Motion: Motioned by Chair Bilyk, seconded by Director Moran, to approve the following agenda for the June 3, 2026 Special Board Meeting: 04:16:29

- Consideration of approval of changes to the 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update
- WY 2027 Draft Budget

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

VII. Board Member Comments

Chair Bilyk called for comments. Board discussion, including Legal Counsel opinion, included: 04:17:01

- Recommendation to publicize that the Basin is on-track to pump below its Sustainable Yield in Wy 2026 by publishing the information in the local newspapers and sending to DWR.
- Next steps on Board discussion on the UCI GDE Study Report.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

Chair Bilyk reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package. 04:21:33

IX. Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM. 04:21:56



Recorded by:

Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost



Attest:

Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board