

Borrego Springs Watermaster Special Board Meeting

June 3, 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 15, 2026 memo and presentation from Trey Driscoll
- May 26, 2026 letter from David Garmon

II.B – Public Comment

Instructions for Public Comment

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

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

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

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

III.A Changes to 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update

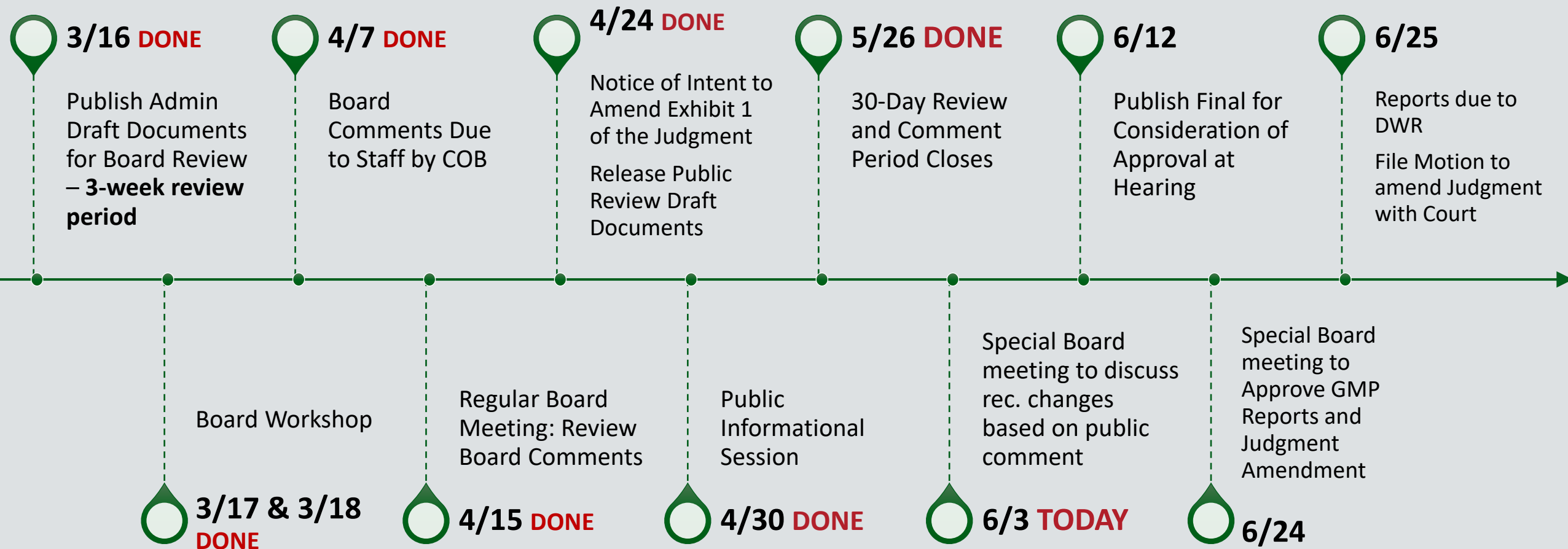
Recommended Actions:

1. Approve the recommended changes to the 5-Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (5-Yr Assessment Report) based on public feedback, as described herein.
2. Direct Staff to prepare the draft final 5-Yr Assessment Report and 2026 Groundwater Management Plan Update (2026 GMP Update) for publication by June 12, 2026, incorporating any approved changes per (1) above.
3. Direct Staff to send notice to the Parties by June 12, 2026 of the Watermaster Board's intent to consider approval to amend the Judgment to replace the current Exhibit 1 (2020 GMP) with the 2026 GMP Update at its June 24, 2026 Board meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

None. The work is included in the approved, amended budget for WY 2026.

Progress to Complete Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update



III.A – Public Comments on 5-Year Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update

- Comments received verbally and in writing (through chat) during April 30th Information Session
- 1 comment letter received (53 pages)
- Nearly all public comments, including the written comment letter, were related to the UCI Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study Report. Generally, the comments focused on:
 - Concern that the results of the UCI GDE Study Report are not documented in the draft reports
 - Concern that exclusion of the UCI Study would delay Watermaster action on the report information until the next five-year assessment
 - Recommendations to include GDE-related data from the UCI Study Report and reassess sustainability conclusions accordingly

III.A – Public Comments on 5-Year Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update

- Other minor feedback was focused on:
 - The ability of Watermaster to address the public comments in the short time between the close of the public comment period and the approval of the final reports
 - Concern about the use of the BHVM given uncertainty in the model results in some areas of the Basin
 - Interest in how climate change was considered in the 5-Year Assessment
 - Interest in the implication of potential future reductions to the monitoring program, with respect to the Watermaster's ability to understand water quality conditions

III.A – Public Comments on 5-Year Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update

- Based on public comments received, **no changes to the 2026 GMP Update** are recommended
- The following changes to the 5-Year Assessment Report are recommended:
 - **Chapter 2.2.5 – Environmental Working Group:** Expand discussion on the UCI GDE Study report to include the report’s conclusions and recommendations that are under review by the Watermaster
 - **Chapter 1 – Regulatory Background and Assessment Objectives:** Add summary of the workshop and outreach meetings conducted through the development of the reports to address concerns about meaningful consideration of public comments
 - **Appendix D – Public Comments:** Add this new appendix documenting public comments received and Watermaster responses (Included in staff memo)

III.A – Public Comments on 5-Year Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update

- Appendix D – Response to Comments
 - Due to similarity of comments received, responses to comments have been organized by topic rather than responding individually to each comment
- Comprehensive response to GDE Study Report-related comments:
 - Emphasizes the reporting period of the 5-Year assessment report, which ended Sep 30, 2025
 - Details process to review UCI GDE Study Report
 - Documents activities of the Watermaster since September 2025 (through May 2025)
 - Identifies incorrect assumption that because the UCI GDE Study Report findings, and work performed in WY 2026, are not documented in the 5-Year Assessment Report or the 2026 GMP Update, that no action can be taken by the Watermaster to adapt its management plan until the next 5-Year Assessment and GMP update

III.A – Public Comments on 5-Year Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update

- Next steps toward approval on June 24th and submittal to DWR by 25th:
 - Compile the final 2026 GMP Update PDF document (no changes to April 24th draft)
 - Incorporate today’s Board-approved changes in the 5-Year Assessment Report
 - Prepare **Table ES-2 of the 5-Year Assessment Report** – this table provides the DWR-required crosswalk mapping of the Alternative Plan (e.g. the Judgment and 2026 GMP Update) to the requirements of a GSP
 - Publish the draft final reports on June 12th
 - Email Parties of notice of intent to amend the Judgment to replace Exhibit 1 with the 2026 GMP Update

III.A – Public Comments on 5-Year Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update

Recommended Actions:

1. Approve the recommended changes to the 5-Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (5-Yr Assessment Report) based on public feedback, as described herein.
2. Direct Staff to prepare the draft final 5-Yr Assessment Report and 2026 Groundwater Management Plan Update (2026 GMP Update) for publication by June 12, 2026, incorporating any approved changes per (1) above.
3. Direct Staff to send notice to the Parties by June 12, 2026 of the Watermaster Board's intent to consider approval to amend the Judgment to replace the current Exhibit 1 (2020 GMP) with the 2026 GMP Update at its June 24, 2026 Board meeting.

III.A Changes to 5-Yr Assessment Report & 2026 GMP Update



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COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

III.B Draft WY 2027 Budget

Recommended Actions:

Approve the recommended Water Year (WY) 2027 Budget (with modifications, as needed) OR recommend changes to be brought back for consideration of approval at the June 24, 2026 Special Board meeting.

The Judgment requires a supermajority vote (4 of 5 Board members) to establish the budget.

Fiscal Impact.

- Expenditures of \$557,110
- Revenues of \$636,442, funded by pumping assessments and payment on pass-through expenses
- Cash reserves maintained equal to or near the reserve policy of **nine months** of operating expenses
- The expenditures for West Yost administrative and technical services include an average 4 percent increase to staff billing rates.

III.B Draft WY 2027 Budget

- WY 2027 Budget updated to address feedback at May Board meeting, including
 - The Pumping Assessment may not be sufficient to provide for an unencumbered cash reserve that is equal to nine months of operating expenses → revised financial model and computed updated pumping assessment recommendation
 - Board-selected scope of work to advance the 2030 Sustainable Yield redetermination (option B from May Board Package)
 - Adjusting the EWG budget down to the committed amount of \$20,000 – recognizing that changes can be made after legal opinion is completed
- No other changes made to May 2026 draft of the WY 2027 Budget

III.B Draft WY 2027 Budget

- Pumping Assessment – updated to \$625,000 based on changes to financial model

Assessment (\$)	Average Number of Months of Operating Reserve Maintained During the WY when Cash Reserves are Projected on an Accrual Basis				
	<u>WY 2027</u>	<u>WY 2028</u>	<u>WY 2029</u>	<u>WY 2030</u>	<u>WY 2031</u>
\$625,000 (recommended)	10.9	10.1	9.1	9.1	8.4
\$600,000 (May Estimate)	10.7	9.4	8.0	7.4	6.36

As shown in the table, an annual Pumping Assessment of \$600,000 would not be enough to maintain the desired level of unencumbered reserves after WY 2028, thus an annual Pumping Assessment of \$625,000 is recommended.

III.B Draft WY 2027 Budget

- Once the WY 2027 Budget is approved, Staff will:
 - Publish the WY 2026 budget no later than July 1, 2026 and send notice to the Parties of its adoption
 - Report to the Board if any challenges to the Budget are noticed to Watermaster by July 31, 2026

III.B Draft WY 2027 Budget

Recommended Actions:

Approve the recommended Water Year (WY) 2027 Budget (with modifications, as needed). ***The Judgment requires a supermajority vote (4 of 5 Board members) to establish the budget.***

Approval of the WY 2027 Budget as recommended herein includes approval of the following:

- An Overproduction Penalty Assessment Rate of \$500 per acre-foot
- WY 2027 Pumping Assessment of \$625,000
- Total operating expenditure in the amount of \$557,110
- West Yost Contract Amendment No. 16 to replace Exhibit A with the Statement of Work No. 9 for WY 2027, replace Exhibit B with West Yost's revised billing rate schedule, and extend the contract expiration to December 31, 2027 (one year extension)

III.B Draft WY 2027 Budget



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BOARD DISCUSSION

III.C Next Steps on Requested Public Outreach Efforts

Recommended Actions:

Provide direction to Staff on specifics of requested public outreach via media.

Fiscal Impact:

This specific activity was not budgeted for in WY 2026, however there are line items with available budget to cover the effort, including “As-needed Support for Administration of the Judgment and GMP”.

III.C Next Steps on Requested Public Outreach Efforts

- What is media outreach preference?
 - Run as an ad in local/regional papers?
 - Press release?
 - Who should be the contact for follow-up?
- Recommend an Outreach Subcommittee to review content

III.C Next Steps on Requested Public Outreach Efforts



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BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.A – Legal Counsel Report

IV.B – Chairperson’s Report

V. Establishing Agenda for June 24, 2026 Special Board Meeting

Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for June 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Process:

1. Review the initial June agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the future 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 June 24th Special Meeting

1. Consideration of Approval of the WY 2027 Budget (*if not approved during June 3rd meeting*)
2. Consideration of Approval of the 5-Yr Assessment Report & 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, with notice to all Parties
 - d. Schedule a Court hearing on the Motion, as soon as a Court Date is available
3. Technical Review of Transfers

Future Agenda Items

July

Propose canceling due to two meetings in June

August

1. Review Legal Opinion on SGMA Requirements for GDEs
2. Technical Review of Transfers
3. Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Results
4. WY 2026 – Q3 Budget Status Report (as of June 30, 2026)
5. WY 2027 Meeting Schedule and Priorities

Set Agenda for June 24th Special Meeting

1. Consideration of Approval of the 5-Yr Assessment Report & 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, with notice to all Parties
 - d. Schedule a Court hearing on the Motion, as soon as a Court Date is available
2. Technical Review of Transfers
3. Public Outreach

V. Establishing Agenda for June 24, 2026 Special Board Meeting



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BOARD DISCUSSION

VI. Board Member Comments

VII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Special Board Meeting – June 24, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting – July 15, 2026 (*tentative, may cancel*)
- Regular Board Meeting – August 19, 2026

- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – June 10, 2026

VIII. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!