

Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

June 24, 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 through 6/17 – *none received*

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. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – May 20, 2026
- B. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting – June 3, 2026
- C. Approval of May 2026 Financial Report
- D. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from March 2026
- E. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from April 2026

IV.A Consideration of Approval of the Draft Final 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update

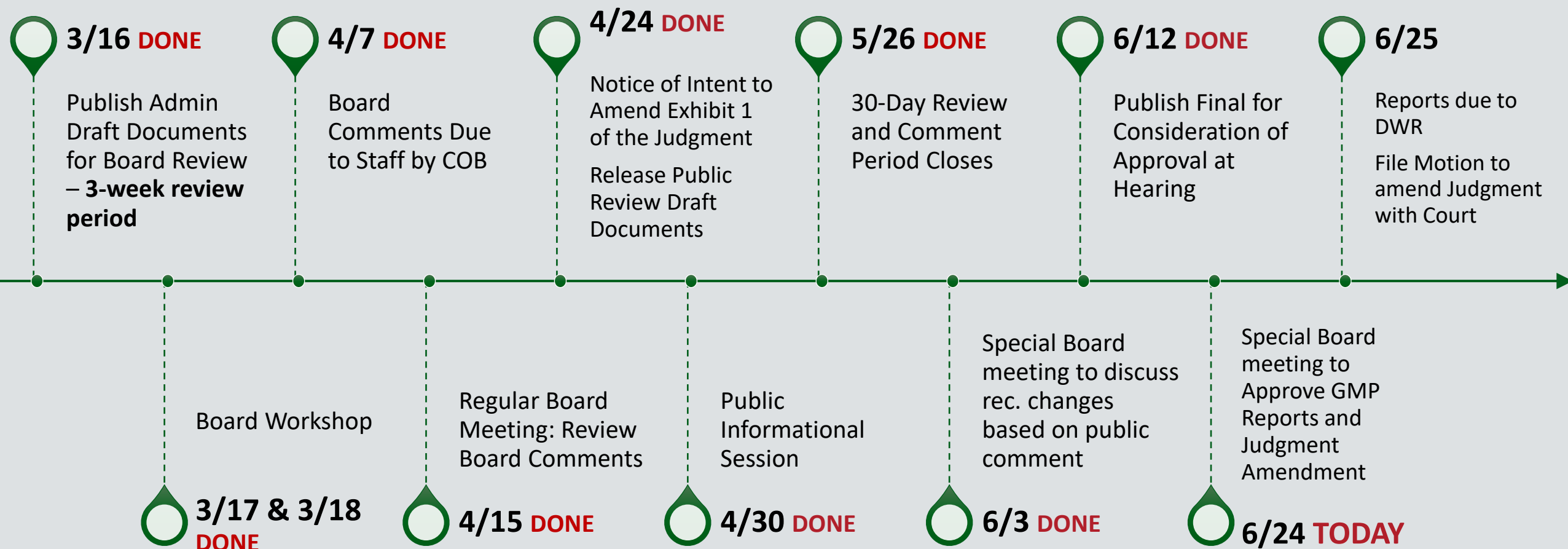
Recommended Actions:

1. Approve the *Five-Year Assessment of the Judgment and Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* and *2026 Update to the Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* for submission to DWR and the Court.
2. Approve filing a motion with the Court to amend the Judgment to replace the current Exhibit 1, the *2020 Groundwater Management Plan* for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, with the *2026 Update to the Groundwater Management Plan* for the Borrego Springs Subbasin; and direct Legal Counsel to file the motion, with notice to all Parties, and schedule a hearing with the Court as soon as a Court date is available.
3. Approve the enclosed draft letter to DWR as proof of Watermaster approval of the subject documents, for signature by the Chair and Executive Director.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Progress to Complete Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update



IV.A Consideration of Approval of the Draft Final 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update

- Changes made following June 3rd Board meeting
 - 2026 GMP Update: Chapter 1 – updated Watermaster contact information
 - 5-Yr Assessment Report
 - Executive Summary – Table ES-2: Judgment/2026 GMP crosswalk to GSP requirements
 - Chapter 1.4 – Process to complete the reports
 - Chapter 2.2.5 – expanded discussion to include conclusions and recommendations of UCI GDE Study Report
 - Appendix D – Response to Public Comments

IV.A Consideration of Approval of the Draft Final 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update

- Next Steps if Board takes recommended actions
 - Remove “unapproved” watermark
 - Create clean copy of 2026 GMP Update (for DWR requirements)
 - Upload required files to the SGMA Portal **by June 25th**
 - Signed letter from Watermaster verifying approval of documents at a public meeting
 - Proof of notice of intent to adopt the reports (April 26th and June 12th notices)
 - Copies of, or links to, references cited in the 5-Yr Assessment Report
 - Revised list of representative monitoring wells per the 2026 GMP Update
 - File motion with the Court to amend the Judgment to replace Exhibit 1 with the 2026 GMP Update and request a court date to hear the motion

IV.A Consideration of Approval of the Draft Final 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION

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IV.A Consideration of Approval of the Draft Final 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update



TAKE PUBLIC
COMMENT



BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

Recommended Actions:

Provide direction to Staff on next steps for finalizing a technically supported framework for imposing locational restrictions on transfers to facilitate Board review and action on transfer applications.

Fiscal Impact:

TBD. Cost will depend on additional work requested by the Board. It should be noted there is limited available budget for additional technical analysis in WY 2026.

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

Memo Overview

- Judgment context – relevant transfer and implementation requirements from Sections III.I.(5) and IV.E.9
- Related actions and direction – summarizes work to date and Board direction
- Summary of Staff's technical conclusions and implications for transfers (full analysis details in enclosed memo to TAC)
- Draft proposed transfer restriction framework
- Summary of TAC written comments – all comments enclosed
- Discussion and next steps – identifies input requested from the Board

Methods and Conclusions

*All in acknowledgement of model limitations and uncertainty

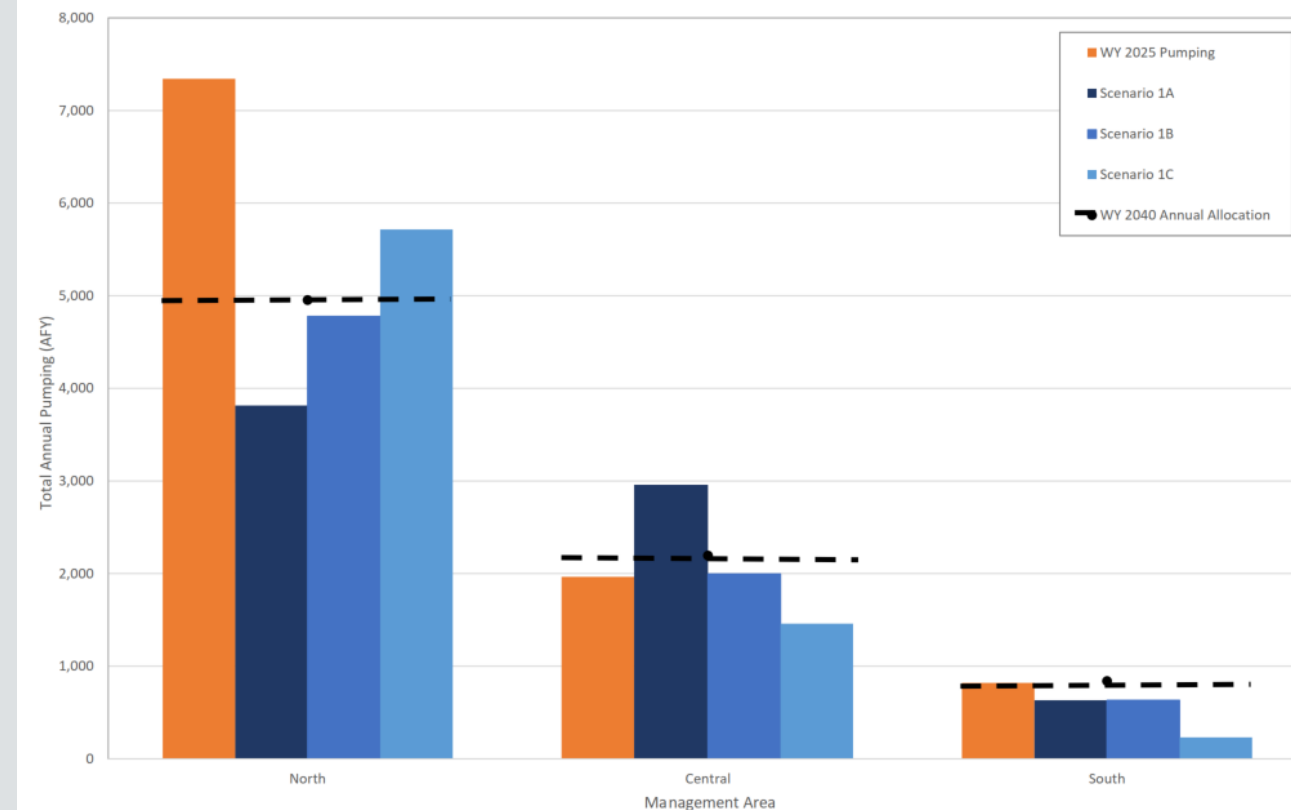
Methods

- Reviewed distribution of pumping in BVHM Scenarios 1A-1C relative to Judgment Scenario
- Evaluated future changes in GW levels in 1A-1C

Key Conclusions

- Location of pumping materially affects GWL outcomes
- GWLs projected to decline in the CMA/SMA after 2040 in Scenarios 1A/1B, but increase in the NMA
- GWLs are most stable across the Basin after 2040 in Scenario 1C
- Pumping under the Judgment rights is similar to Scenario 1B, which does not result in a sustainable outcome in CMA/SMA
- Therefore, no demonstrated capacity to increase BPA in CMA/SMA through transfers
- NMA appears to have capacity to support transfers from SMA/CMA, but it may need to be reserved for pumpers who cannot sustainably access their water rights in CMA/SMA

Figure 2. Average Pumping from 2040 to 2070 vs. Annual Allocation, by Management Area



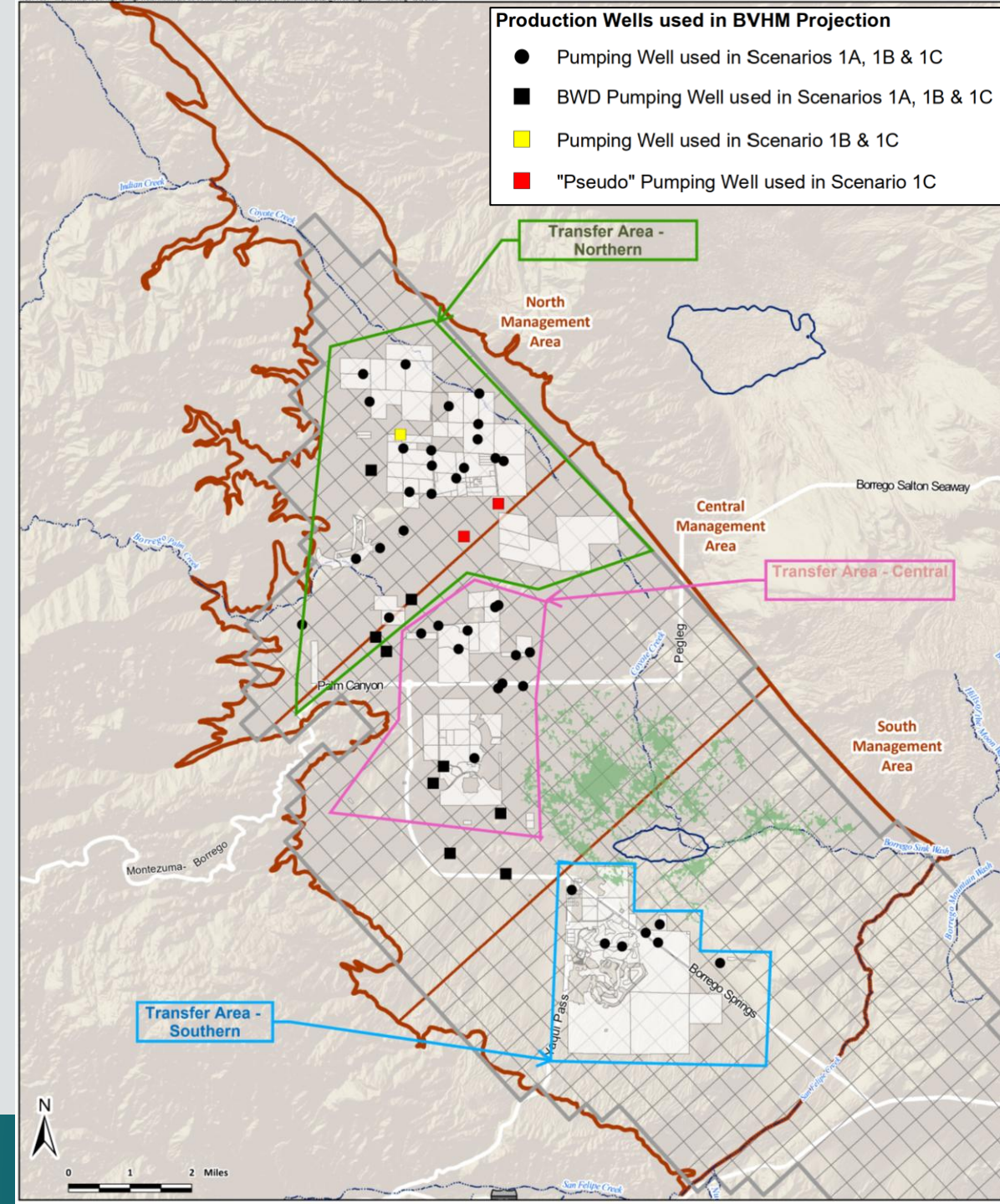
Proposed Transfer Areas

Recommendations

- Delineate Transfer Areas for purposes of applying transfer restrictions based on information at this time
- Transfer Areas are BPA parcel-based, considered where pumping occurred in BVHM projections, and generally correspond to the northern, central, and southern portions of the Basin, but do not exactly match MAs

Transfer Framework (for all types – Permanent, CO):

- No transfers into the Southern Transfer Area from Central or Northern Area
- No transfers into the Central Transfer Area from Southern or Northern Area
- No transfers into the Northern Transfer Area from Southern or Central Area
- Allow transfers among parcels within the same Transfer Area
 - Subject to Judgment requirements and review for new well impacts



IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

- TAC input received from 4 of 5 TAC members

TAC Feedback – Areas of General Alignment

- Pumping location is relevant to transfer review
- Existing BVHM results provide useful information, but with limitations
- Most commenters supported restrictions into the Central and Southern Transfer Areas (3 of 4)
- The framework should be refined over time as new data and analysis become available

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

TAC Feedback – Open Questions and Requested Clarifications

- How Carryover, leases, and transfer-specific review would occur
- What is the basis for Transfer Area boundaries
 - Why are the northeastern CMA parcels assigned to the Northern Transfer Area
 - Broader technical justification requested
 - Judgment allows transfer of BPA to new parcels, subject to limitations, how will this impact?
- Appropriateness of use of Scenario 1B as a proxy for Judgment-allowed pumping
 - 1B pumps less than a Judgment Scenario by about 600 afy from 2040 to 2070
- How would capacity in Northern Transfer Area be evaluated?
- Relationship to future PMA No. 6 evaluation?

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

TAC Feedback – Technical Concerns and Criticism

- Model uncertainty and scale limitation
- Use of groundwater-level stability versus minimum thresholds
- Arbitrary definition of groundwater-level stability
- Need for observed data and adaptive management
- Potential need for applicant-funded, case-by-case analysis
- Potential impacts to NMA return flows and remaining allocation holders
- Cost and mitigation responsibility for transfer impacts

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

Request for Board Input

- Is additional technical analysis needed at this time?
- If no additional technical work is requested at this time, what changes are recommended to the framework?
- Does the Board want to provide responses to the TAC with respect to their questions/concerns?
- Do you want additional input from the TAC?
- How should the framework be formalized to support the Board's review of transfer applications? Board resolution or other mechanism?

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections

Additional Considerations

- Insufficient time to perform and consider additional modeling results before closing out WY 2026 accounting
 - Can an interim approach be developed based on the analysis?
- Additional modeling work will require a budget amendment, whether in 2026 or 2027
- Limited budget available to perform additional technical analysis and finalize framework
- How to address locational transfer restrictions for BWD given BPA is not tied to Parcels
 - how to retain Judgment-intended flexibility and honor any restrictions

IV.B Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections



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BOARD DISCUSSION

V.A – Legal Counsel Report

V.B – Technical Consultant Report

V.C – Executive Director Report

Annual Meter Verifications

- 4 additional tests were submitted since May 2026 report-out. All wells were in compliance.
- Watermaster is still awaiting results from 1 Party's well
 - Staff continues to follow up with the owner to remind them the well must be tested and results reported to remain in good standing with the Watermaster

BPA Party Updates

- One Party remains out of compliance:
 - Outstanding balance = \$392.56
 - Assumed pumping is 1.20 afy (based on Water Duty estimates)

V.C – Executive Director Report

1st and 2nd Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026

- Invoices for 1st installment were issued in November 2025 (due Dec. 31st)
 - 99% in payment has been received to-date (\$173,712)
 - <1% of invoiced amount still pending (\$1,312 due by 2 Parties -- 1 Party is actively working to resolve payment)
- Invoices for 2nd installment were issued in May 2026 (totaling \$175,024) and is due by June 30th
 - \$50,265 has been received to-date
- Invoices for manual meter read services were issued in May 2026 (totaling \$10,213.92) and is due by June 30th
 - \$4,043 has been received to-date

V.D – Chairperson's Report

VI. Establishing Agenda for August 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for August 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Process:

1. Review the initial August agenda topics planned by Staff
2. List out additional items that have arisen during the current Board meeting
3. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the August 2026 or other future agenda
4. 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 August Regular Meeting

1. Review Legal Opinion on SGMA Requirements for GDEs, including consideration of whether the UCI GDE Study Report is “best available science” that can be relied on to make policy or adapt management actions
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

Future Agenda Items

Dates and Topics

TBD – to be discussed at August Board meeting

Set Agenda for August Regular Meeting

1. Review Legal Opinion on SGMA Requirements for GDEs, including consideration of whether the UCI GDE Study Report is “best available science” that can be relied on to make policy or adapt management actions
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

VI. Establishing Agenda for August 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting



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BOARD DISCUSSION

VII. Board Member Comments

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Regular Board Meeting – August 19, 2026
- WY 2027 Dates to be determined at August Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!