

Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

August 19, 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

- June 22, 2026 - 3 Letters from Holly Smit Kicklighter
- August 11, 2026 Letter from the Center for Biological Diversity
- August 12, 2026 Letter from DWR

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: Special Meeting – June 24, 2026
- B. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting – July 29, 2026
- C. Approval of June 2026 Financial Report
- D. Approval of July 2026 Financial Report
- E. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from May 2026
- F. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from June 2026

IV.A Resolution 26-01 – Technical Review of Transfer Applications

Recommended Actions:

Adopt Resolution No. 26-01 establishing a procedure for technical review of transfer applications, that includes adoption of Transfer Areas, restrictions on transfers between Transfer Areas, framework for administrative review of transfers within Transfer Areas, and applicant-funded technical review where needed

Fiscal Impacts include:

- Resolution No. 26-01 requires the development of a BVHM Judgment Scenario to facilitate application-specific technical reviews – this is not in the WY 2026 or 2027 Budget
- The Resolution requires that application-specific technical review be funded by the Parties to the proposed transfer
- Updating transfer application forms and conducting administrative review in accordance with Resolution No. 26-01 would otherwise be performed by Staff within available administrative resources

IV.A - Resolution 26-01 – Technical Review of Transfer Applications

- Staff memo provides:
 - Judgment context
 - Summary of discussions to date and how we've followed the Judgment
 - **Overview of Resolution 26-01**
 - Rationale for adopting Transfer Areas for administrative review of transfers
 - **Next Steps**

IV.A - Resolution 26-01 – Technical Review of Transfer Applications

- Resolution No. 26-01 would establish the recommended procedure for technical review of transfer applications, including locational transfer restrictions and a review process for applications that are eligible to proceed
- The Resolution is intended to implement the Judgment's transfer provisions in a manner that recognizes the current technical record, the Judgment's Exhibit 4 pumping locations, and the Board's responsibility to avoid transfers that may cause or exacerbate Undesirable Results
- The Resolution includes three exhibits:
 - Exhibit 1 – Transfer Area Map, which identifies the three Transfer Areas used to administer locational transfer restrictions
 - Exhibit 2 – Transfer Area Assignments, which lists the Parties, BPA rights, 2040 Annual Allocation, and wells assigned to each Transfer Area
 - Exhibit 3 – Technical Transfer Review Process

IV.A - Resolution 26-01 – Technical Review of Transfer Applications

- Resolution Components:
 - Adoption of Transfer Areas (Staff report documents technical rationale for boundaries)
 - Establishment of locational transfer restrictions
 - Adoption of administrative review process
 - Requirement for Judgment Scenario/Common baseline development
 - Application-specific technical review
 - Cost responsibility
 - Special legal or factual issues (e.g. these are not resolved by Resolution)
 - Board action to consider applications
 - Transfer application deadline and schedule
 - Updated transfer application forms
 - Time certain requirement to update the technical review process

Exhibit 1. Transfer Areas
Exhibit 2. Listing of BPA by TA

- The proposed Transfer Areas were delineated based on the locations of Exhibit 4 BPA parcels together with the locations of assumed future pumping in the BVHM projection scenarios
- BVHM informs where chronic lowering of groundwater level occurs under certain pumping assumptions (Scenarios 1A and 1B, specifically)

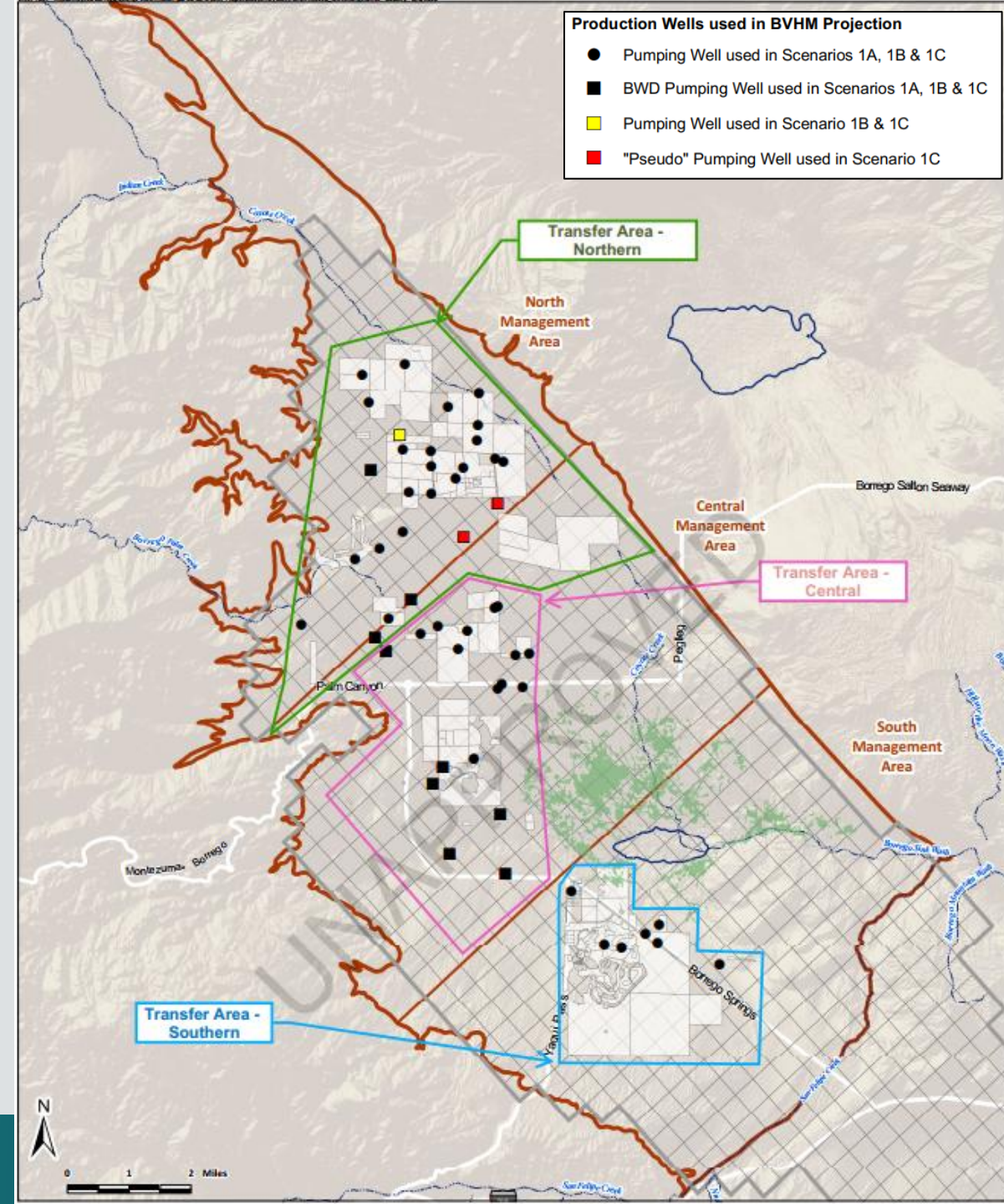
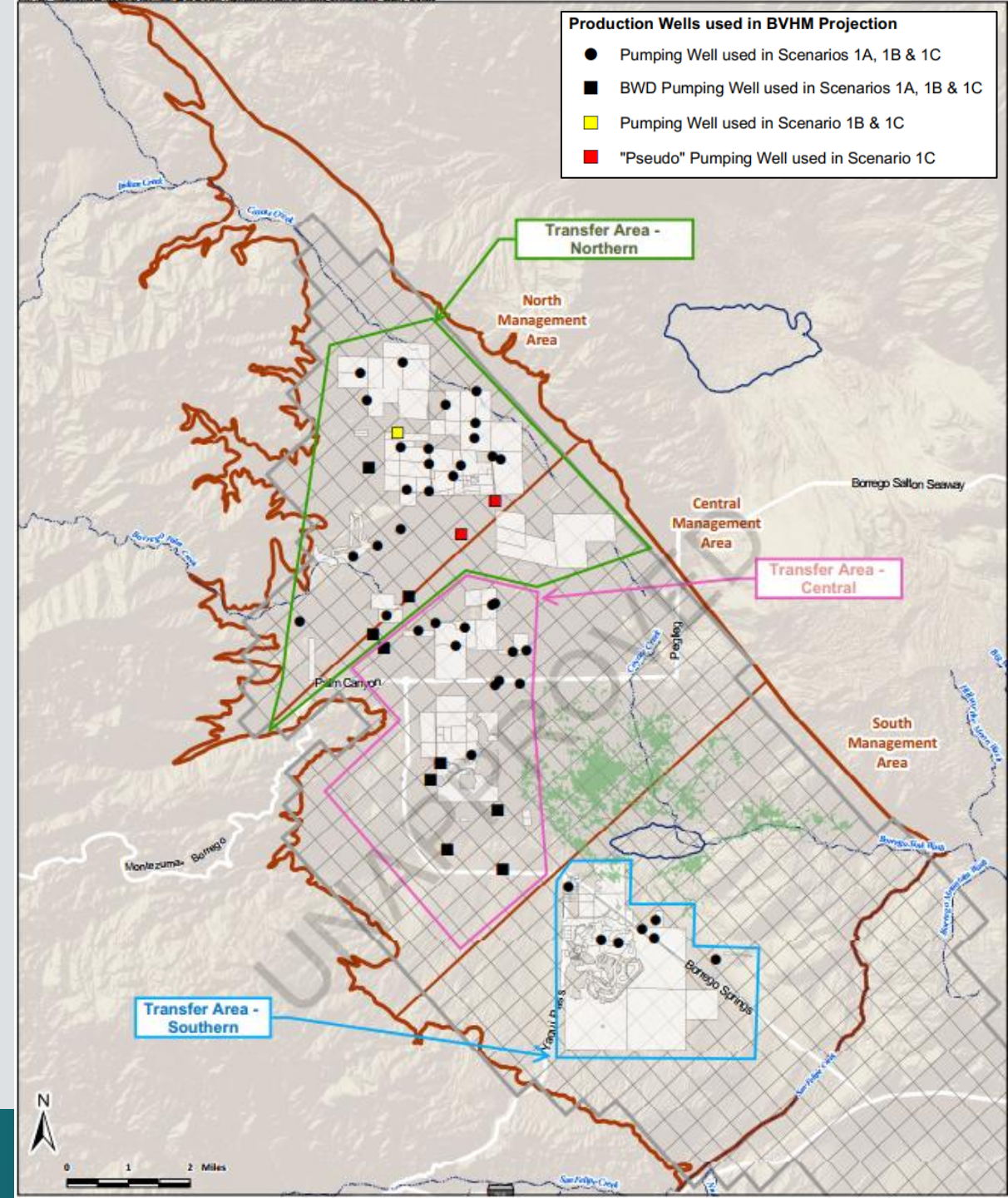


Exhibit 1. Transfer Areas
Exhibit 2. Listing of BPA by TA

- Justification for excluding northeast parcels in the CMA from the Central Transfer Area
 - Central Transfer Area has 2040 Annual Allocation of 1,861 afy
 - In BVHM scenarios, Central Transfer Area pumping was:
 - Scenario 1A = 2,930 AFY
 - Scenario 1B = 1,970 AFY
 - Scenario 1C = 1,483 AFY
 - Of these scenarios, only Scenario 1C resulted in a sustainable projected groundwater-level outcome
 - Goal – set boundary to not increase current Judgment allowed 2040 Annual Allocation in the Central Transfer Area



IV.A - Resolution 26-01 – Technical Review of Transfer Applications

- Early feedback received from:
 - T2
 - Tyler Bilyk
 - BWD
- Some feedback potentially requires additional time to address comments before adoption – could be done at a September meeting focused on this topic
- If a resolution is adopted (now or at future meeting), next steps are:
 - Finalize and publish resolution
 - Update transfer application forms
 - Notify Parties
 - Board to decide when to perform Judgment Scenario (not included in budget)

IV.A Resolution 26-01 – Technical Review of Transfer Applications



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BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.B WY 2027 Calendar Activities & Meeting Dates

Recommended Actions:

Approve proposed dates for Board meetings and select a meeting time.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Proposed WY 2027 Meeting Dates

- November 2026 – virtual meeting
- January 2027 – virtual meeting
- March 2026 – **In-person meeting**
- May 2027 – virtual meeting
- June 2027 – virtual meeting
- August 2027 – virtual meeting

Consider adjusting meeting date/time:

- *Existing Schedule:* 3rd Wednesday at 3:00 pm
- 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 8:30 or 9:00 am
- 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 1:30 pm

**note: 6 meetings included in the Budget*

WY 2027 – Q1 Activities

October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
• Staff Activities • Oct. 15th - Draft Water Rights Accounting Reports and Carryover Election requests sent to Pumpers • Fall 2026 semi-annual monitoring event • Pumper Requirements • Oct. 31st - Carryover elections due • Self-report meter reads	• <u>Board Meeting (Virtual):</u> • Election of Board Officers • WY 2026 final budget status report • Final WY 2026 Water Rights Accounting (including transfer approvals) • Approve Auditor Engagement • Dec. TAC and EWG meeting agendas • Staff Activities • Issue invoices for 1st installment of WY 2026 Pumping Assessment • Issue Overproduction Penalty Assessment invoices (if any) • Initiate WY 2026 financial audit • Pumper Requirements • Self-report meter reads	• TAC meeting #1 - • Results of draft analyses for WY 2027 to redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield • Groundwater-quality trend analysis review • Discuss Groundwater Monitoring Program optimization • EWG meeting #1 - • Closing recommendations from the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Farmlands project • Staff Activities • Issue Notice to Parties that may face an Overproduction Penalty Assessment in Nov. 2027 • Pumper Requirements • Dec. 31st - 1st Installment of WY 2027 Pumping Assessment due • Self-report meter reads

WY 2027 – Q2 Activities

January 2027	February 2027	March 2027
• <u>Board Meeting (Virtual)</u> • Draft WY 2026 Annual Report Hearing • Q1 WY 2027 budget status • TAC and EWG Meeting Report-out • Fall 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report • Staff Activities • Publish draft WY 2026 Annual Report • Inform Pumpers of requirement to complete annual meter accuracy testing • Pumper Requirements • Self-report meter reads	• Staff Activities • Publish second draft of WY 2026 Annual Report • Pumper Requirements • Annual meter accuracy testing due • Self-report meter reads • Deadline to submit water rights Transfer Applications for inclusion in WY 2027 Water Rights Accounting (<u><i>*subject to approval of Resolution 26-01</i></u>)	• <u>Board Meeting (In-Person)</u> • Approve WY 2026 Financial Audit • Approve WY 2026 Annual Report • Initial report out of administrative review of water rights transfer applications (<u><i>*subject to approval of Resolution 26-01</i></u>) • WY 2028 Budget Scoping • Staff Activities • File WY 2026 Annual Report with the Court and DWR • Initiate technical review of transfer applications, if applicable (<u><i>*subject to approval of Resolution 26-01</i></u>) • Official Watermaster read of manual-read meters (by BWD)

WY 2027 – Q3 Activities

April 2027	May 2027	June 2027
• TAC meeting #2 - • Recommendations for WY 2028 scope of work to redetermine the Sustainable Yield • Recommendations for WY 2028 Groundwater Monitoring Program budget • Staff Activities • Spring 2027 monitoring event (<i>reduced</i>) • Perform technical analysis of transfer applications, if any (<i>*subject to approval of Resolution 26-01</i>) • Pumper Requirements • Self-report meter reads	• <u>Board Meeting (Virtual)</u> • Approval of insurance renewal • Report-out from TAC meeting • Review draft WY 2028 Budget • Review pumping-to-date • Q2 WY 2027 Budget status • Staff Activities • Continue technical analysis of transfer applications, if any (<i>*subject to approval of Resolution 26-01</i>) • Publish WY 2027 mid-year pumping report to Parties • Issue invoice for 2nd Installment of WY 2027 Assessment • Issue manual-read meter invoices • Pumper Requirements • Self-report meter reads	• <u>Board Meeting (Virtual)</u> • Approve WY 2028 Budget • Review results of technical analysis of transfer applications and consider action on applications (<i>*subject to approval of Resolution 26-01</i>) • Pumper Requirements • June 30th - 2nd installment of Pumping Assessments due • Self-report meter reads

WY 2027 – Q4 Activities

July 2027	August 2027	September 2027
• Pumper Requirements • Self-report meter reads	• <u>Board Meeting (Virtual)</u> • Review WY 2028 activities and meeting dates • Q3 WY 2027 Budget status • Spring 2027 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report • Staff Activities • Prepare public outreach materials related to spring 2027 monitoring event • Pumper Requirements • Self-report meter reads	• Staff Activities • Official Watermaster read of manual-read meters (done by BWD)

Next Steps

- Select meeting time from options presented:
 - 8:30 am
 - 9:00 am
 - 1:30 pm
 - 3:00 pm
- Approve or adjust proposed schedule of meetings
- Publish WY 2027 calendar and associated activities to Watermaster website and notice to distribution list
 - Schedule will include deadline for public comments considered for inclusion in Board agenda packages

IV.B WY 2027 Calendar Activities & Meeting Dates



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BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.C Next Steps Related to Borrego Sink Mesquite Bosque

Recommended Actions:

Provide direction to Staff regarding next steps, if any, related to the Borrego Sink Mesquite Bosque.

Fiscal Impact:

- The WY 2027 budget adopted by the Board in July 2026 includes:
 - \$20,000 for activities related to the Environmental Working Group (EWG). Of this \$6,552 is set aside to wrap up efforts related to the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Study recommendations. This leaves \$13,448 for other EWG-related activities. Depending on the scope and cost of any additional activities directed by the Board, a future budget amendment may be required.
 - \$26,762 for an evaluation of how the BVHM accounts for evapotranspiration by the Mesquite Bosque, including to determine if improvements could be made to this model process

IV.C - Next Steps Related to Borrego Sink Mesquite Bosque

Activities to Date

- Received and reviewed UCI GDE Study Report
- Technical Consultant peer review of UCI GDE Study Report to consider if it is ***BAS that supports taking action to change its groundwater management plan***
- TAC and EWG review of UCI GDE Study Report
- Received and discussed TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports
 - TC determined it is not BAS in the context of taking action to change the management plan at this time and recommended:
 - Legal opinion on what is required by the Watermaster under SGMA – Board approved this action
 - Prepare workplan for GDE monitoring – No action taken, discussed deferring until after legal opinion and moving to monitoring without a work plan, if needed
 - No consensus recommendation from TAC/EWG
- Received and discussed legal opinion on GDEs and SGMA

IV.C - Next Steps Related to Borrego Sink Mesquite Bosque

Next Steps

- Board discussion and provide direction to Staff on next steps, if any, in addition to the previously approved/budgeted WY 2027 activities.
- In WY 2027:
 - Perform BVHM scope of work (October through March)
 - Any direction on how to utilize the \$13k EWG budget available?

IV.C Next Steps Related to Borrego Sink Mesquite Bosque



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BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.D WY 2026 – Q3 Budget Status Report

Recommended Actions:

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

IV.D - Budget Status Report as of June 30, 2026

- 100% of planned revenues have been accrued to date
- 83% of planned expenditures have been spent to date
- Watermaster has paid off entirety of its vendor liability (\$0)
- Cash reserves were \$509,188.66, which represents about 8.3 months of operating expenditures

IV.D - Budget Status Report as of June 30, 2026

- Total expenditures are projected to be **\$29,035 under-budget** – most tasks are projected to be on-budget except for:
 - Board Meetings – projected to be **over-budget by \$8,287** due to 1) Special Meetings in November and July and ii) two meetings that exceeded 4 hours (April and May)
 - Tasks projected to be under-budget:
 - Insurance – due to revised policy with higher deductible levels (in effect as of June 2026)
 - Interest on vendor liabilities – due to paying off balance earlier than expected, only incurring 19% of interest charges
 - Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters – due to BWD performing official meter reads
 - General Technical Consultant Services – due to efficiencies in performing tasks, such as the Annual Report

IV.D - Budget Status Report as of June 30, 2026

- Projected year-end cash reserve, based on revenues/expenditures to date and projected revenues/expenditures is **\$534,217**
 - 14 months of reserves relative to the 9-month operating reserve for WY 2027

IV.D WY 2026 – Q3 Budget Status Report



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BOARD DISCUSSION

IV.E Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Recommended Actions:

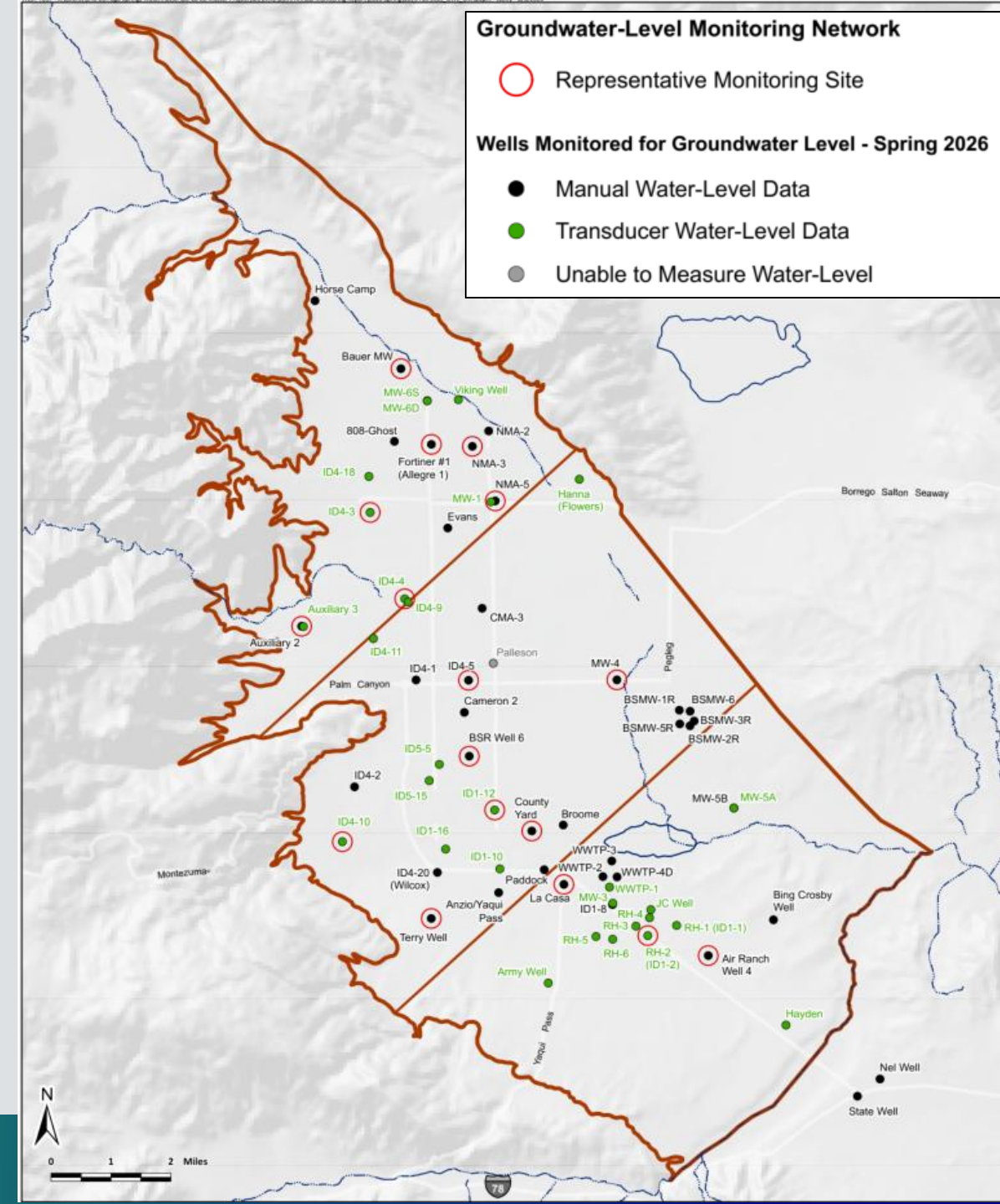
Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

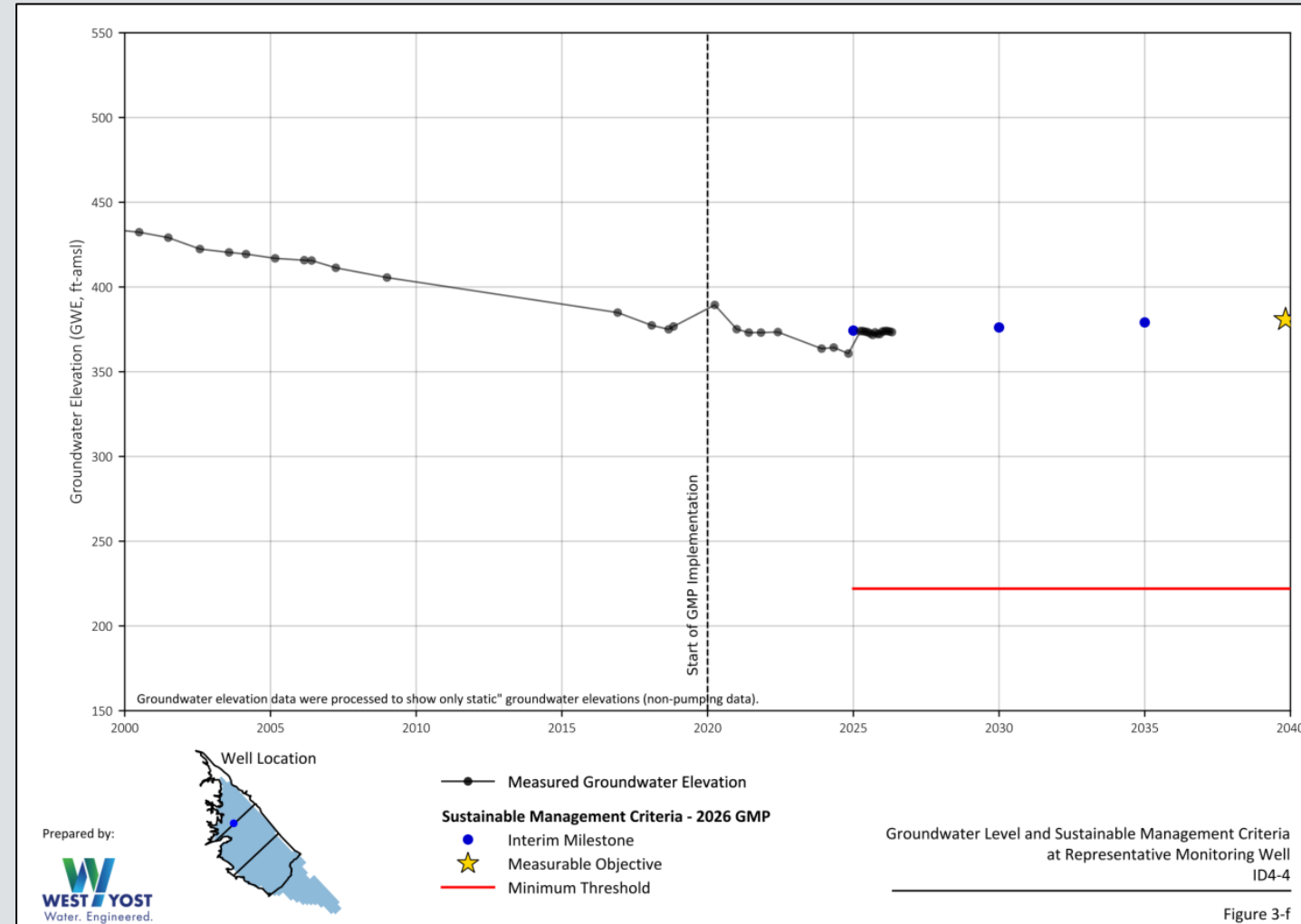
Spring 2026 Monitoring Event

- Groundwater levels were measured at **66 of 67 wells**
- Groundwater quality samples were collected at **46 of 48 wells**
- Includes groundwater-level and quality results from three new observation wells (WWTP-2, -3, and -4D)
- Monitoring Report reflects 2026 GMP Update
 - Representative Monitoring Wells
 - SMC (e.g. minimum thresholds)
 - COCs and trend analysis



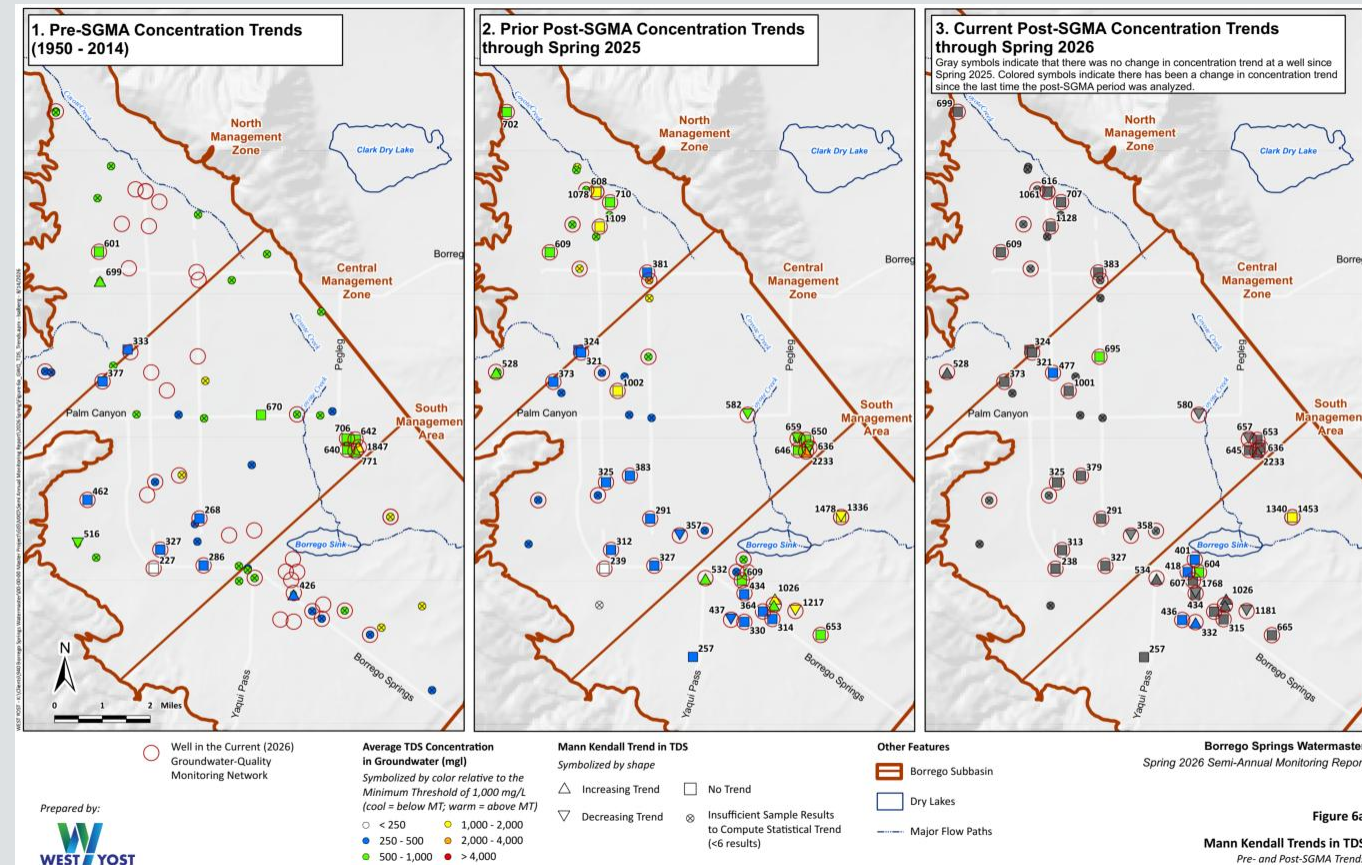
Spring 2026 Groundwater Level Results

- Table 2 & Figures 3a-3q compare groundwater-levels at Representative Monitoring Wells to Minimum Thresholds in the 2026 GMP Update
 - **NEW!** Figures include Interim Milestones and Measurable Objectives
- No well has exceeded its Minimum Threshold based on *static* levels
- Other notable observations:
 - Across the NMA, groundwater levels increased by 1 - 3 ft. since fall 2025



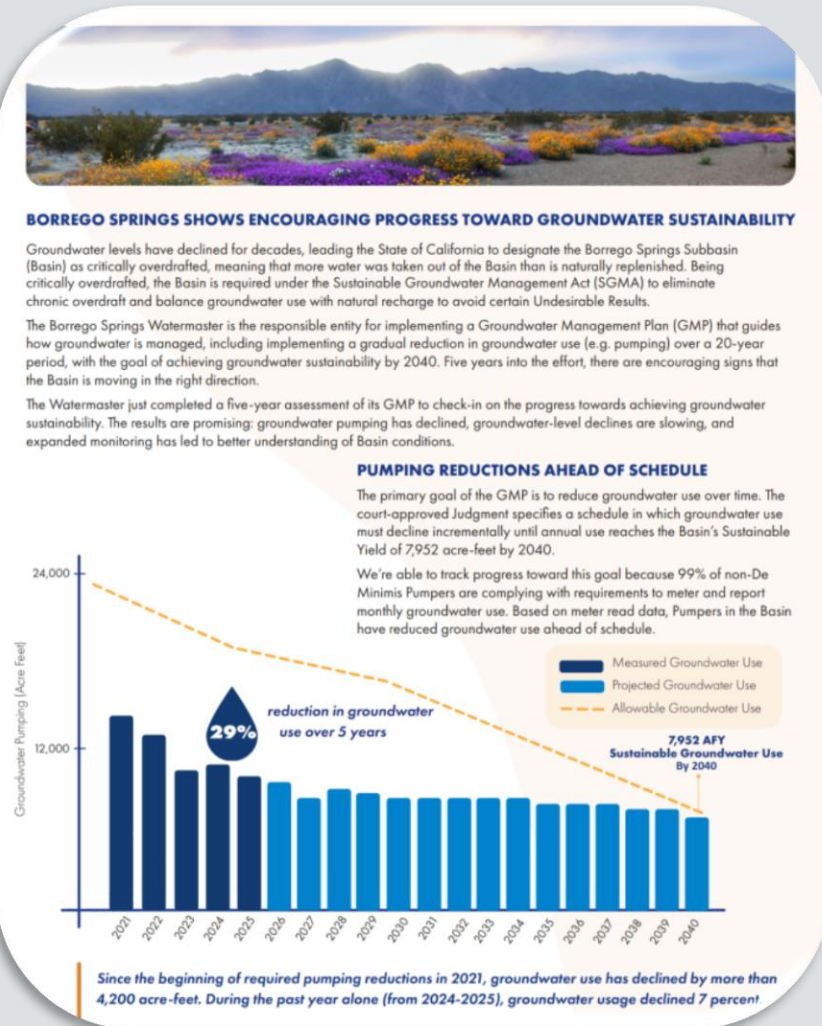
Spring 2026 Groundwater Quality Results & Trends

- Figures 4-5 & Table 3 document spring 2026 groundwater-quality results:
 - Overall, groundwater-quality concentrations were within historical ranges
 - MW-6S results continue to exhibit high variability, relative to other sites
- NEW!** Groundwater-quality trend analysis (Figures 6a-6d & Table 3) per 2026 GMP
 - Performed annually to evaluate trends, assess for Undesirable Results, and support PMA No. 5
 - Overall, most trend changes were due to having more data available to analyze
 - 5 trends changed from No Trend to Increasing Trend
 - Trends and conditions to be discussed with TAC in WY 2027 per process defined in 2026 GMP



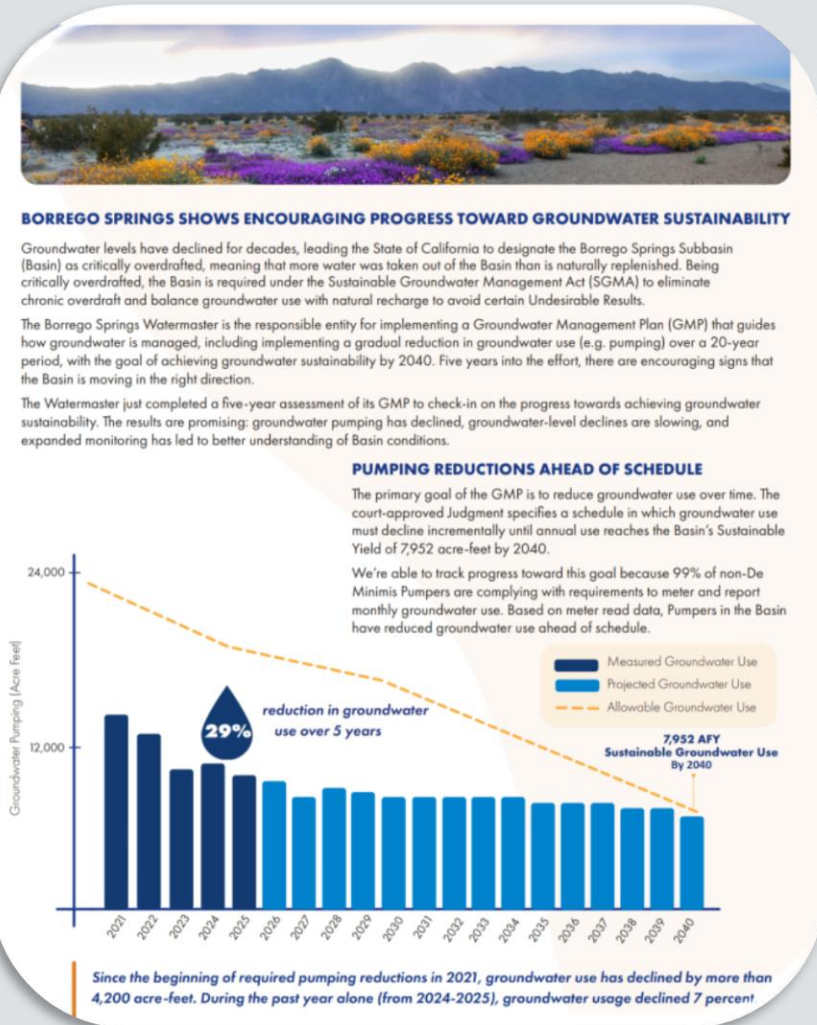
Draft Public Outreach

- Draft mock-up of public outreach focuses on Watermaster monitoring and management activities
- Format subject to change based publication specifications and layout requirements
- Soliciting feedback from Board before finalizing and publishing
- Aiming to publish in local newspapers:
 - Borrego Sun (digital only) -
 - Has indicated they would publish to website for free
 - Borrego News (print and digital) -
 - Investigating cost for full-size ad (starting cost = \$480)
 - Watermaster could also consider starting a Facebook page to publish and share outreach materials, event notices, etc.



Draft Public Outreach

- Recommendations based on early feedback to Staff that the content is too technical:
 - Nominate subcommittee of the Board to manage public outreach
 - Subcommittee meets with WY Comms team to set vision and objectives for the publication
 - WY Comms team prepares draft publication, only obtains input from technical team for facts and information
 - Subcommittee reviews and edits draft publication
 - Draft publication reviewed and approved for publishing by the Board



Next Steps

- Staff will begin preparation for fall 2026 semi-annual monitoring event (scheduled for October 2026)
- At December 2026 TAC meeting:
 - Discuss groundwater-quality evaluation and implementation of PMA No. 5
 - Discuss spring 2027 monitoring reductions to support optimization of monitoring program
- Direction on next steps for public outreach content and process

IV.E Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report



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BOARD DISCUSSION

V.A – Legal Counsel Report

V.B – Technical Consultant Report

Budget Status: Scope of Work to Review GDE Study Report

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	May-26	June-26	July-26 (DRAFT)		
Total	\$53,382	\$3,911.50	\$5,977.75	\$8,689.75	\$5,414.00	\$5,911.50	\$5,801.00	\$7,092.50	\$6,648.00	\$717.50	\$717.50	<u>\$50,973.50</u>	<u>\$2,408.50</u>
EWG Meetings and Address Ad Hoc Requests: <i>GDE Report Review</i>	\$37,640	\$3,911.50	\$5,977.75	\$8,689.75	\$5,414	\$5,911.50	\$5,801	\$1,929	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$37,634.50	<u>\$5.50</u>
Technical Work to Redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield*	\$15,742	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,163.50	\$6,648	\$717.50	\$810	\$13,339	<u>\$2,403</u>

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)
 - <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 due by June 30th
 - 21% of payments still outstanding (\$36,173) – reminders sent out week of August 3rd
- Invoices for manual meter read services were issued in May 2026 (totaling \$10,213.92) and due by June 30th
 - 40% of payments still outstanding (\$4,043) – reminders sent out week of August 3rd

V.C – Executive Director Report

Annual Meter Verifications

- 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 is now = \$412.55
 - Assumed pumping is 1.20 afy (based on Water Duty estimates)

V.D – Chairperson's Report

VI. Establishing Agenda for November 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for November 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Process:

1. Review the initial November agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the tentative topics for a future meeting 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 November 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)

Future Agenda Items

Initial Agenda for November Regular Meeting

1. Election of Board Officers
2. Consideration of Approval of Water Rights Transfers
3. Final Water Year 2026 Water Rights Accounting
4. Final Water Year 2026 Budget Status
5. Consideration of approval of the TAC and EWG December 2026 meeting agendas
6. Approve Auditor Engagement

January

1. Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft WY 2026 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin
2. Report-out from TAC and EWG Meetings, including:
 - a. Fall 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
 - b. Groundwater-Quality Trend Analysis
 - c. Groundwater Monitoring Optimization Plan
 - d. Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Study
3. WY 2027 Q1 Budget Status Review

March

1. Consideration of Approval of WY 2026 Financial Audit
2. Consideration of Approval of the WY 2026 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin
3. Budget Scoping Discussion for WY 2028
4. Initial report out of administrative review of water rights transfer applications (**pending approval of Resolution 26-01*)

Set Agenda for November Regular Meeting

1. Election of Board Officers
2. Consideration of Approval of Water Rights Transfers
3. Final Water Year 2026 Water Rights Accounting
4. Final Water Year 2026 Budget Status
5. GDE Next Steps
6. Consideration of approval of the TAC and EWG December 2026 meeting agendas
7. Approve Auditor Engagement

VI. Establishing Agenda for November 18, 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 – November 18, 2026 *(1:30 pm)*
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – December 2026 *(date/time TBD)*
- Environmental Working Group Meeting – December 2026 *(date/time TBD)*

IX. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!