

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 9:00 a.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
	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	George Peraza, DWR
	Gina Moran, BWD Board Member
	Holly Smit Kicklighter
	Jessica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Office
	Kathy Dice, BWD Board Member
	Marisa Earll, Intera
	Nikki Fiore, UCI
	Rich Pinel, Board Alternate - Recreational Sector
	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
	Yara Pasner, Intera

Please visit the [Watermaster’s Website](https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the June 24 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

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| A. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at which time the meeting recording was started. | 00:00:00 |
| B. Chair Bilyk led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. | 00:00:08 |
| C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present. | 00:00:29 |

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

- D. Approval of Agenda. The Board discussed the agenda topics for the June 24, 2026 Board meeting. 00:01:02
- Motion:** Motioned by Director Jorgensen, seconded by Director Moran to approve the Agenda. 00:01:22
- Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).*
- II. Public Correspondence**
- A. *Correspondence Received.* No correspondence was received. 00:01:54
- B. *Public Comments.* Chair Bilyk called for public comments. Public comment was made by: 00:02:12
- Holly Smit Kicklighter on the contents of three public comment letters she submitted on June 22, 2026 (after the package deadline). The comment letters will be included as part of the agenda package for the next Board meeting.
 - David Garmon on the review of the UCI Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study Report.
- III. Consent Calendar**
- Chair Bilyk introduced the Consent Calendar items included in the June 24, 2026 agenda package and called for any discussion or a motion to approve. 00:08:46
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued to determine action.
- Motion:** Motioned by Vice Chair Bennett, seconded by Director Smith, to approve the Consent Calendar with the condition that the Watermaster Staff invoices for March & April 2026 be reviewed and approved by the second member of the budget subcommittee, Mike Seley, prior to the disbursement of payment on the invoices. 00:11:40
- Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*
- IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action**
- A. *Consideration of Approval of the Draft Final 5-Year Assessment Report and 2026 GMP Update.* ED Adams gave a presentation summarizing the memo included in the agenda package. 00:12:28
- Public comment was made by Holly Smit Kicklighter.
 - Board discussion ensued to determine action.
- Motion:** Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Chair Bilyk, to: 00:28:16
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.

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

- B. *Draft Proposed Transfer Restrictions Based on Technical Analysis of Data and BVHM Projections.* ED Adams gave a presentation summarizing the memo included in the agenda package. 00:29:46
- There were no public comments on this agenda topic.
 - Board discussion ensued. The Board directed Staff to prepare a draft resolution on water rights transfers for Board consideration at its August 2026 meeting, in consideration of the input and feedback on the draft framework provided during the discussion.

V. Reports.

- A. *Legal Counsel Report.* Mr. Markman provided a status update on the preparation of a legal opinion on SGMA and GDEs. 01:59:52
- B. *Technical Consultant Report.* Mr. Malone had no report. 02:00:41
- C. *Executive Director Report.* ED Adams reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 23 through 24 of the [Board presentation slides](#)) and provided clarification on the deadline for submitting public correspondence for inclusion in future Board meeting agenda packages. 02:01:07
- Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- D. *Chairperson's Report.* Chair Bilyk had no report. 02:06:07

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for August 19, 2026 Board Meeting

ED Adams reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the next several Board meetings listed in the agenda package. 02:06:13

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

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve the following agenda for the August 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting: 02:10:07

- Review Legal Opinion on SGMA Requirements for GDEs
- Technical Review of Transfers
- Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Results

- WY 2026 – Q3 Budget Status Report (as of June 30, 2026)
- WY 2027 Meeting Schedule and Priorities

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

VII. Board Member Comments

Chair Bilyk called for comments.

02:11:01

- Director Smith provided a status update on the outreach effort to communicate with landowners with mapped mesquite on their properties.
- Director Bennett commended the Watermaster for the milestones achieved, including the first five-year periodic evaluation and the upcoming water rights transfers policy.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

Chair Bilyk reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package.

02:12:35

IX. Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM.

02:13:03


 Recorded by:

Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost



Attest:

Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board