

**Borrego Water District Board of Directors
Special Meeting
March 18, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M.
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

The Borrego Water District Board of Directors meeting as scheduled will be conducted in person and in an electronic format please note BWD is providing remote attendance options solely as a matter of convenience to the public. BWD will not stop or suspend its in-person public meeting should a technological interruption occur with respect to the GoTo meeting or call-in line listed on the agenda. We encourage members of the public to attend BWD meetings in-person at the address printed on page 1 of this agenda. Anyone who wants to listen to or participate in the meeting remotely is encouraged to observe the GO TO MEETING at:

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I. OPENING PROCEDURES -

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Directors' Roll Call: President Dice, Vice President Baker, Directors Duncan & Moran.)
- D. Approval of Agenda
- E. Comments from the Public & Requests for Future Agenda Items (may be limited to 3 min)
- F. Comments from Directors
- G. Correspondence Received from the Public - None

II. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION -

- A. Consent Calendar
 - 1. September 10, 2024 Special Board Meeting Ammended Minutes
 - 2. September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Department of Water Resources Assessment of Borrego Springs Sub Basin Groundwater Management Plan – S Anderson/T Driscoll
- C. Legal Overview of Proposition 218 Requirements – L Kharuf, BB&K
- D. Review of Initial Proposition 218 Water and Sewer Rate Model – J Clabaugh & Raftelis Consultants
- E. Review of Prop 68 Funded White Paper (Updated) regarding an Integrated Watershed Scale Master Community Plan and Resilient Community – G Poole
- F. Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster Board – VERBAL D Duncan/K Dice/T Driscoll
 - 1. Update on Board Activities
 - 2. Update on Technical Advisory Committee Activities

AGENDA: March 18, 2025: The Borrego Springs Water District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with special needs should call Geoff Poole, General Manager – at (760) 767 – 5806 at least 48 hours in advance of the start of this meeting, in order to enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. If you challenge any action of the Board of Directors in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Directors (c/o the Board Secretary) at, or prior to, the public hearing.

All Documents for public review on file with the District's secretary located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs CA 92004. Any public record provided to a majority of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, regarding any item on the open session portion of this agenda, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Board Secretary, located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs CA 92004.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS, IF NEEDED

STANDING:

- A. Operations and Infrastructure: Duncan/Baker
- B. Budget and Audit: Dice/Moran
- C. ACWA/JPIA Insurance: Dice/Johnson

AD HOC:

- A. Prop 68 Implementation: Baker/Johnson
- B. Public Outreach: Dice/Johnson:
 - 1. BWD Town Hall 2025-Verbal
- C. Grants: Dice/Johnson
- D. Cyber Security/Risk Management: Baker
- E. T2 Developers Agreement: Baker/Duncan
- F. Finance/Prop 218: Baker/Moran
- G. Borrego Springs Basin Water Quality: Moran/Johnson
- H. Automated Metering Implementation: Baker/Moran

IV. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Waste Water: February 2025 Monthly Report – R Martinez
- B. Water Production: February 2025 Monthly Report – A Asche
- C. Finance: February 2025 Monthly Report – J Clabaugh
 - 1. CalPERS Pension Payroll Overpayment
- D. Administration – D Del Bono, Verbal
- E. Legal Counsel – S Anderson, Verbal
- F. General Manager – G Poole, Verbal
 - 1. ACWA DC Legislative Days - Feb 25-27, 2025 Update

V. CLOSED SESSION:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Borrego Water District v. All Persons (Groundwater), Orange County Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-0000577
- B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (John Thomas Doljanin v. Reuben Ellis, et al., S.D. Cal. Case No. 24 CV1689 BEN SBC).

VI. CLOSING PROCEDURE:

- A. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on April 15, 2025, to be available online and in person at 806 Palm Canyon Drive. See Board Agenda at BorregoWD.org for details, Agenda information available at least 72 hours before the meeting.

AGENDA: March 18, 2025: The Borrego Springs Water District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with special needs should call Geoff Poole, General Manager – at (760) 767 – 5806 at least 48 hours in advance of the start of this meeting, in order to enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. If you challenge any action of the Board of Directors in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Directors (c/o the Board Secretary) at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM II.A

March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Geoffrey Poole, General Manager
SUBJECT: Consent Calendar

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Discuss, Amend if Needed and Approve

ITEM EXPLANATION:
The attached minutes have been prepared and available for Board approval.

NEXT STEPS
1. File/post Minutes

FISCAL IMPACT
1. N/A

ATTACHMENTS
1. September 10, 2024 Special Board Meeting Ammended Minutes
2. September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes



Borrego Water District Board of Directors
September 24, 2024
Regular Board Meeting Minutes

I. OPENING PROCEDURES -

- A. **Call to Order** President Dice called meeting to order at 9am
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Those present stood for the pledge of allegiance
- C. **Roll Call:** Directors Present: President Dice, ***Vice President Baker**,
Directors Johnson, Moran, and Duncan
*** Teleconference Available at: 220 E Main St, Purcellville, VA 20132**
Staff: General Manager Poole, Finance Officer Jessica Clabaugh, Administration Manager Diana Delbono, Admin Assistant Esmeralda Garcia, Operations Manager Alan Asche, WWTF Operator Roy Martinez, BBK Attorney Steve Anderson
Public:
- D. **Approval of Agenda: MSC:** Duncan/Johnson agenda approved as presented.
- E. **Comments from the Public & Requests for Future Agenda Items:** None
- F. **Comments from Directors:** None
- G. **Correspondence Received from the Public** - None

II. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION -

- A. **“Background Check” and Professional Services Agreement with N2W** – G Poole explained that this is a follow-up item, Steve from BBK had his team do a background search and found that there is nothing in the background search that would prevent or inhibit their ability to finish the \$15 ,000 worth of work that Greg has started for Borrego Water District.

Greg explained the company background to the board and the support he had with N2W, he explained that the level of support on an engineering basis is much greater at this new company, in regards to technical expertise, that's something that I'm bringing with me to NTW.

Motion was made by Director Moran to approve the proposed contract, motion was amended to use the standard template agreement from BBK and put a scope of work attachment with it, there was a second by Director Duncan. Motion Passes.

- B. **Water Billing Credit and Future Charges for Jim Wermers at The Mall/Palm Canyon Entrance Meter**

General Manager Poole explained that issue here pertains to, boy, a decade-old interaction between the district and Mr. Wermers. Backflow prevention requirements came into effect that prompted the district to install a big four-inch meter at the street, had Jim Warmer's not been forced to use a four-inch meter and to pay those fees he would have typically been using a two-inch meter to serve the commercial development, for about 10 years, Jim paid for a four inch meter when he should have been paying for a two inch, which amounted to a \$30,472 credit. Mr. Poole explained to the board that Mr. Wermers should be paying a fire sprinkler fee however, BWD does not have a fire sprinkler fee on our rate chart, nor did we set one as part of the last 218 process and legally BWD cannot charge a fee that the board has not approved. This would be addressed during the next 218 process.

Water District attorney Steve did a great job, putting together an agreement that addresses all those different components ensuring that BWD is clearly not responsible for anything anymore.

Director Duncan made a motion to approve the agreement that has been drawn up with Mr. Wormers. Director Johnson second. For in favor and one abstain, motion passes.

C. **Amendment to David Bauer Agreement deferring 50% of October 2024 installment payment** –

Mr. Poole explained to the board that they have been speaking about the District Cash Flow for a number of months, the district, has a dip in the cashflow that comes from buying the water rights, five and a half million from Mr. David Bauer at 27% down and then seven equal installments of 11% over the next seven years for eight years totaling 100%. Mr. Bauer has agreed to defer the payment for this first year, Mr. Anderson prepared the agreement for the board to approve. Director Johnson moved to approve the amendment as written deferring 50% of our installment payment for six months. Director Moran Second the motion. Motion approved and passes.

D. **Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster Board**

1. Update on Board Activities – Director Duncan informed the board that for next meeting the most important subject is the appointment of officers, Director Duncan mention he would like to continue as the chair. The board was also advised that the November meeting would be changed since it conflicted with the library schedule on that particular date. They are currently looking for a date that will work.

In Directors comments from the last meeting was a review of the draft budget and notification that rates would be set soon, he explained that because of the Prop 68 grant funding rates have decreased, but in a year or so when that funding runs out from the normal operation, the water master rates will increase to some degree.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS, IF NEEDED – Nothing To Report

IV. STAFF REPORTS

- A. **Wastewater: WWTP** Operator Roy informed the board that he has been performing vegetation maintenance using the skid steer, he also has been keeping monitoring well roads clear so there is good access. The board was also informed that with the improvements done at the Christmas Circle a manhole that is there will need to be raised, he is waiting on a quote for that maintenance to be done so manhole is even with curve.
- B. **Water Production**: Operations Manage informed the board that they have been working for the last month to get all the requirements in place with the DDW and that consisted of redoing basically all of our operations plans that were done in 2009 including updating the operations plan, redid the amended permit for the well, updating the system mapping which shows the sample points in the well-watered samples. The BSSP (bacterial sample siting plan) was also updated, the corrected NOE. Renovation has begun in the pipe and supply building.
- C. **Finance**: Ms. Clabaugh presented financial reports for June, July and August 2024. The board was informed that 1.27 million was spent includes the William and David Bauer payments and the fouling payments as well as finished the sewer line inspections spending about 1.5 million in cash from the CIP.
- D. **Admin Verbal** - Ms. Del Bono presented the board with updates from Office staff including the AMI install and learning waterscope,
- E. **Legal Counsel Verbal** – Nothing to report
- F. **General Manager Verbal**
General Manger Poole informed the board that a group from UC, will take over the air quality. to transfer responsibility from Zender to UCR students/faculty.

Board Convened to closed session at 11:00am

V. CLOSED SESSION: Board Convened to closed session at 11:00am

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel - Potential Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (Two (2) potential cases)
- B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Borrego Water District v. All Persons (Groundwater), Orange County Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-0000577

VI. CLOSING PROCEDURE:

With nothing to report from the closed session meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am the next Board Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on October 8, 2024, to be available online and in person at 806 Palm Canyon Drive. See Board Agenda at BorregoWD.org for details, Agenda information available at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Borrego Water District Board of Directors
September 24, 2024
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BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM II.B

March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Geoffrey Poole, General Manager

SUBJECT: Department of Water Resources Assessment of Borrego Springs Sub Basin Groundwater Management Plan
– S Anderson/T Driscoll

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive status report from Legal Counsel and Hydrologist

ITEM EXPLANATION:

The Department of Water Resources has released its assessment of the Borrego Springs Sub Basin Groundwater Management Plan. Steve Anderson and Trey Driscoll will update the Board on recent events and their opinions on the logical next steps and BWDs role in this process going forward.

NEXT STEPS

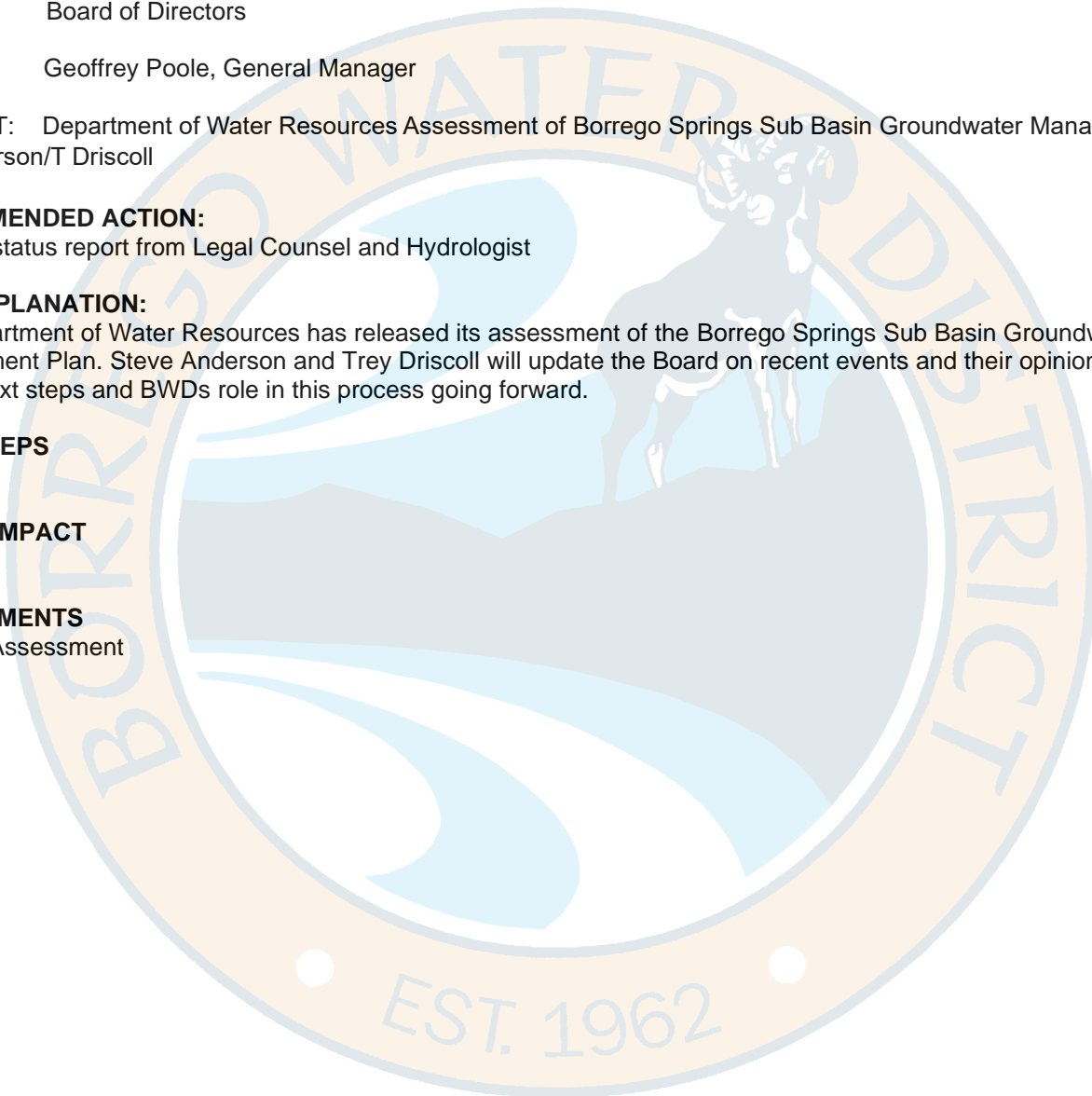
1. TBD

FISCAL IMPACT

1. TBD

ATTACHMENTS

1. DWR Assessment





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street, 8th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

February 25, 2025

Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o Samantha Adams
23692 Birtcher Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630
BorregospringsWM@westyost.com

RE: Borrego Valley–Borrego Springs Subbasin [No. 7.024-01] - Assessment of
Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Samantha Adams,

The Department of Water Resources (Department) has evaluated the alternative to a groundwater sustainability plan (Alternative or Plan) submitted for the Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin [No. 7.024-01] and has determined the Alternative is approved. The approval is based on recommendations from the Staff Assessment, included here as an exhibit to the attached Statement of Findings, which describes that the Subbasin Alternative satisfies the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and substantially complies with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations. The Staff Assessment also proposes recommended corrective actions that will enhance the Plan and facilitate future evaluation by the Department. The Department strongly encourages the recommended corrective actions be given due consideration and suggests incorporating all resulting changes to the Plan in future updates.

The Alternative is the first approved under Water Code section 10733.6(b)(2), which authorizes SGMA compliance via “management pursuant to an adjudication action.” Accordingly, as required by Water Code section 10737.6, the Department intends to promptly submit its assessment to the court with jurisdiction over the adjudication action for further consideration. The Department recognizes that addressing its recommended corrective actions may entail additional procedures before the court or Watermaster. If you believe it would be helpful, please reach out to discuss ways the Department may be able to further assist in any such efforts.

Recognizing SGMA sets a long-term horizon for groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) or the managers of SGMA alternatives to achieve their basin sustainability goals, monitoring progress is fundamental for successful implementation. SGMA requires alternatives be resubmitted to the Department every five years. (Wat. Code 10733.6(c).) Accordingly, like GSPs, approved Alternatives must be evaluated at least every five years and whenever they are amended, and a written local assessment must be submitted to the Department. The Department will evaluate approved Alternatives

and issue an assessment at least every five years. The Department will initiate the first periodic review of the Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin Alternative no later than June 25, 2026.

Please contact Department Sustainable Groundwater Management staff by emailing sgmps@water.ca.gov if you have any questions related to the Department's assessment or implementation of your Plan.

Thank You,

Paul Gosselin

Paul Gosselin
Deputy Director
Sustainable Groundwater Management

Attachment:

1. Statement of Findings Regarding the Approval Ofthe Borrego Spring Alternative

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

**STATEMENT OF FINDINGS REGARDING THE
APPROVAL OF THE
BORREGO SPRING ALTERNATIVE**

The Department of Water Resources (Department) is required to evaluate and assess whether submitted alternatives to groundwater sustainability plans satisfy the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (Water Code Section 10733.6). This Statement of Findings explains the Department's decision regarding the alternative (Alternative) submitted by the Borrego Water District and Borrego Springs Watermaster (Watermaster) for the Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin (Basin No. 7-024.01) under Water Code Section 10737.4(a)(1) as "management pursuant to an adjudication action," a category of SGMA alternative authorized by Water Code Section 10733.6(b)(2).

The Department has reviewed the Department staff report, entitled Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Alternative Assessment Staff Report – Borrego Springs (Staff Report), attached as Exhibit A, recommending approval of the Alternative. Based on its review of the Staff Report, the Department is satisfied that staff have conducted a thorough evaluation and assessment of the Alternative and concurs with staff's recommendation and all the recommended corrective actions, and thus hereby approves the Alternative on the following grounds:

1. The Alternative was submitted on June 25, 2021. Water Code Section 10737.4 states that a judgment, like the alternative here, may be submitted for evaluation after January 1, 2017. Therefore, the Alternative was submitted in a timely manner. (23 CCR Section 358.2(b)).
2. The Alternative is within a subbasin that is in compliance with Part 2.11 (commencing with Water Code Section 10920) as required by Water Code Section 10733.6(d). (23 CCR Section 358.4(a)(2)).
3. The Alternative was submitted by the Borrego Water District and Borrego Springs Watermaster (Watermaster) pursuant to Water Code Sections 10737.4 and 10733.6(b)(2). The Alternative submittal is comprised of information demonstrating that the adjudication submitted as an Alternative is a comprehensive adjudication as defined by Chapter 7 of Title 10 of the code of Civil Procedure (commencing with Section 830) and a Stipulated Judgement, which includes a groundwater management plan (GMP). Thus, the Alternative was submitted in compliance with 23 CCR Section 358.2(c)(2).

4. The Borrego Basin is not being managed pursuant to an adopted GSP and therefore no conflict exists that would prevent the Department's evaluation or approval of the Alternative.
5. The Watermaster submitted an "Alternative Elements Guide" which explains how the elements of the stipulated judgment and management thereunder are functionally equivalent to a groundwater sustainability plan, as required by Articles 5 and 7 of the GSP Regulations, 23 CCR Section 350 et seq.
6. Based on Paragraphs 3 through 5 above, the Alternative is considered complete and includes the information required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations, sufficient to warrant a full evaluation by the Department. (23 CCR Section 358.4(a)(3)).
7. The Alternative applies to and covers the entire subbasin as required by 23 CCR Sections 358.2(a) and 358.4(a)(4), respectively, and as discussed in Section 3.4 of the Staff Report.
8. The Stipulated Judgment provides the Borrego Springs Watermaster with all the powers of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) and is binding on all parties and property within the Subbasin. Additionally, the Court has retained continuing jurisdiction to ensure implementation and enforce all requirements. Thus, the Watermaster has the legal authority and financial resources necessary to implement the Alternative. (23 CCR 355.4(b)(9)).
9. The Department has received public comments on the Alternative and has considered them in the evaluation of the Alternative as required by 23 CCR Section 358.2(f).

The Department makes the following additional findings based on the evaluation and assessment of the Alternative prepared by Department staff:

1. The Alternative has demonstrated an understanding of groundwater conditions in the basin and has acknowledged the basin's historic and ongoing overdraft. By establishing a reasonable plan to reduce and gradually eliminate overdraft, which includes an incremental 20-year process to reduce groundwater extractions, the groundwater management proposed by the Alternative is consistent with SGMA's timeline, which provides up to 20 years of plan implementation for a basin to reach its sustainability goal.
2. The Alternative satisfies the objectives of SGMA even though it is a final judgment in a comprehensive adjudication and does not follow or include the precise organization or elements of a groundwater sustainability plan prescribed in SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The Alternative includes a groundwater management plan (GMP), which is described as being intended to guide groundwater management in the Basin. Under the Stipulated Judgment, the Court retains

discretion to direct the Watermaster to manage the basin in ways not described in the Plan. If the Court orders changes to that Plan's description of basin management efforts and processes, those changes should be identified and discussed in annual reports or periodic updates, as appropriate.

3. In light of Paragraphs 1-11 above, the Alternative satisfies the objectives of SGMA.

In addition to the grounds listed above, the Department also finds that:

1. The Department developed its GSP Regulations consistent with and intending to further the State's human right to water policy through implementation of SGMA and the GSP Regulations, primarily by achieving sustainable groundwater management in a basin. By ensuring substantial compliance with the GSP Regulations, the Department has considered the state policy regarding the human right to water in its evaluation of the Alternative (Water Code Section 106.3; 23 CCR Section 350.4(g)).
2. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) does not apply to the Department's evaluation, assessment, and approval of the Alternative. It is clear that there is no potential for the Department's approval to cause environmental effects and therefore no possibility of causing any significant effects on the environment. The Department's evaluation, assessment, and approval of the Alternative is also statutorily and categorically exempt from CEQA.

Statement of Findings
Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin (No. 7-024.01)

February 25, 2025

Accordingly, the Alternative submitted by the Agency for the Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin is hereby **APPROVED**. The recommended corrective actions identified in the attached Staff Assessment will assist the Department's future review of the Alternative's implementation for consistency with SGMA, and the Department, therefore, recommends the Agency address them in the next Periodic Evaluation, which is set to be submitted on June 25, 2026, as required by Water Code Section 10733.6(c). Department staff will continue to monitor and evaluate the progress toward achieving the basin's sustainability goal through continued Annual Reporting and future revisions to the Alternative. Failure to address the Department's recommended corrective actions before future, subsequent Alternative evaluations, may lead to the Alternative being determined incomplete or inadequate.

Signed:

Karla Nemeth

Karla Nemeth, Director

Date: February 25, 2025

Exhibit A: Staff Assessment, Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Alternative Assessment Staff Report – Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin

State of California
Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
Alternative Assessment – Staff Report

Groundwater Basin Name: Borrego Valley – Borrego Springs Subbasin (Basin No. 7-024.01)
Submitting Agency: Borrego Springs Watermaster
Recommendation: Approve
Date: February 25, 2025

This Alternative Assessment – Staff Report includes seven sections:

- [Section 1: Summary](#)
- [Section 2: Alternative Materials Submitted](#)
- [Section 3: Required Conditions for Evaluation](#)
- [Section 4: Evaluation Overview and Principles](#)
- [Section 5: Technical Evaluation of the GMP](#)
- [Section 6: Evaluation of the Relationship Between the GMP and the Stipulated Judgment](#)
- [Section 7: Determination Status and Recommendations](#)

1 SUMMARY

The Borrego Springs Watermaster (Watermaster)¹ on June 25, 2021, submitted to the Department of Water Resources (Department or DWR) a court-entered judgment (Stipulated Judgment) in the comprehensive adjudication (pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 850) of the Borrego Springs Subbasin of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin for evaluation and assessment as a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) alternative under Water Code Section 10737.4.² The Department posted this submission on the Alternatives webpage of its SGMA Portal,³ opened a public comment period, and began evaluating the alternative submittal.

¹ In this document, the Department of Water Resources (Department or DWR) will use the acronyms or short identifiers that are used in the Stipulated Judgment.

² Water Code § 10720 *et seq.*

³ <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/alternative/print/39>

Based on its review, Department staff have determined that the alternative submittal (hereafter referred to as the Borrego Alternative) for the Borrego Springs Subbasin (hereafter referred to as Subbasin or Basin) demonstrates, at this time, a reasonable overall understanding of groundwater conditions in the Subbasin, reasonably quantifies and mitigates overdraft, and proposes a commensurate level of management actions, primarily through permanently reducing and limiting groundwater extractions, to satisfy the objectives of SGMA as identified in applicable statutes and the Department's Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations (GSP Regulations).⁴

Department staff note that the Borrego Alternative, largely owing to the fact that it is a final judgment in a comprehensive adjudication, does not follow the precise organization or include the identical elements as a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). However, differences between the elements of the Borrego Alternative and the generally required elements of a GSP, as prescribed in the GSP Regulations, do not preclude the Department from determining that the existing water management regime established by the Stipulated Judgment satisfies the objectives of SGMA. In fact, the Borrego Alternative includes a groundwater management plan (GMP) as an attached exhibit (Exhibit 1) to the Stipulated Judgment, which is intended to play a role in Subbasin management.⁵ However, unlike a GSP, which defines the scope of groundwater management for a basin, in the Stipulated Judgment the Court retains discretion to direct the Watermaster to manage the basin in ways not described in the Plan. Although the Department does not expect this to result in management actions that significantly depart from those described in the Plan, the views expressed in this report are limited to technical information and the projects and management actions included and as described in the Plan. As discussed below, if the Court orders changes to that Plan's description of basin management efforts and processes, those changes should be identified and discussed in annual reports or periodic updates, as appropriate.

Department staff have reviewed the GMP and have recommendations specific to the GMP to more closely align basin management with the requirements of SGMA and the GSP Regulations. A critical component of managing this Subbasin under the Borrego Alternative is reducing pumping to eliminate overdraft, but sustainable groundwater management under SGMA requires consideration of more than the elimination of overdraft over a set period of time. Accordingly, staff's recommended corrective actions are geared towards broadening the focus of management under the Borrego Alternative to encompass quantified definitions of sustainability that will allow for better management and monitoring of progress towards achieving sustainability as defined by SGMA.

Department staff do not believe that the deficiencies described in this Report should preclude approval of the Borrego Alternative at this time. As documented throughout this

⁴ 23 CCR § 350 *et seq.*

⁵ *Draft Final Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin* (January 2020). The GMP is attached as Exhibit 1 in the Stipulated Judgment, pp. 54-1652.

assessment, the Borrego Alternative represents a substantial, locally driven, technical, legal, and policy effort. The enforceable and locally funded management framework it establishes has already accomplished significant milestones, changes, and improvements in Subbasin management and conditions. Management under the Borrego Alternative has initiated and implemented management actions with documented beneficial outcomes in this Subbasin faster than some other basins where a GSP has been adopted. Accordingly, Department staff believe approval, while requiring and allowing time for further refinements and improvements in basin management (as recommended in this staff report), is warranted at this time to support continued implementation of the Borrego Alternative. Department staff will have further opportunities to evaluate management under this alternative, including when it is resubmitted to comply with SGMA's five-year resubmission requirement for alternatives.⁶

In sum, staff recommend that the Department **APPROVE** the Borrego Alternative and require implementation of the recommended corrective actions by June 25, 2026.

2 ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS SUBMITTED

The Borrego Alternative was submitted to the Department by the Watermaster, the local management entity established in the comprehensive adjudication of the Borrego Springs Subbasin of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin.⁷ The Watermaster uploaded multiple documents to the Department's SGMA Portal as part of its submission, including a "Judgment Findings and Order" signed and filed by the Orange County Superior Court (Hon. Peter J. Wilson) on April 8, 2021,⁸ and a Stipulated Judgment (also file stamped April 8, 2021) with the following nine exhibits, which can be accessed on the SGMA Portal and are collectively referred to in this staff report as the "Alternative" or "Judgment" or "Borrego Alternative":

- Exhibit 1: Groundwater Management Plan (referred to herein as the "GMP")
- Exhibit 2: Stipulation for Judgment (dated April 8, 2021)
- Exhibit 3: Minimum Following Standards
- Exhibit 4: Baseline Pumping Allocations
- Exhibit 5: Rules and Regulations
- Exhibit 6: Declaration of Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions
- Exhibit 7: Process for Selecting Watermaster Representatives

⁶ Water Code §§ 10733.6(c), 10733.8; 23 CCR § 358.2(b).

⁷ County of Orange Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00005776-CU-TT-CTL.

⁸ County of Orange Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00005776-CU-TT-CTL.

- Exhibit 8: Entry Permit
- Exhibit 9: Facility Standards for Mutual Water Companies Formed After Entry of Judgment

In addition to the materials identified above, the Watermaster also submitted an “Alternative Elements Guide,” a document intended to be used as a reference by the Department to facilitate its evaluation by providing descriptions and references explaining how or which parts of the Borrego Alternative satisfy the specific requirements for elements of a GSP established by the Department’s GSP Regulations.⁹ For this evaluation and assessment, Department staff reviewed and utilized all these submitted materials, other readily available information including annual reports for the Subbasin, and relevant public comments submitted to the Department.

3 REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR EVALUATION

Before conducting an in-depth evaluation of an alternative, Department staff initially need to determine whether the submittal meets certain minimum conditions. As explained here, the Judgment satisfies these minimum conditions, warranting a thorough evaluation.

3.1 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Water Code Section 10733.6(c) mandates that an alternative shall be submitted no later than January 1, 2017, and every five years thereafter.¹⁰ The Judgment was submitted after this deadline, but it was submitted pursuant to Water Code Section 10737.4, which states that a judgment, like the alternative here, may be submitted for evaluation after January 1, 2017. Thus, the alternative was timely submitted.

3.2 COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION MONITORING (CASGEM) PROGRAM

Water Code Section 10733.6(d) requires the Department’s alternative assessments to “include an assessment of whether the alternative is within a basin that is in compliance with [CASGEM].” CASGEM is found in Part 2.11 of Division 6 of the Water Code and requires that groundwater elevations in all groundwater basins be regularly and systematically monitored and that groundwater elevation reports be submitted to the Department.¹¹ If the basin is not in compliance with CASGEM requirements, “the department shall find the alternative does not satisfy the objectives of this part [i.e., SGMA].”¹² Department staff have confirmed that the Subbasin was in compliance with

⁹ 23 CCR § 358.2(d).

¹⁰ Pursuant to Water Code § 10722.4(d), a different deadline applies to a basin that has been elevated from low- or very low-priority to high- or medium-priority after January 31, 2015.

¹¹ Water Code § 10920 et seq.

¹² Water Code § 10733.6(d).

the CASGEM requirements prior to submitting the alternative and have confirmed the Subbasin remains in compliance with CASGEM (through the last reporting deadline).

3.3 COMPLETENESS

The Department fully evaluates an alternative if it generally appears complete (i.e., appears to include the information required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations).¹³ The Subbasin's Watermaster submitted an "Alternative Elements Guide" that explains how the elements of the Judgment and management thereunder are functionally equivalent to a GSP. Initial review by Department staff indicated the alternative generally contained the required information, as applicable, sufficient to warrant a full evaluation.

3.4 BASIN COVERAGE

An alternative must cover the entire basin.¹⁴ An alternative that is intended to cover the entire basin may be presumed to do so if the basin is fully contained within the jurisdictional boundaries of the submitting agency.

Here, the Superior Court's April 8, 2021, Judgment Finding and Order (at paragraph 1) expressly includes a finding of fact and law that the comprehensive adjudication covers all claims to groundwater rights in the Borrego Valley Groundwater Subbasin (No. 7.024-01):

"The proposed stipulated judgment ("Judgment") ... shall be the judgment of the Court in this Comprehensive Adjudication and shall be binding on the parties to the comprehensive adjudication and all of their successors in interest, including, but not limited to, their heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, lessees, licensees, agents and employees, all other successors in interest, and all landowners or other persons claiming rights to extract groundwater from the Basin."

Department staff, therefore, conclude that the alternative covers the entire Subbasin.

4 EVALUATION OVERVIEW AND PRINCIPLES

Department staff's evaluation of the Borrego Alternative for adequacy as a SGMA alternative involves application of Water Code Section 10737.4(a), which provides, in part, that:

"Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) shall not apply to a judgment approved by the court pursuant to Section 850 of the Code of Civil Procedure if both of the following apply:

¹³ 23 CCR § 358.4(a)(3)

¹⁴ 23 CCR § 358.4(a)(4)

1. A local agency or a party directed by the court to file the submission submits the judgment to the department for evaluation and assessment pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 10733.6. [and]
2. The department determines that the judgment satisfies the objectives of this part for the basin.”

SGMA provides that a local agency “may submit the alternative to the department for evaluation and assessment of whether the alternative satisfies the objectives of this part for the basin.”¹⁵ The Legislature identified its objectives in enacting SGMA, the first of which is “[t]o provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins.”¹⁶ The Legislature defined sustainable groundwater management as “the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.”¹⁷

The Department’s GSP Regulations, specifically Article 9, include additional provisions regarding evaluation of alternatives under SGMA.¹⁸ The GSP Regulations require the Department to evaluate an alternative “in accordance with Sections 355.2, 355.4(b), and Section 355.6, *as applicable*, to determine whether the alternative complies with the objectives of the Act.”¹⁹ In evaluating the Borrego Alternative and preparing this assessment, Department staff considered and applied, where applicable, the standards identified in these statutes and regulations with the ultimate purpose being to determine whether the Borrego Alternative satisfies the objectives of SGMA.²⁰

An agency or other entity submitting an alternative must explain how the elements of the alternative are “functionally equivalent” to the elements of a GSP required by Articles 5 and 7 of the GSP Regulations and are sufficient to demonstrate the ability of the alternative to achieve the objectives of SGMA. The explanation of how elements of an alternative are functionally equivalent to elements of a GSP furthers the purpose of demonstrating that an alternative satisfies the objectives of SGMA. Alternatives, although required to satisfy the objectives of SGMA, are not necessarily expected to conform to the precise format and content of a GSP. This assessment is thus focused on the ability of the Borrego Alternative to satisfy the objectives of SGMA as demonstrated by information provided by Borrego Springs Watermaster; it is not a determination of the degree to which the Borrego Alternative matches the specific requirements of the GSP Regulations.

When evaluating whether an alternative satisfies the objectives of SGMA and thus is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin, Department staff review the information

¹⁵ Water Code § 10733.6(a).

¹⁶ Water Code § 10720.1.

¹⁷ Water Code Section 10721(v).

¹⁸ 23 CCR § 358 *et seq.*

¹⁹ 23 CCR § 358.4(b) (emphasis added).

²⁰ 23 CCR § 358.2(d); Water Code § 10733.6(a).

provided by and relied upon by the submitting entity or agency for sufficiency, credibility, and consistency with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice.²¹ The Department's review considers whether there is a reasonable relationship between the information provided and the assumptions and conclusions made by the submitting entity or agency, whether sustainable management criteria and projects and management actions described in an alternative are commensurate with the level of understanding of the basin setting, and whether those projects and management actions are feasible and likely to prevent undesirable results.²² Department staff will recommend that an alternative be approved if staff determine, in light of these factors, that the alternative has achieved or is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin.²³

Staff assessment of an alternative involves the review of information presented by the submitting agency or entity in its submittal, including models and assumptions, and an evaluation of that information based on scientific reasonableness. The assessment does not require Department staff to recalculate or reevaluate technical information provided in an alternative or to perform their own geologic or engineering analysis of that information. The staff recommendation to approve an alternative does not signify that Department staff, were they to exercise the professional judgment required to develop a plan for the basin, would make the same assumptions and interpretations as those contained in an alternative, but simply that Department staff have determined that the assumptions and interpretations relied upon by the submitting agency are supported by adequate, credible evidence, and are scientifically reasonable.

Finally, the Borrego Alternative, which is based on management pursuant to an adjudication action submitted under Water Code Section 10737.4, is the first SGMA alternative of its kind reviewed by Department staff. Alternatives previously submitted to the Department were either groundwater management plans developed pursuant to Part 2.75 of Division 6 of the Water Code (commencing with Section 10750) or other law authorizing groundwater management, or analyses of basin conditions attempting to demonstrate that a basin was operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years.²⁴ In almost every previous case, the local agency that submitted an alternative also formed a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA), but in no case was an alternative submitted by one entity while a different entity had become an exclusive GSA authorized to implement the provisions of SGMA, which had adopted and submitted a GSP for the same basin, thus no conflict existed that would have prevented Department evaluation of those alternatives.²⁵ For similar reasons here, because the Borrego Alternative does not substantially impair or otherwise interfere with an existing GSP (none was ever locally

²¹ 23 CCR § 351(h).

²² 23 CCR § 355.4(b)(1), (3), and (5).

²³ 23 CCR § 355.4(b).

²⁴ Water Code §§ 10733.6(b)(1) and (b)(3).

²⁵ The Borrego Water District initially submitted a notice of intent to become a GSA for the basin and prepare a GSP, but Borrego Water District later withdrew its notice of intent.

adopted or subsequently submitted to and approved by the Department), evaluation of the Borrego Alternative by the Department is appropriate.²⁶

In sum, this staff report evaluates the adequacy of the Judgment to satisfy the objectives of SGMA by serving as an alternative to a GSP for the Subbasin (Water Code 10733.6.). Department staff have also included information, and recommended corrective actions, in this staff report to further assist the Watermaster, Court, and interested parties with the timely achievement of sustainable groundwater management in the Subbasin as required under SGMA.

5 TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE GMP

Under the assumption that the *Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, January 2020* (GMP), included as Exhibit 1 in the Stipulated Judgment, is intended to and will significantly guide the Watermaster's (and Court's) groundwater management decisions during implementation of the Borrego Alternative, this section of the staff report focuses on whether the following elements of the Stipulated Judgment, relying upon the GMP, substantially comply with, and are functionally equivalent to, the requirements for GSPs set forth in the GSP Regulations:²⁷

- **Basin Setting.** The description of the Subbasin, including a hydrogeologic conceptual model and water budget in context with the understanding of the current groundwater conditions in the Subbasin.
- **Sustainable Management Criteria.** The criteria proposed to measure and define sustainability in the Subbasin.

²⁶ Department staff note that for a basin with an approved GSP that becomes subject to a comprehensive adjudication, SGMA states that the court shall not approve entry of judgment in the adjudication action unless the court finds that the judgment will not substantially impair the ability of a GSA, the State Water Resources Control Board, or the Department to comply with SGMA and to achieve sustainable groundwater management. (Water Code § 10737.8) SGMA mandates that "all" basins designated as medium- or high-priority "shall be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan" by certain deadlines now past (Water Code § 10720.7.) Accordingly, a judgment that affects a GSA's ability to implement and manage under its GSP runs the risk of violating section 10737.8, because it may substantially impair the GSA's ability to comply with the mandate of section 10720.7. While any such conflict would require a case-specific analysis, an adjudication judgment that precludes or interferes with achieving the sustainable management criteria established in a GSP by, for instance, attempting to establish higher groundwater extraction amounts, less protective management criteria or thresholds for undesirable results, or empowering an entity other than the GSA to act as watermaster to regulate or authorize groundwater pumping in a basin runs a significant risk of substantially impairing the ability of the GSA to comply with SGMA and therefore violating section 10737.8.. Amendments to the streamlined adjudication statutes that became effective in 2024 contain the same prohibition on adjudication judgments and, importantly, allow a court and parties in an adjudication to seek assistance from, and preparation of a joint report by, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department assessing this particular issue. (Code of Civil Procedure § 850(b)-(c).)

²⁷ 23 CCR §§ 355.4(b), 358.2(d).

- **Monitoring Networks.** The proposed means of collecting short-term, seasonal, and long-term data of sufficient quality, frequency, and distribution to characterize and evaluate conditions in the basin to evaluate implementation of the management program.
- **Projects and Management Actions.** The proposed efforts that may be necessary to bring the Subbasin under sustainable groundwater management.

5.1 BASIN SETTING

The basin setting should contain detailed information about the physical setting and characteristics of a basin to serve, among other things, as the basis for local agencies to develop and assess the need for, and reasonableness of, sustainable management criteria and projects and management actions.²⁸ This information also provides a foundation to facilitate the Department's review of the management regime presented in a GSP or an alternative.

The Subbasin's GMP, included as Exhibit 1 in the Stipulated Judgment, contains much of the information about the Subbasin required by the GSP Regulations. This includes information about groundwater conditions and hydrogeology, types of land uses, a hydrogeologic conceptual model, past and current water demands, and descriptions of beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Subbasin. The following four major elements comprising the basin setting are discussed below: the hydrogeologic conceptual model, groundwater and basin conditions, water budget, and management areas.

5.1.1 Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

The hydrogeologic conceptual model is a non-numerical model of the physical setting, characteristics, and processes that govern groundwater occurrence within a basin. The hydrogeologic conceptual model represents a local agency's understanding of the geology and hydrology of the basin that forms the basis of geologic assumptions used in developing numerical groundwater flow models, such as those that allow for quantification of the water budget.²⁹

The GMP includes a hydrogeologic conceptual model that is largely based on technical studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey dating from the 1980s to 2015.³⁰ The Subbasin is described in the GMP as being comprised of continental and lacustrine sediments and divides the water-bearing strata into three units simply termed the upper, middle, and lower aquifers, although they are not confined by regionally extensive aquitards. The hydraulic properties, such as hydraulic conductivity and specific yield of

²⁸ 23 CCR § 354.12.

²⁹ 2016 Best Management Practices for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater—Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (DRAFT); https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/BMP-3-Hydrogeologic-Conceptual-Model_ay_19.pdf.

³⁰ GMP, Section 2.2.1, pp. 131-144.

the sediments, decrease from the upper to the lower aquifer. The upper aquifer is mainly coarser alluvium with a moderate ability to store and produce groundwater. The middle aquifer consists of finer grained sediments that are moderately consolidated and cemented with the ability to produce moderate quantities of water in wells. The lower aquifer consists of partly consolidated continental and lacustrine sediments with a higher portion of fine-grained sediments and yields smaller quantities of water than the upper and middle aquifers.³¹

Department staff consider the hydrogeologic conceptual model presented in the GMP to be reasonable and to have relied on the best available data in depicting the current understanding of the characteristics, distribution, and groundwater conditions of the system of aquifers within the Subbasin. The hydrogeologic conceptual model relies on numerous independent studies and reports, including investigations carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey, and utilizes reasonable methods and assumptions, including reviewing and comparing historical groundwater budget studies in the Subbasin and quantifying historical groundwater overdraft for several time periods.

5.1.2 Groundwater and Basin Conditions

The GMP describes the current and historical groundwater conditions based on groundwater data collected from the established monitoring network and data collected from the 1940s and 1950s. The GMP provides groundwater elevation contour maps for historical conditions and for spring and autumn of 2018, which are used to represent “current” conditions.³² The historical groundwater elevation contour maps show declining groundwater levels from 1945 to 2010, with pumping depressions evident in data from the western portion of the Subbasin. The GMP acknowledges that human influence on groundwater levels is most pronounced in the northern part of the Subbasin, where the 2018 contour map shows a pumping depression in the general vicinity of the pumping depression in the 2010 map, although the groundwater elevation of the depression in the 2018 contour map is lower.³³

The GMP estimates that groundwater elevations in the Northern Management Area declined by as much as 133 feet, with an average rate of 2.05 feet per year, between 1953 and 2018. Over the same period, the estimated decline in the Central Management Area was 88 feet, averaging 1.35 feet per year. The Southern Management Area has been pumped to a lesser extent; thus, groundwater elevations have remained relatively stable.³⁴

The groundwater in storage in the Subbasin prior to initiation of widespread groundwater extraction was estimated to have been 5.5 million acre-feet. A subsequent investigation estimated the amount of readily available groundwater to be approximately 2.1 million

³¹ GMP, Section 2.2.1.3, pp. 140-142.

³² GMP, Figures 2.2-13A to 2.2-13D, pp. 231-237.

³³ GMP, Section 2.2.2.1, pp. 148-150; Figures 2.2-13A to 2.2-13D, pp. 231-237.

³⁴ GMP, Section 2.2.2.1, p. 150; Figure 2.2-13E, p. 239.

acre-feet in 1945 and 1.9 million acre-feet in 1980. The Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) estimates the reduction in groundwater in storage from 1980 to 2016 to be 334,293 acre-feet, leaving approximately 1.6 million acre-feet remaining in the aquifers.³⁵

The groundwater quality constituents of concern in the Subbasin include total dissolved solids, nitrate, arsenic, sulfate, and fluoride.³⁶ The GMP describes anthropogenic and natural sources of the constituents of concern. Anthropogenic activities affecting total dissolved solids include agricultural use of irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, and return flow from septic systems and wastewater treatment. Natural sources of total dissolved solids include interactions of groundwater with minerals that comprise the aquifer material, including evaporative enrichment near dry lake beds such as the Borrego Sink. The historical concentrations of total dissolved solids ranged from 500 to 2,330 mg/L, with 2018 concentrations below the secondary maximum contaminant level upper limit for drinking water in all but two wells. The wells with highest concentrations of total dissolved solids tend to be in the shallow aquifer in the Northern Management Area and near the Borrego Sink.³⁷

Sources of nitrate are primarily associated with fertilizer application and septic tank return flows. Historical exceedances of nitrate, ranging from 10-155 mg/L, have occurred in five wells adjacent to areas of agricultural use in the northern part of the valley. Available nitrate data in the current monitoring network show neutral or declining trends of nitrate concentrations or are insufficient to establish a trend. The GMP describes historical wells that were taken out of potable service due to elevated nitrate. Mitigation of the impacted wells included drilling and screening the well in a deeper zone or connecting to municipal well supplies.³⁸

Arsenic is naturally occurring and associated with mineral chemistry and pH. Arsenic has been detected in wells in all management areas of the Subbasin, but only some wells in the Southern Management Area are above the maximum contaminant level of 10 µg/L, with a maximum detected concentration of 22 µg/L.³⁹ Although Figure 2.2-14D appears to show that exceedances of the maximum contaminant level are in wells associated with the Rams Hill Golf Course, the GMP does not explain whether these wells produce potable or non-potable water or the extent of the impacts to beneficial uses and users, if any.

Sulfate sources include natural deposits of gypsum and fertilizers. Sulfate analyses in a 2015 USGS study indicated no wells exceeded the secondary maximum contaminant level for sulfate; historical data show exceedances in some wells near the Borrego Sink,

³⁵ GMP, Section 2.2.2.2, p. 152.

³⁶ GMP, Section 2.2.2.4, p. 153; Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.1, p. 18.

³⁷ GMP, Section 2.2.2.4, pp. 154-156; Figure 2.2-14B, p. 245.

³⁸ GMP, Section 2.2.2.4, pp. 154-155; Figure 2.2-14A, p. 243.

³⁹ GMP, Section 2.2.2.4, pp. 157-158; Figure 2.2-14D, p. 249.

ranging from 650-2,300 mg/L. The GMP correlates elevated sulfate concentrations with elevated total dissolved solids concentrations near the Borrego Sink. Two wells, RH-1 and ID1-8, appear to show increasing trends.⁴⁰

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element in groundwater and has historically been detected in three wells above the maximum contaminant level of 2 mg/L. The fluoride concentration exceedances ranged from 2.2-4.87 mg/L. However, typical fluoride concentrations in the Subbasin are below one-half of the maximum contaminant level. No figure was provided showing the wells analyzed for fluoride.⁴¹

The GMP discusses land subsidence evaluation using data between 1978 and 2009. The investigation included analyzing data measured by interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) and global positioning system stations that concluded changes of land surface elevation of fewer than 0.54 feet. The investigation identified a consistent and seasonal pattern southeast of agricultural fields between 2003 and 2007, where land subsidence in the summer was followed by a smaller increase in land elevation by the end of the year; the increase was about half the amount of subsidence in the summer, resulting in an average decline of 0.15 inch per year during this period. InSAR data from 2015 to 2018 showed a decrease in elevation by 0.023 feet, or fewer than 0.1 inch per year in the Borrego Springs Resort area, while a larger area of the Subbasin experienced an increase in elevation during the same period. The GMP concludes that, based on the groundwater level declining by more than 100 feet, the land subsidence that has occurred in the Subbasin is minimal and has not substantially interfered with surface land uses in the past and is not anticipated to substantially interfere with land uses in the foreseeable future.⁴²

The GMP explains that streams in the Subbasin are predominantly disconnected from the groundwater table, which is typical of an arid desert environment, because stream flows of moderate magnitude and short duration do not percolate deep enough to reach the underlying aquifer.⁴³ The Water Year 2023 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin describes an investigation of surface water flow in the perennial and ephemeral segments of Coyote Creek, the primary drainage feature recharging the Subbasin. The perennial extent of streamflow measured at five sites indicate streamflow decreasing from upstream to downstream and is completely infiltrated by the First Crossing (approximately two miles into the Subbasin from the northwestern boundary),⁴⁴ suggesting that the Coyote Creek drainage system loses water to the underlying aquifer system. By fall 2020, Watermaster staff observed all five sites on Coyote Creek to be dry; to be not accessible

⁴⁰ GMP, Section 2.2.2.4, pp. 156-157; Figure 2.2-14C, p. 247.

⁴¹ GMP, Section 2.2.2.4, p. 158.

⁴² GMP, Section 2.2.2.5, pp. 162-164; Figure 2.2-17, p. 257.

⁴³ GMP, Section 2.2.2.6, pp. 164-165; Figure 2.2-18, p. 259.

⁴⁴ Borrego Springs Subbasin 1st Annual Report: Covering Water Years 2016 through 2019, Figure 2, p. 35; Table 1-2, p. 13; Water Year 2023 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.1.3, p. 47; Figure 3, p. 74.

due to excessive vegetation growth; or to shallow flows, resulting in the determination that continued streamflow measurements were impractical but would continue to conduct semiannual visual and qualitative observations of flow conditions. The GMP attributes perennial sections of creeks that are upgradient and outside of the Subbasin to be supported by groundwater flowing from bedrock aquifers into the channels, which then become ephemeral streams when entering the Subbasin.⁴⁵

The GMP describes the historical conditions of surface water entering the Subbasin and states that since the beginning of large-scale pumping in the Subbasin decades ago, groundwater has not been observed discharging onto the valley floor in the form of seeps, springs, or gaining streams. Old Borrego Springs dried up before 1963 and Pup Fish Pond Spring, which extends a short distance into the Subbasin, is an artificial spring sustained by Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.⁴⁶

Regarding groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs), groundwater monitoring closest to creek segments entering the northern and western margins of the Subbasin indicates a separation of hundreds of feet between the creek beds and the groundwater table. The GMP describes the evaluation of the Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater dataset, which divided the Subbasin into three geographic units.⁴⁷ The northernmost Coyote Creek Unit includes plant types along the riparian corridor of Coyote Creek. The investigation included analysis of stream gage data, aerial photographs, and remotely-sensed vegetation data and concluded that the reach of Coyote Creek with potential GDEs is a losing stream and not supported by groundwater from the Subbasin.⁴⁸

The Palm Canyon Unit at the western margin of the Subbasin shows no significant change in the extent of the GDE since 1954 and no significant change in health of the GDE since 1985. The GMP explains that the depth to groundwater in the nearest well, measured in 2018, of 348 feet below ground surface and the fluctuations in vegetation metrics that moderately correlate to precipitation indicate that GDEs in the Palm Canyon Unit are supported by surface water flows originating outside the Subbasin and entering the Subbasin via Borrego Palm Creek instead of being supported by groundwater in the Subbasin.⁴⁹

The Mesquite Bosque Unit near the Borrego Sink historically contained 450 acres of honey mesquite, which the GMP describes can be tolerant of droughts. The 44 feet of groundwater decline in the past 65 years have resulted in a mostly desiccated area of mesquite by or around January 2015, with groundwater levels ranging from about 55-134 feet below ground surface, deeper than the stated approximate 20 feet rooting depth of

⁴⁵ GMP, Section 2.2.2.7, p. 168; Water Year 2023 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.1.3, p. 47.

⁴⁶ GMP, Section 2.2.2.6, pp. 164-166.

⁴⁷ GMP, Figure 2.2-20, p. 263.

⁴⁸ GMP, Section 2.2.2.7, pp. 166-169.

⁴⁹ GMP, Section 2.2.2.7, pp. 169-171; Figure 2.2-20, p. 263.

the mesquite in the area. The GMP correlates precipitation and intermittent surface water flows with vegetation metrics instead of groundwater.⁵⁰

5.1.3 Water Budget

The GMP uses a numerical groundwater flow model to produce a groundwater budget suggesting that the average rate of groundwater removed from storage between 1945 and 2016 was 7,300 acre-feet per year, with an increased rate of removal during the last 10 years of approximately 13,140 acre-feet per year.⁵¹ The GMP provides an initial estimate for “sustainable yield” of the Subbasin as 5,700 acre-feet per year,⁵² compared with the Subbasin’s “current” baseline pumping of 24,215 acre-feet per year.⁵³ Department staff note that the GMP’s estimate of current baseline pumping does not reflect actual, current extractions in the Subbasin, but rather was determined based on maximum annual water use by individual (non-de minimis) pumpers over the period January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2015. Baseline pumping also includes municipal water use previously reduced through end-use efficiency and conservation efforts, and recreational use curtailed prior to GMP adoption. The GMP reports that baseline pumping allocations are distributed to water use sectors as follows: 70 percent agriculture, 18 percent recreation, 12 percent municipal; 1 percent other.

Department staff consider the water budget information presented in the GMP to be consistent with current understanding of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the Subbasin and to have utilized appropriate and reasonable methods and assumptions, including reviewing and comparing historical groundwater budget studies in the Subbasin, and quantifying historical groundwater overdraft for several time periods (1945-2010, 1945-2016, 1997-2016, and 2007-2016).⁵⁴ However, the sustainable yield is derived using estimated inflows and outflows from model simulations that utilized data from different time periods; the inflow component is based on model simulations of data from 1945 to 2016, whereas the outflow component is based on data from 2007 to 2016.⁵⁵ The GMP justifies using inflow and outflow components based on different date ranges as a reasonable approach to an “initial estimate” that will be updated at each five-year evaluation during Physical Solution implementation.⁵⁶ Department staff regard the use of historical calculations to be sufficient based upon the best available information to inform the model and estimate. Provided that estimates are within the range of error, the overall reliance on such estimates appears acceptable.

⁵⁰ GMP, Section 2.2.2.7, pp. 169-171; Figure 2.2-20, p. 263.

⁵¹ GMP, Section 2.2.3.3, p. 179; Table 2.2-8, p. 173. The reported volume of groundwater removed from storage differs between text in Section 2.2.3.3 and Table 2.2-8.

⁵² GMP, Section 2.2.3.6, p. 182.

⁵³ GMP, Section 3.3.1.4, p. 301.

⁵⁴ GMP, Table 2.2-8, p.173.

⁵⁵ GMP, Table 2.2-8, p. 173.

⁵⁶ GMP, Section 2.2.3.6, pp. 180-182.

Department staff consider this adaptive management approach of incorporating periodic evaluation of new data and management strategies to be appropriate for this Subbasin and consistent with SGMA's implementation horizon for achieving sustainable groundwater management; however, as explained further below, the current emphasis on updating inflow and outflow data suggests the primary management focus is on balancing extractions with natural recharge rather than on the sustainable yield of the Subbasin, which is the achievement of "sustainability" by avoiding "undesirable results" as defined by the GMP's sustainable management criteria (see discussion below, under Section 6.2, Sustainable Management Criteria).

5.1.4 Management Areas

The GSP Regulations allow management areas within a basin, for which an agency may identify different minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, monitoring, or projects and management actions based on differences in water use sector, water source type, geology, aquifer characteristics, or other factors, provided that undesirable results are defined consistently throughout the basin.⁵⁷

The GMP divides the Subbasin into three management areas (North, Central, and South) based on differences in hydrogeology, water quality, and overlying land uses. The North Management Area overlies the more productive upper aquifer that supports widespread agricultural activities, resulting in the most groundwater extraction and the greatest historical decline in groundwater levels of the three management areas. The Central Management Area predominantly contains extractions of groundwater from the middle aquifer to supply municipal and recreational users. The groundwater level decline in the Central Management Area has been recorded for decades and is widespread, although the rate of decline is less than the rate of groundwater level decline observed in the North Management Area. The South Management Area is predominantly open space but includes a golf course and a small rural residential area supported by groundwater extractions from the lower aquifer. In the South Management Area, groundwater levels near the Ram's Hill golf course appear connected to activity of the facility; however, groundwater levels near the isolated residential area of Borrego Air Ranch do not appear to be affected by the golf course extractions and have been relatively stable through time.⁵⁸

The GMP contains a general description of the three management areas and provides maps that show their boundaries. However, the GMP does not clearly explain the reason for establishing different sustainable management criteria based on these management areas or how those criteria are appropriate and will not interfere with efforts to achieve the sustainability goal for the Subbasin. Department staff are unable to fully evaluate the approach to sustainability for these three areas without a more complete and detailed

⁵⁷ 23 CCR § 354.20.

⁵⁸ GMP, Section 2.2.2.1, p. 97; Figure 2.2-13E, p. 186.

discussion of the conditions in each of the areas, and how and why the areas are proposed to be separately managed to address those conditions.

Accordingly, if the management areas identified in the GMP were developed for the purposes outlined in the GSP Regulations,⁵⁹ additional information describing and justifying the establishment and use of management areas is necessary.⁶⁰ However, if, the GMP and Stipulated Judgment developed management areas to address other issues such as practical aspects of implementation (e.g., jurisdictional or financial responsibilities), the GMP and/or Stipulated Judgment should clearly explain this distinction. Even so, the GMP must demonstrate that management areas created for administrative convenience will not impair the ability of any portion of the Subbasin to achieve sustainability (see [Recommended Corrective Action 1](#)).

5.2 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as the “management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.”⁶¹ The avoidance of undesirable results is thus explicitly the central concept of sustainable groundwater management and critical to the adequacy of a GSP or alternative. Under SGMA, undesirable results are “one or more” of six specific “effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin.”⁶²

As used in SGMA, undesirable results refer to specific unwanted effects, as determined by the local agency, that could be caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin. Although lowering groundwater levels and depleting supply are among the effects that could lead to undesirable results, the other categories of undesirable results defined in SGMA must also be considered and defined for purposes of basin management when applicable.

GSP Regulations require the development of several elements under the heading of “Sustainable Management Criteria,” including sustainability goal, undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives. Except for the sustainability goal, the components of sustainable management criteria must be quantified so that progress towards sustainability can be monitored and evaluated consistently, quantitatively, and objectively to ensure that significant and unreasonable conditions and adverse impacts

⁵⁹ 23 CCR § 354.20.

⁶⁰ Where management areas are created, as appears to be the intent in the GMP, the GSP Regulations require the plan to establish minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for each management area and to provide the rationale for selecting those values. If, however, the Subbasin is to be managed at large, it would be helpful for the GMP to clearly state which minimum thresholds and measurable objectives apply to specific management areas and which apply to the entire Subbasin (see Recommended Corrective Action 1).

⁶¹ Water Code § 10721(v).

⁶² Water Code § 10721(x).

to beneficial uses and users (the SGMA definition of undesirable results⁶³) are not occurring. A local agency should rely on and explain, among other factors, local experience, public outreach, involvement, and input, and information about the basin setting (e.g., hydrogeologic conceptual model, current and historical groundwater conditions, and water budget, etc.) that it used to develop criteria for defining undesirable results and setting minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.⁶⁴

As mentioned in Section 5.1.3 above, the GMP employs the term “sustainable yield” in a sense more consistent with eliminating overdraft (i.e., balancing extractions with natural recharge) or achieving the traditional concept of “safe yield” rather than as defined in SGMA as achieving sustainability by avoiding “undesirable results” for all applicable sustainability indicators.⁶⁵ Department staff note that managing a basin to eliminate overdraft within 20 years does not necessarily mean that the basin has achieved sustainable groundwater management as required under SGMA. For example, gradually or incrementally reducing rates of subsidence to achieve no further subsidence after 20 years of management could allow and result in unreasonable and significant cumulative amounts of subsidence during the implementation period, resulting in ongoing, permanent, or long-term undesirable results such as damaged infrastructure, increased flood risk, or altered flood flow patterns that a more aggressive implementation regime would avoid. To achieve sustainable groundwater management under SGMA, the basin must achieve the sustainability goal (i.e., experience no undesirable results associated with six sustainability indicators) by the end of the 20-year plan implementation period and be able to demonstrate an ability to maintain those defined sustainable conditions over the 50-year planning and implementation horizon.

SGMA provides general definitions of the undesirable results that are to be avoided. However, it is up to each local agency or GSA implementing SGMA to develop and

⁶³ Water Code § 10721(x).

⁶⁴ 2017 Best Management Practices for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater—Sustainable Management Criteria (DRAFT); [https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/BMP-6-Sustainable-Management-Criteria-DRAFT ay 19.pdf](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/BMP-6-Sustainable-Management-Criteria-DRAFT%20ay%2019.pdf), accessed August 17, 2022.

⁶⁵ Pre-SGMA cases applied the term “safe yield” in the context of overdraft. The California Supreme Court explained: “‘Safe yield’ is defined as ‘the maximum quantity of water which can be withdrawn annually from a ground water supply under a given set of conditions without causing an undesirable result.’ The phrase ‘undesirable result’ is understood to refer to a gradual lowering of the ground water levels resulting eventually in depletion of the supply.” (*City of Los Angeles v. City of San Fernando*, 537 P.2d 1250, 1308, 123 Cal.Rptr. 1, 59, 14 Cal.3d 199, 278 (Cal. 1975), quoting *City of Pasadena v. City of Alhambra*, 207 P.2d 17, 30, 33 Cal.2d 908, 929 (Cal., 1949)) As noted above, SGMA uses the related but different term “sustainable yield” and defines it as “the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.” (Wat. Code § 10721(w)). SGMA further defines undesirable results as significant and unreasonable effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin (Wat. Code § 10721(x)). Although chronic lowering of groundwater levels is one of those effects, SGMA includes five other effects that are not part of the traditional definition of “safe yield.”

describe in a GSP or, as here, in an alternative, the specific effects that would constitute undesirable results in its basin and to define the groundwater conditions that would produce those results in the basin.⁶⁶ Management under an alternative should establish and be guided and judged using the same metrics. The local definition and description of undesirable results needs to be quantitative and must describe the effects of undesirable results on the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin. Using these definitions, quantitative minimum thresholds can be defined that, when exceeded individually or in combination with minimum thresholds at other monitoring sites, may indicate the basin is experiencing undesirable results.⁶⁷ If undesirable results and the associated minimum thresholds are not quantitatively defined by basin managers, they, the Department, interested parties, and the general public will not be fully informed regarding the intended groundwater management program in the basin and will have no objective way to determine whether the basin is being managed sustainably as required by SGMA.

Generally, SGMA leaves the task of establishing definitions and setting minimum thresholds for undesirable results largely at the discretion of the local agency, subject to review by the Department. Absent a clear explanation of the conditions and adverse impacts the local agency is trying to avoid, and the agency's stated rationale for setting objective and quantitative sustainable groundwater management criteria that the local agency believes will successfully prevent those conditions from occurring, the Department cannot assess whether a proposed groundwater management program will achieve sustainability because there is no unambiguous way to know what basin conditions the GSP seeks to avoid and the monitoring needed to assess whether the agency is succeeding in that effort when implementing its groundwater management program.

Although the GMP appears to reasonably quantify the water budget and identify the extent and rate of overdraft in the Subbasin, and while the GMP proposes reductions in groundwater extractions that appear likely to eliminate overdraft in the Subbasin within approximately 20 years, the GMP does not provide quantified sustainable management criteria for all applicable sustainability indicators and does not explain how these criteria would avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users in the Subbasin as required by SGMA. The GMP's treatment of each of SGMA's defined undesirable results is discussed individually below.

⁶⁶ 23 CCR § 354.26.

⁶⁷ 23 CCR § 354.28. See also DWR Best Management Practices for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Sustainable Management Criteria (DRAFT), November 2017.

5.2.1 Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

The GMP discusses historical and current groundwater level conditions⁶⁸ and presents its most extensive discussion of sustainable management criteria for the category of “chronic lowering of groundwater levels.” The GMP states:

- “Failure to address and reverse the current rate of groundwater level decline could put the agricultural, recreational, and water supply availability for other beneficial uses at risk.”⁶⁹
- “Depletions leading to a complete dewatering of the Basin’s upper aquifer in the [Central Management Area] would be considered significant and unreasonable...”⁷⁰
- “Groundwater level declines would be significant and unreasonable if they are sufficient in magnitude to lower the rate of production of pre-existing extraction wells below that needed to meet the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial use(s) and that alternative means of obtaining sufficient groundwater resources are not technically or financially feasible.”⁷¹

5.2.1.1 Mitigation of Impacts to De Minimis Users from Declining Groundwater Levels

The GMP recognizes that domestic and de minimis users have the greatest sensitivity to adverse effects of continued, declining groundwater levels.⁷² Consequently, the GMP establishes a goal of protecting de minimis wells (extractions of less than two acre-feet per year) as much as possible.⁷³ Because the pumping rampdown described in the Physical Solution is expected to incrementally progress until the annual pumped volume matches natural recharge, projected to be around 2040, groundwater levels are expected to continue to decline because of annual overdrafting of the basin until that time.⁷⁴

The GMP states that impacts to these beneficial users from groundwater level declines during program implementation could be mitigated because, in most cases, connecting impacted domestic and de minimis users to the Borrego Water District’s municipal water system is technically and financially feasible.⁷⁵ However, the GMP does not provide specific information describing the mitigation measures that would be offered, events that would trigger access to mitigation assistance, or provide a detailed estimate of the cost and source of funding for such mitigation. Furthermore, the GMP states there are domestic and de minimis well users that are not in close proximity to existing Borrego

⁶⁸ GMP, Section 2.2.2.1, pp. 148-150.

⁶⁹ GMP, Section 3.2.1, p. 284.

⁷⁰ GMP, Section 3.2.1, p. 284.

⁷¹ GMP, Section 3.2.1, p. 284.

⁷² GMP, Section, 3.2.1, pp. 284-285.

⁷³ GMP, Section 3.2.1, pp. 284-286.

⁷⁴ The basin may eliminate overdraft before 2040, but for purposes of this evaluation, staff must evaluate the projected pumping that would be allowed to occur under the implementation and rampdown schedule presented in the Judgment.

⁷⁵ GMP, Section 3.3.2.1, p. 303.

Water District service lines, but the GMP does not discuss whether or how well location would affect the ability of the District to offer mitigation services to those wells.⁷⁶

In sum, the GMP does not provide a firm commitment or critical details of how this suggested mitigation would be implemented to avoid circumstances that the GMP defines as undesirable results. Department staff recommend the GMP clearly describe the suggested mitigation program and who and how it will be implemented to prevent impacts to de minimis users and/or other beneficial users as a result of groundwater use under control of the Watermaster and subject to the terms of the Stipulated Judgment. Among other improvements, the GMP, or the stipulated judgement, as appropriate, should clarify the monitoring or other processes to objectively determine when these locally-defined undesirable results have occurred (or are likely to occur) and specifically describe and explain what is considered technically or financially feasible and who will bear the responsibility (e.g., cost and implementation) to mitigate or avoid these undesirable results by, for instance, connecting users to the municipal water system as suggested in the GMP (see [Recommended Corrective Action 2](#)).

5.2.1.2 Groundwater Level Minimum Thresholds

The GMP establishes the minimum thresholds for groundwater levels based on a management policy of allowing groundwater levels to drop below 2015 levels, until groundwater levels are stabilized by 2040. However, the minimum thresholds would maintain groundwater levels above the saturated screen intervals for pre-existing municipal wells during a multi-year drought scenario, which would be protective of municipal (non de minimis) beneficial users and uses in the Subbasin and, in most cases, would be protective of non-potable irrigation beneficial uses. The GMP also states that the groundwater level minimum thresholds would protect against significant and unreasonable impacts to groundwater storage volumes and water quality.⁷⁷

The minimum thresholds for key municipal wells are based on the groundwater elevation at the top of the respective well screen.⁷⁸ The GMP conducted a uncertainty analysis based on climate change scenarios using a Monte Carlo Simulation mode over the 20-year implementation period varying hydrologic conditions to evaluate impact on groundwater storage and correlative water levels for key indicator wells and resolved that values below the 20th percentile hydrology/recharge occurred 20% of the time where possible exceedances of the minimum thresholds may occur based on 53 model simulations. The GMP continues to describe that the Water master would evaluate the minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives at least every 5 years, which would include the preceding climatic conditions and realized pumping reductions, and consider adjusting the rate of pumping reduction, revisit minimum

⁷⁶ GMP, Section 3.2.1, p. 285.

⁷⁷ GMP, Section 3.3.1.1, pp 293-294.

⁷⁸ GMP, Section 3.3.1.1, p. 294; Table 3-4, p. 295.

thresholds, and/or evaluate additional PMAs if minimum thresholds are exceeded.⁷⁹ The GMP explains that the minimum thresholds “are based principally on the documented screen intervals of key municipal water wells and domestic/de minimis wells” in the Subbasin.⁸⁰ However, the GMP does not provide a clear rationale and justification for how the tops of well screens of key indicator wells correlate with the range of domestic well screens and the GMP’s definition of an undesirable result for this sustainability indicator, which (as described above) is dewatering of aquifers or lowering the rate of groundwater production below the minimum rate required for the use(s) of the well, particularly for de minimis users. In general, domestic wells are shallower than municipal wells, so without knowing the screened interval depths of domestic/de minimis wells to compare to the minimum thresholds for the key well shown in Table 3-4 of the GMP, Department staff cannot assess and the GMP does not disclose the extent of potential adverse impacts to beneficial uses and users, primarily domestic well users, based on the basin being managed using the established minimum thresholds. For example, the GMP does not address to what extent domestic well users or other beneficial users may be impacted based upon the projected groundwater level declines described in model results from the planned ramp down schedule in the respective management areas,⁸¹ which would reach the minimum thresholds at the key municipal wells and likely affect de minimis or other wells in the management area, adjacent management areas, and the beneficial uses and users that rely on those wells. Thus, the extent of the impacts to beneficial uses and users that would occur at the minimum thresholds, in respective management areas and the entire Subbasin, have not been clearly described and incorporated into an explanation of how it was determined that the established minimum thresholds are appropriate or sufficient to avoid significant and unreasonable impacts, which is required in SGMA.⁸² (see [Recommended Corrective Action 3](#)).

The GMP states that the Subbasin has been experiencing chronic groundwater level decline and remains in overdraft, and the GMP acknowledges the Subbasin is experiencing undesirable results caused by the lowering of groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage.⁸³ Department staff note that inherent in the management regime presented in the GMP is the fact that, until groundwater pumping matches the natural recharge of the Subbasin, the Subbasin will continue to be in overdraft, groundwater levels will continue to decline, and existing and additional undesirable results will likely be experienced in the Subbasin. The GMP expects implementation of the pumping reduction program, described in the Stipulated Judgment and in the GMP,⁸⁴ to gradually reduce groundwater production to a level that matches

⁷⁹ GMP, Section 3.3.1.1, p. 298; Table 3-5, p. 299.

⁸⁰ GMP, Section 3.3.1.1, p. 294.

⁸¹ GMP, Table 3-4, p. 295.

⁸² 23 CCR §§ 354.26(b)(3), 354.26(b)(4).

⁸³ GMP, Table 3-1, p. 282; Section 3.1.4, p. 281.

⁸⁴ GMP, Executive Summary, Section ES 4.0, p. 76; Section 4.4, pp. 364-370.

natural recharge by the end of the implementation period (year 2040).⁸⁵ But the GMP does not appear to fully consider and describe potential undesirable results that will occur before 2040 during implementation of the gradual rampdown that could nevertheless have lasting effects in the Subbasin, even once overdraft is eliminated in 2040. For instance, if groundwater level declines result in the inability of beneficial users to obtain groundwater using their existing wells (if not mitigated as discussed above), those beneficial users and their properties will have been permanently affected or changed even if overdraft is eliminated years later. Similarly, if lower groundwater levels in the next two decades cause degradation of water quality or subsidence that constitutes undesirable results, those undesirable results will remain in the Subbasin even after the current overdraft is eliminated.

The GMP also does not clearly articulate the process to evaluate progress towards achieving interim milestones. The GMP states that “the Watermaster will use the BVHM, including the model improvements as new data become available, to evaluate progress toward meeting interim milestones based on average conditions by management area.”⁸⁶ Department staff interpret this statement to imply that the numerical model’s estimates of groundwater elevations will be used, instead of actual measured water levels, to compare to the interim milestone elevations to determine progress towards achieving the sustainability goal. Department staff believe that using actual measured groundwater levels will be more accurate and reliable than using model simulations to estimate measured progress towards sustainability. Department staff recommend the GMP clearly articulate the rationale and method used to establish measurable objectives and interim milestones and clarify how measured groundwater levels will be used to support model refinements and analysis of progress toward sustainability. (see [Recommended Corrective Action 3](#)).

5.2.2 Reduction of Groundwater Storage

The GMP defines undesirable results for reduction of groundwater storage as the same as those established for chronic lowering of groundwater levels. The GMP states that “reduction in groundwater storage is significant and unreasonable if it is sufficient in magnitude to lower the rate of production of pre-existing groundwater wells below that needed to meet the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial use(s), and where means of obtaining sufficient groundwater or imported resources are not technically or financially feasible for the well owner to absorb, either independently or with assistance from the Watermaster, or other available assistance/grant program(s).”⁸⁷

The GMP used the BVHM to identify the minimum threshold for reduction in groundwater storage as the 20th percentile of 53 model runs calculating change in storage in the

⁸⁵ GMP, Section 3.1.4, p. 281.

⁸⁶ GMP, Section 3.4.1, p. 310.

⁸⁷ GMP, Section 3.3.2.1, p. 303.

Subbasin.⁸⁸ The GMP presents a graph that shows the cumulative loss of groundwater in storage from 1945 to 2010 for seven of the model runs, including the 20th percentile model run, though the specific value for the cumulative change in storage associated with that model run is not provided.⁸⁹ The GMP reports that the cumulative overdraft from 1945 to 2016 totaled an estimated 520,000 acre-feet⁹⁰ and that the net deficit in storage of 72,000 AF over the implementation period at the prescribed pumping reduction plan, equivalent to the 55th percentile of the Monte Carlo Simulation analysis, the GMP does not provide a quantitative value representing the minimum threshold, 20th percentile modeled value for reduction of groundwater in storage that, if exceeded, would constitute an undesirable result. The GSP Regulations require a quantitative minimum threshold⁹¹ and an annual report that quantifies the annual change in storage and cumulative change in storage⁹² to eliminate ambiguity or confusion regarding whether the Subbasin is being sustainably managed. A threshold solely depicted as a line on a graph without quantification⁹³ introduces ambiguity when tracking progress towards this sustainability indicator (see [Recommended Corrective Action 4](#)).

5.2.3 Seawater Intrusion

The GMP explains that the Subbasin is at least 15 miles from a saline surface water body and is separated from a seawater source by mountain ranges and faults that act as a barrier to groundwater flow.⁹⁴ Consequently, the GMP asserts that seawater intrusion has not and is not likely to occur in the basin and therefore is not an applicable sustainability indicator.⁹⁵ Department staff agree that the GMP's determination is reasonable and adequately supported.

5.2.4 Degraded Water Quality

The GMP defines the undesirable result for degraded water quality (i.e., significant and unreasonable impacts) in the Subbasin to be when groundwater quality degradation "is sufficient in magnitude to affect use of pre-existing groundwater wells such that the water quality precludes the use of groundwater to support the overlying beneficial use(s), and that alternative means of obtaining sufficient groundwater resources are not technically or financially feasible."⁹⁶

The GSP Regulations explain that, for degraded water quality, "The minimum threshold shall be based on the number of supply wells, a volume of water, or a location of an

⁸⁸ GMP, Section 3.3.2.1, pp. 303-304.

⁸⁹ GMP, Figure 3.3-3, p. 342.

⁹⁰ GMP, Section 3.3.2.1, p. 303.

⁹¹ 23 CCR § 354.28(c)(2).

⁹² 23 CCR § 356.2(b)(5).

⁹³ GMP, Figure 3.3-3, p. 342.

⁹⁴ GMP, Section 2.2.2.3, pp. 152-153.

⁹⁵ GMP, Section 3.3.3, p. 306.

⁹⁶ GMP, Section 3.3.4, p. 306.

isocontour that exceeds concentrations of constituents determined by the agency to be of concern for the basin.”⁹⁷

The GMP states that the minimum threshold for municipal and domestic wells will be Title 22 drinking water standards. However, for irrigation wells, the GMP is not clear, stating that the Colorado River Region Basin Plan does not set specific water quality objectives for groundwater and that groundwater quality should generally be suitable for agricultural use, which is industry and crop-specific, and can be “gaged through conformance with generally accepted threshold limits for irrigation used by State Water Resources Control Board and/or through continued engagement with growers within the Subbasin.”⁹⁸

Regarding measurable objectives, the GMP states that, “Since the aforementioned standards are minimum thresholds, the GMP’s measurable objective is for groundwater quality for the identified [constituents of concern] within municipal and domestic wells to exhibit a stable or improving trend, as measured at each 5-year evaluation. For irrigation wells, the measurable objective is the same as the minimum threshold (i.e., that water quality be of suitable quality for agricultural use).”⁹⁹

Department staff conclude that the GMP does not clearly set quantitative minimum thresholds and a measurable objective for all components of the degraded water quality sustainability indicator.¹⁰⁰ Although the GMP discusses Title 22 drinking water standards for potable supply wells and the management areas where these exist, the GMP does not set quantitative minimum thresholds for water quality in irrigation wells or specify what standards would apply to those wells or management areas.¹⁰¹ As a result, the GMP does not clearly describe what specific, quantified water quality conditions or concentrations would result in agriculture (or production of certain crops) being at risk of no longer being viable in the Subbasin (see [Recommended Corrective Actions 3](#) and [5](#)). Also, the GMP does not provide a clear explanation regarding whether water quality minimum thresholds for domestic and municipal supply wells apply to specific management areas or to the entire Subbasin (see [Recommended Corrective Action 1](#)).

Finally, if different parts of the Subbasin will have different water quality measurable objectives based on whether the area is currently being used, predominantly or exclusively, for agriculture, the GMP does not indicate a consideration of, or discuss the implications of, potential impairments to the underlying aquifer(s) by setting water quality objectives or thresholds based on the current beneficial use(s) of groundwater in the respective management areas. For example, if the GMP intends that water quality objectives for current agricultural wells be set such that the groundwater quality in those areas may become degraded to the extent that the groundwater would not be suitable for

⁹⁷ 23 CCR § 354.28(c)(4).

⁹⁸ GMP, Section 3.4.4, p. 313.

⁹⁹ GMP, Section 3.4.4, p. 313.

¹⁰⁰ 23 CCR §§ 354.28(a), 354.28(c)(4), 354.30.

¹⁰¹ GMP, Section 3.4.4, p. 313.

domestic uses or cultivating certain crops, then the GMP should fully consider that issue, including how that may impact or conflict with local land use planning or zoning, and explain the rationale for finding that this would not be an undesirable result of water quality degradation.¹⁰² In doing so, the GMP should evaluate and discuss whether there are other types of beneficial users (e.g., domestic or municipal) in those areas whose property values, land use options, or water use would be affected, which includes disclosing and discussing the potential of degrading groundwater quality such that future use of the groundwater for potable or domestic use would be precluded in parts of the Subbasin (see [Recommended Corrective Action 5](#)).

5.2.5 Land Subsidence

The GMP concludes that “...the degree of land subsidence occurring in the Plan Area is minimal, has not substantially interfered with surface land uses in the past, and is not anticipated to substantially interfere with surface land uses in the foreseeable future...”¹⁰³ Based on this, the GMP does not propose minimum thresholds or measurable objectives for land subsidence.¹⁰⁴ The GMP also does not intend to monitor for land subsidence.¹⁰⁵

Department staff conclude the decision to not develop sustainable management criteria or monitor land subsidence is not supported by adequate evidence. Unlike seawater intrusion, which the GMP adequately explains is not present and not likely to occur in the basin, the GMP does not provide similarly sufficient evidence with regard to land subsidence, and acknowledges that some subsidence has occurred in the past,¹⁰⁶ referencing studies that document as much as 0.59 inches per year between 2003 and 2007 and less than 0.1 inch per year from 2015 to 2018.¹⁰⁷ If subsidence over the next 20 years occurred at the rate observed between 2003 and 2007, the basin could experience an additional foot of subsidence.

Although an additional foot of subsidence may not give rise to basin conditions that are considered significant and unreasonable or substantially interfere with surface land uses, the issue has not been fully evaluated or supported in the GMP. Furthermore, the GMP explains that past subsidence was minimal, at least in part because of historical dewatering of predominantly coarse-grained aquifer materials that are less prone to

¹⁰² GSP Regulation 354.28(b)(4) requires a discussion of how minimum thresholds may affect the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater *or land uses and property interests*. SGMA requires that plans consider applicable county and city general plans and take into account the most recent planning assumptions stated in local general plans of jurisdictions overlying the basin. (Wat. Code 10726.9, 10727.2(g).)

¹⁰³ GMP, Section 2.2.2.5, pp. 162-164; Section 3.2.5, p. 291.

¹⁰⁴ GMP, Section 3.2.5, p. 291.

¹⁰⁵ The GMP proposes to use groundwater levels as a proxy for actual measurements of subsidence. (GMP Section 3.5.1.5, p. 319) As an initial matter, the GMP does not provide any data or analysis that would support the use of groundwater elevation as a proxy for subsidence, but regardless of the measurement method, the GMP does not explain the purpose of this monitoring in the absence of quantitative minimum thresholds or measurable objectives regarding subsidence.

¹⁰⁶ GMP, Section 2.2.2.5, pp. 162-164.

¹⁰⁷ GMP, Section 2.2.2.5, p. 163.

inelastic compaction. However, the lithology of the aquifers in the Subbasin generally becomes finer with depth,¹⁰⁸ meaning that further groundwater level declines to new historic lows, which will occur during implementation of the GMP, will probably dewater increasingly finer-grained aquifer materials. This increases the probability of, and potential for, subsidence in the Subbasin at rates different from (and possibly greater than) what has been previously experienced during the period when coarser-grained materials were dewatered.

Given the past occurrence of land subsidence in the Subbasin and the expectation that dewatering of increasingly finer-grained aquifer materials is likely to occur in varying degrees for at least the next 20 years or until the pumping reduction program has been fully implemented to eliminate overdraft,¹⁰⁹ Department staff recommend that additional information be developed and included in the GMP to at least annually monitor for subsidence using InSAR data or other reliable methods and reconsider whether and where any subsidence could adversely impact surface land uses in the Subbasin so that managers are prepared to quickly act if further overdraft during plan implementation causes unexpected increases in subsidence rate or extent. The Department also recommends that the Watermaster set an objective, quantitative standard for subsidence monitoring (for each management area) that, if triggered, would require further assessment of whether any undesirable results related to subsidence might be occurring and whether projects or management actions are necessary to mitigate or avoid such impacts (see [Recommended Corrective Action 6](#)).

5.2.6 Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

The GMP discusses the historical context of interconnected surface water systems¹¹⁰ and groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Subbasin.¹¹¹ The GMP reports that the historical Old Borrego Spring ceased to flow prior to the early 1960s and that surface water systems in the Subbasin are disconnected from groundwater, except for short perennial stretches of streams at the edges of the Subbasin. The GMP reports that the springs and seeps that partially supply perennial flow in the streams are outside of the Subbasin and are not connected to groundwater in the Subbasin. Furthermore, the GMP states that groundwater pumping in the Subbasin does not affect the springs located outside of the Subbasin. Consequently, the GMP states that there are no undesirable results associated with depletion of interconnected surface waters and they are not expected to occur within the Subbasin and therefore does not establish sustainable management criteria for depletion of interconnected surface waters.¹¹² Department staff consider the discussion in the GMP to be supported and consistent with other information

¹⁰⁸ GMP, Section 2.2.1.3; pp. 141-142.

¹⁰⁹ GMP, Table 3.6, p. 302; Table 3-8, p. 312.

¹¹⁰ GMP, Section 2.2.2.6, pp. 164-166.

¹¹¹ GMP, Section 2.2.2.7, pp. 166-172.

¹¹² GMP, Section 3.2.6, p. 291.

presented regarding the Subbasin setting and have no recommendations related to this portion of the GSP Regulations at this time.

5.3 MONITORING NETWORKS

GSP Regulations require that each basin establish a monitoring network that includes monitoring objectives, monitoring protocols, and data reporting requirements that promote the collection of data of sufficient quality, frequency, and distribution to characterize groundwater and related surface water conditions in the basin and evaluate changing conditions.¹¹³

Section VI.B of the Stipulated Judgment requires the Watermaster to develop a Water Quality Monitoring Plan within 24 months of entry of the Judgment.¹¹⁴ In April 2023, the Watermaster adopted a Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, which includes groundwater quality and satisfies the Judgment's requirement. Although Department staff reviewed the GMP's monitoring network information, this assessment relies primarily on the 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Plan adopted by the Watermaster and the Water Year 2023 Annual Report, which contain more recent information.

The primary objectives of the Subbasin's groundwater monitoring programs are to demonstrate progress toward meeting the sustainability goal without causing undesirable results, to inform adaptive management of the Subbasin to achieve the sustainability goal, and to improve the BVHM.¹¹⁵ The Groundwater Monitoring Plan discusses monitoring protocols, quality assurance and control, and database management for groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring.¹¹⁶ The groundwater level monitoring network consists of 52 wells, with 19 of them equipped with pressure transducers. Of the 52 wells, 16 are representative wells with minimum thresholds for groundwater levels. Measurement frequency ranges from semiannual to every 15 minutes. The groundwater quality monitoring network includes 34 of these wells.¹¹⁷ In addition to the constituents of concern discussed above in Section 5.1.2, the analytes include major cations and anions and total alkalinity.¹¹⁸ Groundwater quality analysis occurs semiannually in the spring and fall.

¹¹³ 23 CCR §354.32.

¹¹⁴ Stipulated Judgment, Section VI.B, p. 45.

¹¹⁵ Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 1.0, p. 6.

¹¹⁶ Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 2.2.2, pp. 10-12; Section 3.2.2, pp. 20-23.

¹¹⁷ Water Year 2023 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.1.2.2, pp. 42-45; Figure 2, p. 43; Table 8, p. 44.

¹¹⁸ Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.2.2, p. 20.

The Water Year 2023 Annual Report discussed the monitoring network data gaps associated with areas that would benefit from more monitoring and the efforts made to improve those data gaps. The efforts to improve the monitoring network include:¹¹⁹

- Adding four additional wells in the Northern Management Area, two of which were newly constructed via the Department's Technical Support Services program.
- Installing seven new transducers and a new Barologger for calculating groundwater levels with consideration for local barometric pressure.
- Engaging with the public to solicit interest in participating in the monitoring program and identifying 35 potential wells to add to the monitoring program. Of the 35 wells, 14 would improve the groundwater level monitoring network and 24 wells would improve the groundwater quality monitoring network.

Regarding groundwater in storage, the Stipulated Judgment and the Water Year 2023 Annual Report discuss the mandatory well metering program for all non-de minimis pumpers to measure, record, and report monthly groundwater pumping volumes to the Watermaster. Of the 42 Parties with pumping rights, 27 Parties (64 percent) are active pumpers that operate a cumulative total of 68 pumping wells—all of which are metered. Twelve Parties (29 percent) are not active pumpers, while three parties have an unknown status but are assumed to be active pumpers. The Watermaster estimates the pumped volumes for these wells and will continue attempting to contact these Parties.¹²⁰

The Watermaster has conducted semiannual surface water monitoring in Coyote Creek from spring 2018 to fall 2023. The measurements were quantitative from 2018 to 2019, then determined to be impractical due to low flow or dry conditions and transitioned to visual and qualitative observations in 2020.¹²¹

Department staff believe the monitoring network appears to be sufficient to evaluate groundwater conditions in the basin consistent with the objectives of the GMP and the Stipulated Judgement.

5.4 PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

A GSP is required to include a description of the projects and management actions the local agency has determined are necessary to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin, including projects and management actions to respond to changing conditions in the basin.¹²² The GMP proposes six projects and management actions (PMAs) that are

¹¹⁹ Water Year 2023 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.1.2.2, pp. 42-45; 3.1.2.3, p. 46.

¹²⁰ Water Year 2023 Annual Report for the Borrego Springs Subbasin, Section 3.1, pp. 38-39.

¹²¹ GMP, Section 3.1.3, p. 47.

¹²² 23 CCR §354.44.

intended to achieve the sustainability goal and to sustainably manage the Subbasin during the planning and implementation horizon.¹²³ These PMAs include programs for:

- Water Trading
- Water Conservation
- Pumping Reduction
- Voluntary Fallowing of Agricultural Land
- Water Quality Optimization
- Intra-Subbasin Water Transfers

The GMP identifies groundwater as the sole source of water and explains that importing water to this remote area is infeasible.

The Stipulated Judgment acknowledges the substantial historic and ongoing overdraft present in the basin, and has developed an incremental, 20-year process to reduce groundwater extractions to the currently estimated sustainable yield of 5,700 acre-feet per year. This is consistent with the timeline established by SGMA, which provides up to 20 years of plan implementation for a basin to reach its sustainability goal. The GMP states that “the Pumping Reduction Program is the central tool to implement the Physical Solution and achieve the sustainability goal for the Subbasin.”¹²⁴ The GMP proposes to implement this pumping reduction program by taking the initial Baseline Pumping Allocation (BPA – the allocation for each non-de minimis pumper) and reducing the BPA of each pumper incrementally each year to reach the estimated “sustainable yield” of 5,700 acre-feet per year. No future groundwater extractions from new wells, including from new de minimis domestic wells, are authorized without application to the Watermaster. The GMP reports that this pumping reduction program will be reviewed at least every five years and adjusted so that the sustainability goals are reached by the end of the implementation period.¹²⁵ Department staff examined annual reports submitted in 2022, 2023, and 2024, which cover water years (WY) 2021, 2022, and 2023. The annual reports indicate that the pumping reduction program is off to a very good start, decreasing by 37 percent since the start of GMP implementation (WY 2020) and by 20 percent relative to WY 2022. Almost all extractions are metered and reported to the Watermaster and actual reported groundwater extraction rates in the Subbasin are well below the anticipated scheduled BPA rampdown, with total pumping in WY 2023 being 10,430 acre-feet, which was approximately 50% less than the annual allocation of 20,694 acre-feet. Furthermore, it appears that other projects or actions to provide operating flexibility, such

¹²³ GMP, Section 4, pp. 294-332.

¹²⁴ GMP, Section 4.4, p. 364.

¹²⁵ GMP, Section 4.4.1, pp. 366-368.

as fallowing and allocation trading, have also occurred in addition to administrative and technical advances.

Finally, when evaluating GSPs or alternatives, Department staff assess whether the local agency or GSA has the legal authority and financial resources necessary to implement the respective plan. Here, the primary implementing entity of the Borrego Alternative will be the Watermaster, as identified in the Judgment. The Stipulated Judgment provides the Watermaster with all the powers of a GSA.¹²⁶ Also, the Judgment is binding on all parties and property in the Subbasin, and the Court has retained continuing jurisdiction to ensure implementation and enforce all requirements.¹²⁷ The annual reports describe many actions and milestones that have occurred so far, further confirming the authority and ability of the Watermaster to implement the alternative. Therefore, the legal authority and financial resources of the Watermaster to implement the management proposed under the alternative are considered adequate. At this time, Department staff conclude that management under the alternative is progressing very well and at a rate at least comparable to, if not faster than, other basins where only GSPs are in place, which may be a result of the compromises and terms in the Stipulated Judgment and regularly scheduled local implementation (Watermaster, Technical Advisory Committee, and Environmental Working Group) and Court meetings.

5.5 IMPACTS TO ADJACENT BASINS

When evaluating GSPs or alternatives under SGMA, Department staff assess whether the respective plan will adversely affect the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its plan or impede achievement of its sustainability goal. The Subbasin is currently not adjacent to any basins subject to SGMA and Department staff has, therefore, not further evaluated this issue.

6 EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GMP AND THE STIPULATED JUDGMENT

6.1 OVERVIEW

Water Code Section 10733.6(b)(2) provides that management pursuant to an adjudication action that satisfies the objectives of SGMA may be submitted to the Department as an alternative to a GSP, and that is what Department staff have been tasked to evaluate here. Among the materials submitted in support of this alternative are the Stipulated Judgment and a GMP.¹²⁸ The Stipulated Judgment is a formal, legal document approved by the Court; it often uses legal words and phrases and reads very much like a contract.

¹²⁶ Stipulated Judgment Section IV.E.1, p. 37:7-12.

¹²⁷ Stipulated Judgment Sections VII.A, VII.B, and IX.

¹²⁸ *Draft Final Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin* (January 2020). The GMP is attached as Exhibit 1 in the Stipulated Judgment, pp. 54-1652.

In contrast, the GMP is a technical document that derives its authority for basin management by virtue of being incorporated into the terms of the Stipulated Judgment.

The dual submission of the Stipulated Judgment and GMP, with affiliated and overlapping provisions and commitments, required a detailed staff evaluation.¹²⁹ Department staff reviewed both documents to understand not only the technical aspects of the GMP, but whether its terms or those of the Stipulated Judgment defined the plan for basin management. As explained below, where the GMP and Stipulated Judgment apply different criterion to the same aspects of basin management, the ability of Department staff to determine whether the Borrego Alternative is consistent with SGMA is complicated or impaired. Although Department staff do not regard the issues discussed below to preclude approval of the Borrego Alternative at this time, staff believe this is an important issue that should be addressed.

6.2 UNCERTAINTY REGARDING ROLE OF GMP IN SUBBASIN MANAGEMENT

The Borrego Alternative includes an intent for the GMP to provide the technical foundation for sustainable groundwater management in the Subbasin, as stated, for example, in the following provisions:

- “Technical Approach to Basin Management. The Physical Solution, including this Judgment and the GMP attached as Exhibit “1,” will serve as the technical approach for Basin management, subject to modification as appropriate for Adaptive Management by order of this Court pursuant to this Court’s continuing jurisdiction under Section VII, including periodic updates of Sustainable Yield through the processes described herein.” (Stipulated Judgment, p. 19:4-8.)
- “The purpose of this GMP is to refine and expedite implementation of the Physical Solution.... Specifically, this GMP is adopted as part of the Physical Solution by means of a Judgment Pursuant to Stipulation.... The intent of the Physical Solution is to meet the requirements of SGMA. To this end, this Plan includes the scientific and other background information about the Subbasin required by SGMA and its implementing regulations. The Plan is also intended to provide a roadmap for how sustainability is to be reached in the Subbasin....” (Stipulated Judgment, GMP Executive Summary pp. 72-73.)

¹²⁹ The Stipulated Judgment states that it is intended “to provide a physical solution for the perpetual management of the Basin, which long-term management will achieve Sustainable Groundwater Management for the Basin consistent with the substantive objectives of [SGMA]” and that “this [Stipulated] Judgment considered together with the [GMP] constitutes the Physical Solution... .” (Stipulated Judgment p.5:2-12.) “Physical Solution” is accordingly defined as “[t]he terms of this [Stipulated] Judgment, including the GMP attached hereto as Exhibit ‘1’, which are intended to achieve Sustainable Groundwater Management for the Basin consistent with the substantive objectives of SGMA and Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution, and which may be modified over time in compliance with the procedures described herein.” (Stipulated Judgment pp. 11-12.)

However, although these provisions state the GMP will “serve as the technical approach for Basin management” and “is also intended to provide a roadmap for how sustainability is to be reached,” the Stipulated Judgment and GMP also include other provisions, such as the following, that create uncertainty as to the actual role of the GMP in making future management decisions in the Subbasin:

- “This judgment considered together with the Groundwater Management Plan (‘GMP’) attached hereto as Exhibit ‘1’ constitutes the Physical Solution; provided, however, that *the provisions of this Judgment control over and supersede any contrary provisions contained in the GMP.*” (Stipulated Judgment p. 5:9-12 [italics added].)
- “The ‘Physical Solution’ proposed for the Basin consists of the GMP and the Stipulated Judgment, as overseen by the Court; provided, however, *that the provisions of the Stipulated Judgment control over and supersede any contrary provisions contained in the GMP.*” (GMP Cover Page p. 54 [italics added].)
- “This GMP includes and is to be interpreted and implemented consistent with and subject to the provisions of the Judgment. *The provisions of the Judgment control over and supersede any contrary provisions contained in this GMP.*” (GMP Executive Summary p. 72 [italics added].)

Although the court retains jurisdiction over an adjudicated basin and may be called upon to resolve disputes regarding groundwater management, language in the Stipulated Judgment creates some uncertainty about the ability of Department staff to rely on the GMP as defining the technical parameters of that management. Because SGMA defines this kind of alternative as “management under an adjudication action,”¹³⁰ Department staff believe that the explanation of that management would benefit from a clarification of the role of the GMP in the Physical Solution.

6.2.1 The Role of the GMP in the Watermaster’s Process for Calculating Sustainable Yield Every Five Years is Uncertain

The core of SGMA is its mandate to achieve “sustainability.” While alternative submittals need not exactly match the contents of a GSP, the requirements for locally establishing and quantitatively describing basin-specific sustainable management criteria are essential to any evaluation of proposed sustainable groundwater management under SGMA. Basin-specific criteria are needed to define and describe sustainability for a basin, which will guide local groundwater managers in their decision making and enable the Department to monitor and evaluate the basin’s progress towards achieving sustainability under SGMA.

¹³⁰ Water Code Section 10733.6(b)(2).

The Stipulated Judgment incorporates SGMA’s general statutory definitions for sustainable yield and undesirable results,¹³¹ but it does not include locally established quantitative descriptions of conditions for this Subbasin that would constitute or indicate the potential for undesirable results to occur, or conditions or indicators to maintain in the Subbasin to avoid undesirable results (i.e., sustainable management criteria). In contrast, as discussed earlier in this assessment, the GMP generally follows the GSP Regulations by establishing and describing local conditions and metrics for use as sustainable management criteria for the Subbasin (except for the inapplicable seawater intrusion and depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicators).¹³² For instance, the GMP describes adverse impacts to well performance as one of the conditions in the Subbasin that would constitute an undesirable result for chronic lowering of groundwater levels:

- “Undesirable results associated with chronic (i.e., persistent and long-term) lowering of groundwater levels are most directly indicated by loss of access to adequate water resources for support of current and/or potential future beneficial uses and users.” (Stipulated Judgment, GMP p. 284 [Sec.3.2.1].)
- “Groundwater level declines would be significant and unreasonable if they are sufficient in magnitude to lower the rate of production of pre-existing groundwater extraction wells below that needed to meet the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial use(s)....” (Stipulated Judgment, GMP p. 284 [Sec. 3.2.1].)
- “Because many of the domestic groundwater users not connected to [Borrego Water District] rely on continued access to the upper aquifer or upper portions of the middle aquifer, an important objective in this GSP is that access to the upper aquifer or upper middle aquifer be maintained, as much as is practicable, in areas with *de minimis* and other domestic wells not currently served by municipal supply.” (Stipulated Judgment, GMP p. 286 [Sec. 3.2.1].)

To avoid such undesirable results, the GMP establishes minimum thresholds “intended to protect against significant and unreasonable impacts to groundwater storage volumes and water quality” and the groundwater level thresholds “are based principally on the documented screen intervals of key municipal water wells and domestic/*de minimis* wells” located in the Subbasin.¹³³ The GMP includes a list of nine municipal wells and their corresponding minimum thresholds, as well as 12 key indicator wells for each of the Subbasin’s management areas, which are intended to be protective of the beneficial uses

¹³¹ Stipulated Judgment Section I.A Definitions, paragraphs 56 [“Sustainable Groundwater Management”], 57 [“Sustainable Yield”], and 60 [“Undesirable Results”].

¹³² GMP, Section 3.2, p. 283. (Application of Standards in the Borrego Subbasin – Each of the sustainability indicators for the Subbasin is discussed as follows, in the context of undesirable results.)

¹³³ GMP, Section 3.3.1.1, p. 294.

and users of groundwater in the Subbasin.”¹³⁴ The GMP describes the management process to avoid the aforementioned undesirable results (e.g., well dewatering) as one involving the Watermaster making adjustments to the rate of pumping in the Subbasin to avoid exceedances of the minimum thresholds and to achieve interim milestones:

“The Watermaster will evaluate the minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives at least every 5 years ... to determine the likelihood that the Plan will attain sustainability goals. The Watermaster will adjust the rate of pumping reduction, revisit minimum thresholds, and/or evaluate additional [Projects and Management Actions] if the minimum thresholds in Table 3-4 or Table 3-5, as updated are exceeded or if the interim milestones in Table 3-7, as updated are not being achieved.”¹³⁵

In contrast, the Stipulated Judgment does not require the Watermaster to implement the management process described in the GMP. Instead, the Stipulated Judgment requires the Watermaster to consider several factors other than the GMP and does not specifically mention the GMP. This leaves the role of the GMP’s sustainable management criteria in determining the Subbasin’s sustainable yield and making any related pumping adjustments uncertain. Specifically, Stipulated Judgment Section III.F, titled “Process for Determining Sustainable Yield and Implementation of Subsequent Rampdown,” states that beginning January 2025 and every five years until 2040:

“[T]he Watermaster will, following receipt of input and recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee, revise the determination of Sustainable Yield.... The revised determination of Sustainable Yield will consider all sources of replenishment, including return flows and underflows, and all outflows from the Basin, and will consider among other data, information derived from updated runs of the [Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model]. Any disagreement with [the] Watermaster’s determination may be appealed to this Court for review, subject to the provisions of Section VII. The revised estimate of Sustainable Yield will determine the Rampdown Rate....” (Stipulated Judgment pp. 20-22 [Sec. III.F par. 3, 7, 10].)

¹³⁴ Table 3-4 (pp. 295-296) in the GMP shows Borrego Water District wells that are key indicator wells with established minimum thresholds based on the top of the well screen. Table 3-5 (p. 299) shows minimum thresholds for key indicator wells in each management area. Department staff note that none of the key wells are screened in the upper aquifer.

¹³⁵ GMP, Section 3.3.1.1, p. 299. Department staff note that other sections of this assessment focus solely on the contents of the GMP and discuss technical uncertainties or deficiencies regarding the GMP’s establishment and discussion of the sustainable management criteria themselves under the assumption that the GMP is intended to and will be used in Subbasin management decisions and by the Department in future evaluations to determine whether the Subbasin is on track to reach sustainability as required by SGMA.

Thus, the approaches to calculating and managing for sustainable yield in the Stipulated Judgment and the GMP, respectively, are not described similarly and appear inconsistent. For example, the Stipulated Judgment expressly requires the Watermaster to consider only 1) “all sources of replenishment,” 2) “all outflows from the Basin,” and 3) “information derived from updated model runs of the BVHM.” In contrast, the GMP’s process expressly requires evaluation of the Subbasin’s conditions against the minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives described and established in the GMP. The Stipulated Judgment’s process for calculating sustainable yield does not appear to reference or incorporate the GMP’s minimum thresholds for groundwater elevations, or the previously discussed commitment in the GMP to adjust the Subbasin’s management regime based on an evaluation of actual groundwater level conditions in the Subbasin. While the Stipulated Judgment suggests the Watermaster “will consider ... other data,” perhaps leaving open the possibility that the GMP would be among the other data considered by the Watermaster, such consideration, by no means, seems to be required. Furthermore, the term “consider” does not indicate that the Watermaster would, or must, follow the GMP’s sustainable management criteria, even if they were among the other data considered.

6.2.2 The Role of the GMP in the Watermaster’s Process for Adjusting Pumping in Between the Five-Year Periods is Uncertain

The Stipulated Judgment includes the following provision providing for management adjustments at any time:

“Notwithstanding the Rampdown schedule described herein, this Court, pursuant to motion of any Party or sua sponte, may adjust the rate of Rampdown up or down for any 5-year period or subdivision thereof, upon a finding that an adjustment to the Rampdown Rate is appropriate, and taking into account the limitations on Pumping necessary to avoid an Undesirable Result.” (Stipulated Judgment, Section F.12, p. 22:23-27.)

Department staff appreciate the need for flexibility to effectively address issues that may arise during implementation of any groundwater management plan, but caution that some aspects of the Stipulated Judgment could be at odds with SGMA’s expectations of an alternative. First, the process described above appears potentially inconsistent with the process established in the Stipulated Judgment for the Borrego Alternative’s periodic evaluation, which is required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations to occur at least every five years.¹³⁶ The rationale for having two different processes associated with establishing pumping allocations is unclear, and no technical explanation seems to be provided; both processes relate to determinations of the rampdown schedule necessary to achieve sustainability and they, therefore, should ideally be the same.

¹³⁶ Water Code § 10733.8; 23 CCR § 358.2(b).

Second, like the five-year increment process, the interim adjustment process to define pumping allocations also does not appear to depend on the sustainable management criteria established in the GMP when calculating sustainable yield or the necessary pumping rampdown to achieve sustainability and thus lacks quantitative standards required by the GSP Regulations.¹³⁷

Third, it does not appear that the Watermaster is authorized to invoke provision F.12, as referenced above, to adjust the "Rampdown" rate at times between the five-year increments, but that this process must be initiated either by the Court or by a motion of any Party, a term that is defined in the Stipulated Judgment but does not include the Watermaster.¹³⁸ Department staff believe this situation could create the potential that interim management adjustments that may be necessary to avoid undesirable results or achieve interim milestones may not be implemented, even if the Watermaster believes such actions are necessary.

6.2.3 The Role of the GMP in Judicial Review of Watermaster Decisions Is Uncertain

Department staff note that the Stipulated Judgment does not appear to afford the GMP any weight or control if the Watermaster's management decisions are contested by a groundwater pumper or other party. Specifically, the Stipulated Judgment provides:

"Contested Watermaster decisions or other matters of disagreement will be reviewed by this Court upon noticed motion of any Party, any Watermaster Board member or the Watermaster. The Court review shall be de novo, without evidentiary weight to the Watermaster action or decision."
(Stipulated Judgment p. 46:11-14.)

Thus, even if the Stipulated Judgment required the Watermaster to follow the GMP when making decisions involving sustainable management criteria, if a party challenged a Watermaster decision where the Watermaster had expressly followed provisions of the GMP (to avoid exceedance of minimum thresholds for groundwater levels or water quality for instance), the Stipulated Judgment expressly states that the Watermaster's reliance on the GMP would receive no deference from the Court. If the GMP is intended to provide the "technical approach" or "roadmap" for Subbasin management, as is indicated in one provision of the Stipulated Judgment and as stated in the GMP, it seems that management decisions consistent with or required by the GMP should generally be upheld by the Court or at least afforded some evidentiary weight.¹³⁹

¹³⁷ 23 CCR § 354 et seq.

¹³⁸ Stipulated Judgment, Section I.40, p. 11:13-15.

¹³⁹ Stipulated Judgment, Section III.C., p. 19; GMP, Executive Summary, p. 73.

6.2.4 The Role of the GMP in Managing to Avoid Degraded Water Quality is Similarly Uncertain

The previous sections of this staff report, as they pertain to chronic lowering of groundwater levels, have provided several examples identifying the lack of technical clarity in the Stipulated Judgment and inconsistencies when compared to the GMP's implementation structure. Without delving into as much detail, it is important to note that similar issues and concerns arise with respect to degradation of water quality, another one of SGMA's six undesirable results and sustainability indicators. Specifically, as demonstrated by the following provision, the Stipulated Judgment appears to establish an open-ended, subjective process for the Watermaster to determine whether a certain amount of water quality degradation constitutes an undesirable result:

“The Watermaster will determine if changes in water quality are significant and unreasonable following consideration of the cause of the impact, the affected beneficial use, potential remedies, input from the Technical Advisory Committee, and subject to approval by this Court exercising independent judgment.” (Stipulated Judgment p. 45:13-16.)

This provision in the Stipulated Judgment does not reference or incorporate the parts of the GMP that discuss and establish sustainable management criteria for degraded water quality, or the projects and management actions intended to prevent undesirable results in the Subbasin from occurring.¹⁴⁰ As such, this provision is not clear as to how the prescribed thresholds and actions of the GMP relate to the Watermaster's decisions and management under the adjudication action when addressing water quality degradation.

6.3 CONCLUSION

Department staff conclude that although there appears to be an intent to use the GMP as the technical “roadmap” for management of the Subbasin, there are uncertainties and inconsistencies in the express provisions of the Stipulated Judgment and the GMP that cast confusion or doubt as to whether this is actually how the Borrego Alternative (i.e., “management under an adjudication action”) will be implemented in the Subbasin. While flexibility under the rubric of adaptive management is desirable in a groundwater management program, at this time Department staff cannot assume or predict with sufficient certainty how the GMP will influence management decisions under the Borrego Alternative. This issue should be addressed to ensure that Department staff will be able to quantitatively track whether implementation of the Borrego Alternative is meeting the Subbasin's sustainability goal and the objectives of SGMA (see [Recommended Corrective Action 7](#)).

¹⁴⁰ GMP, Section 3.2.4 (Degraded Water Quality-Undesirable Results), pp. 289-290; Section 3.3.4 (Degraded Water Quality-Minimum Thresholds), pp. 306-308; Section 3.4.4 (Degraded Water Quality-Measurable Objectives), pp. 312-313; and Section 4.6 (Projects and Management Actions for Water Quality Optimization), pp. 373-378.

7 DETERMINATION STATUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Department staff recommend **APPROVAL** of the Stipulated Judgment as a SGMA alternative with several recommended corrective actions that should be implemented before the deadline for the next periodic submission and evaluation of the Borrego Alternative, which is June 25, 2026.

As explained in detail above, Department staff conclude that the GMP reflects a reasonable understanding of the geology and hydrology of the Subbasin based on decades of technical studies performed by objective third parties. That understanding is combined with a forthright discussion of the historical and current difficulties and challenges in eliminating overdraft and achieving sustainable groundwater management in the Subbasin. The Stipulated Judgment and GMP, while requiring refinement for clarity and consistency, establish a quantitative value for the initial sustainable yield as a goal to manage the groundwater extractions of the Subbasin and establish an enforceable program and general process for reducing extractions to reach the currently estimated sustainable yield in approximately 20 years. The program includes, among other attributes, the following:

- Robust local involvement through a regularly updated website and regular and public meetings of the Watermaster, Technical Advisory Committee, and Environmental Working Group;
- Quantitative measurement of groundwater extractions by metering virtually all non de minimis wells;
- Tracking and enforcing (with fees or Court orders) required reductions in tiered and allotted extractions;
- Allowing the voluntary transfer of pumping allocations within the Subbasin; and
- Monitoring groundwater levels throughout the implementation period.

Department staff believe these activities are reasonably designed to help the Watermaster manage the Subbasin towards the stated sustainability goals. Furthermore, efforts in the first several years of implementation of the Stipulated Judgment are proceeding rapidly and very well, putting this Subbasin ahead of efforts in many other overdrafted basins in the state that have only GSAs and GSPs.¹⁴¹ For example, groundwater extractions have decreased 37 percent since water year 2020 when the GMP was first implemented, including metered reductions in pumping from 2022 to 2023 of 20 percent. Many of these reductions have come from the agricultural sector, which,

¹⁴¹ Department staff note, for instance, that few, if any, other critically-overdrafted basins subject to SGMA have achieved equivalent levels of implementing the following measures: (1) metering and reporting of over 95 percent of groundwater extractions; (2) well-defined and enforceable pumping allocations and extraction fees; and (3) actual, substantial reductions in extractions.

historically, consumptively used over 70 percent of the Subbasin's groundwater. For critically overdrafted basins like the Borrego Springs Subbasin here, Department staff consider the option to utilize demand reduction to be appropriate, reasonable, and the most straightforward way to eliminate overdraft in the Subbasin. However, as explained above, SGMA is not focused on elimination of overdraft alone. SGMA requires that quantified sustainable management criteria be determined for each of the applicable sustainability indicators so that objective metrics can be used to define and determine whether a basin is being sustainably managed. The eventual elimination of overdraft over two decades does not automatically equate to the absence or avoidance of undesirable results under SGMA.

7.1 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Based on evaluation of the Borrego Alternative, and as discussed above, Department staff recommend the following corrective actions for some sections of the Stipulated Judgment and/or GMP, and related components, in order to improve implementation of the Borrego Alternative and basin management thereunder, and ensure that the requirements of SGMA, especially sustainable groundwater management, are likely to be achieved within 20 years in the Subbasin.¹⁴²

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 1

- Provide more figures, maps, and supporting information to clarify the rationale for creating management areas and establishing different minimum thresholds and measurable objectives based on the management areas.¹⁴³
- Discuss how the established sustainable management criteria are appropriate for each management area, why the minimum thresholds are appropriate to avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users, including any mitigation actions, and will facilitate implementation of the Stipulated Judgment.¹⁴⁴
- Clarify which sustainability indicators have minimum thresholds that apply to a specific management area and which minimum thresholds apply to the entire Subbasin.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 2

Describe how the mitigation measures,¹⁴⁵ projects and management actions, and sustainable management criteria would avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to

¹⁴² Department staff express no opinion and leave it to the Watermaster, local agencies and parties, and other local interests to determine what changes to make to which documents (e.g., Stipulated Judgment, GMP, etc.) to best carry out all of the recommended corrective actions.

¹⁴³ 23 CCR §354.12.

¹⁴⁴ 23 CCR §354.20.

¹⁴⁵ GMP, Table 3-1, p. 282.

beneficial uses and users, specifically domestic well owners. Describe in detail how the GMP's mitigation process to address undesirable results of impacts to domestic and de minimis users as groundwater levels continue to decline will be funded and implemented, including what is considered technically or financially feasible; the process in which feasibility will be determined; specific mitigation measures that will be considered or applied; and who will bear the responsibility and costs to mitigate the undesirable result.¹⁴⁶

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 3

Discuss the impacts to beneficial uses and users, including de minimis users, at the established minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives for each sustainability indicator in each management area, as applicable. Clarify the expected impacts to beneficial uses and users if all representative monitoring points in the Subbasin are at their respective minimum thresholds and interim milestones. Clarify the monitoring that will be performed in each management area that can be used objectively to track progress towards sustainability.¹⁴⁷

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 4

Provide more information regarding the minimum threshold and measurable objective for groundwater in storage, including quantified values for this sustainability indicator as they relate to the BVHM projected conditions.¹⁴⁸

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 5

Quantify the "generally accepted threshold limits for [crop] irrigation used by State Water Resources Control Board," and discuss how those limits will be used to track progress in the Subbasin to avoid undesirable results associated with degradation of groundwater quality. Describe the groundwater conditions and the associated impacts to beneficial uses and users of the Subbasin at those limits.¹⁴⁹

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 6

Until pumping reductions have been fully implemented to the point where overdraft is eliminated and groundwater pumping equals the sustainable yield, monitor for land subsidence and evaluate, at least every five years, whether land subsidence is interfering with property interests and surface uses or otherwise impacting beneficial uses and users (e.g., flood depths, flows, or risks, well casings or other infrastructure, etc.). Describe the

¹⁴⁶ GMP, Section 3.3.2.1, p. 303.

¹⁴⁷ 23 CCR § 354.34(d).

¹⁴⁸ 23 CCR § 354.28(c)(2).

¹⁴⁹ GMP, Section 3.4.4, p. 313.

amount of land subsidence or impacts that would be significant and unreasonable and therefore cause or constitute undesirable results in the basin.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 7

Eliminate inconsistencies or ambiguities between the Stipulated Judgment and GMP, and resolve or clarify the intended role of the GMP in Subbasin management and make appropriate amendments to the GMP and/or Stipulated Judgment (as needed) to clearly and expressly reflect (and enforce) that intent, especially, but not limited to the following issues detailed in Section 6 of this assessment:

- a. Application and use of the GMP's sustainable management criteria to calculate the sustainable yield and making management decisions to avoid undesirable results within the Subbasin.
- Reconcile or explain the inconsistencies between the process and factors considered for making the periodic five-year calculations of sustainable yield and those for adjustments to sustainable yield in between the five-year periods.
- Reconsider and clarify the role of the GMP in guiding Watermaster and Court decisions in implementing the Borrego Alternative and managing groundwater in the Subbasin.
- Include in all annual reports and periodic evaluations submitted to the Department a description of Watermaster or court decisions (e.g., sustainable yield calculations, amended or new judgments¹⁵⁰, other orders of consequence, etc.) that impact basin management.

7.2 CONCLUSION

Although Department staff have included several recommended corrective actions, staff do not believe this precludes approval of the Borrego Alternative, at this time, because the Subbasin is currently being managed under the adjudication action and recent information demonstrates that significant progress towards sustainability has been, and continues to be, made. In particular, the following factors militate strongly in favor of an approval, at this time, while allowing additional time to complete the corrective actions during continued implementation of the alternative:

- This is a high-priority basin designated by the Department as in a condition of critical overdraft; therefore, addressing overdraft is of paramount importance. The

¹⁵⁰ In issuing new or amended judgments, the Court, Watermaster, and other parties may consider availing themselves of the provisions of section 850, subdivision (c), of the Code of Civil Procedure, which authorizes the Court to refer and request a joint report from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department on how any such judgment could affect the ability of the State Water Resources Control Board or the Department to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and to achieve sustainable groundwater management in the Subbasin.

Borrego Alternative does that through the Stipulated Judgment, which establishes a robust and enforceable procedure to reduce overdraft (by restricting extractions) every year for the next 20 years, if needed, to achieve sustainability. That procedure has been in place for the past two years and actual pumping in the Subbasin during that time has decreased faster than required by the pumping rampdown schedule in the Stipulated Judgment. Therefore, one of the major challenges facing this critically overdrafted basin has been addressed and is off to a very good start in relation to the 20-year timeline SGMA envisions for a GSP or alternative to achieve sustainability.

- Almost all extractions (about 95 percent) in the Subbasin are currently metered and reported to the Watermaster.
- The Watermaster has a functioning and enforceable fee structure in place to raise funds necessary to implement the Subbasin's management program.
- There have been no major controversies regarding implementation of the management program since the Judgment was entered and the fact that it is a court-ordered and enforceable judgment minimizes the risk of future controversies or lawsuits that could delay implementation (e.g., disputes over fees or water rights allocations).
- The deadline for resubmission of the Borrego Alternative is June 25, 2026, at which time the Department will be able to reassess management in the Subbasin with sufficient time to trigger state intervention, if necessary, to allow for full SGMA compliance within statutory timeframes.

BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM II.C

March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Geoffrey Poole, General Manager

SUBJECT: Legal Overview of Proposition 218 Requirements – L Kharuf, BB&K

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive Verbal Report from Legal Counsel

ITEM EXPLANATION:

Staff has requested a Board update from our resident Prop 218 expert, Lutfi Kharuf-BBK, to explain the requirements of Prop 218.

NEXT STEPS

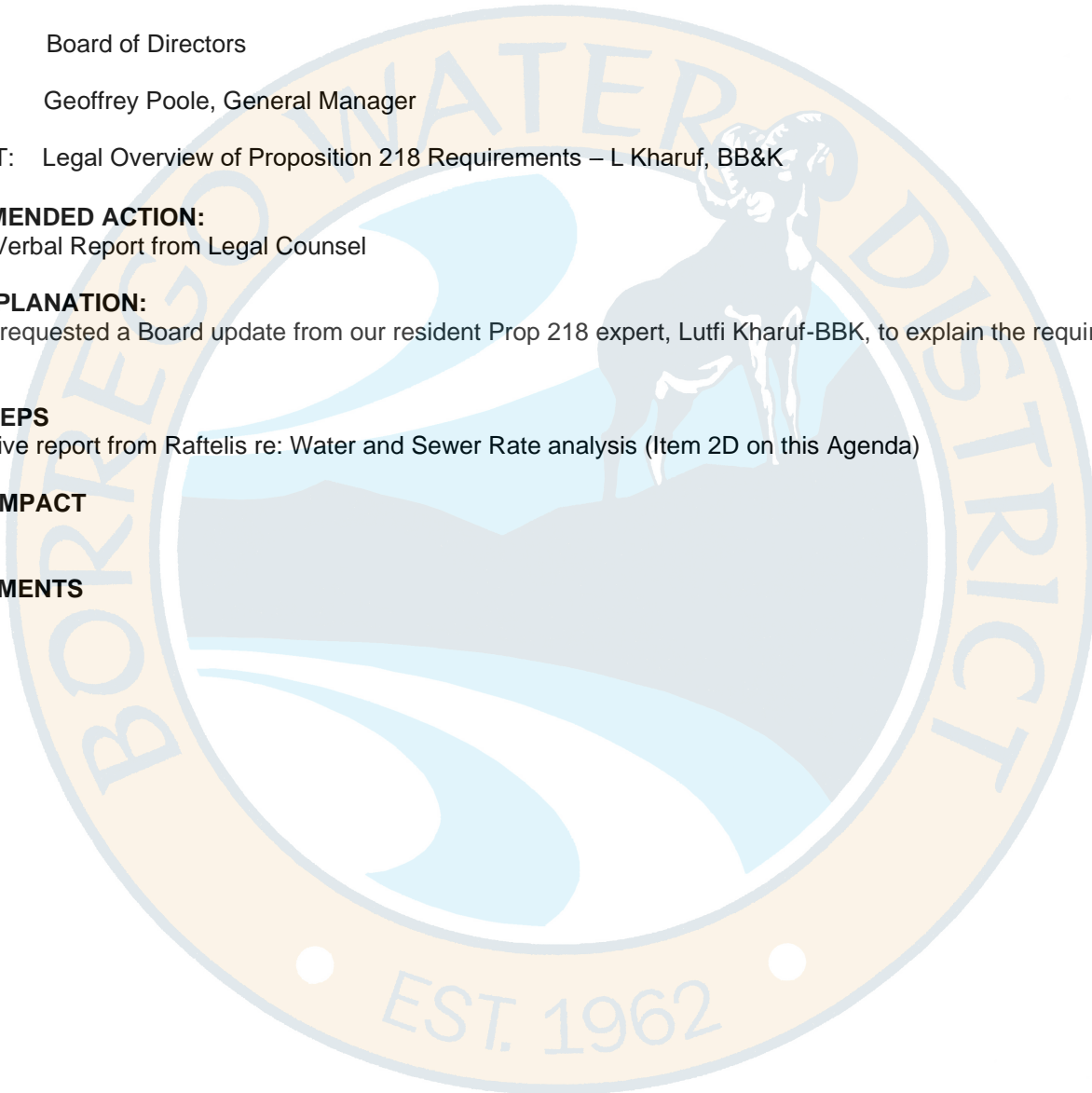
1. Receive report from Raftelis re: Water and Sewer Rate analysis (Item 2D on this Agenda)

FISCAL IMPACT

1. N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. None



BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM II.D

March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Geoffrey Poole, General Manager
SUBJECT: Review of Initial Proposition 218 Water and Sewer Rate Model – J Clabaugh & Raftelis Consultants

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive Staff/Consultant report on the Rate Model and direct staff accordingly regarding a preliminary preferred structure to be used in the completion of the Rate Study to be considered at a future Public Hearing currently tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2025.

ITEM EXPLANATION:

BWD Rate Consultants, Raftelis Corporation, will present the Water and Sewer Rate Model for the Boards consideration. The goal of this meeting is for the Board to provide direction regarding its preferred rate structure and authorize Raftelis to continue development of the Rate Study using the preliminary preferred alternative.

NEXT STEPS

1. Continue development of the Rate Study
2. Prepare for May Public Hearing: Public Notice sent in early April

FISCAL IMPACT

1.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Raftelis PowerPoint

BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM II.E

March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Geoffrey Poole, General Manager

SUBJECT: Review of Prop 68 Funded White Paper (Updated) regarding an Integrated Watershed Scale Master Community Plan and Resilient Community – G Poole

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review and Provide Comment

ITEM EXPLANATION:

BWD has received the updated White Paper. To meet the requirements of the Grant, review of the documents and documentation of the comments received is needed at a BWD Board meeting.

NEXT STEPS

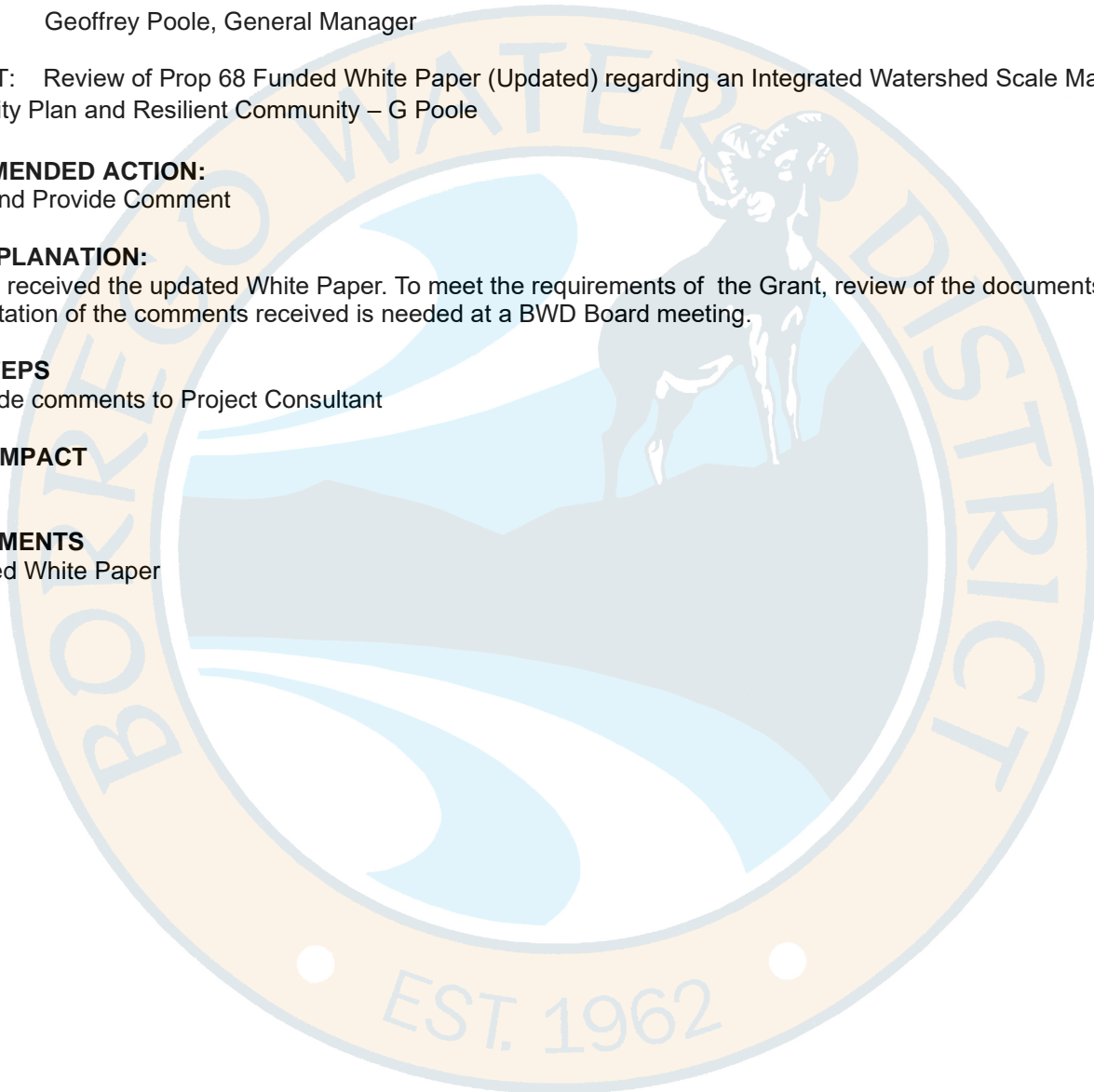
1. Provide comments to Project Consultant

FISCAL IMPACT

1. N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Updated White Paper



BORREGO SPRINGS ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY RESILIENCY WHITE PAPER

Draft 1 - February 12, 2025

Draft 2 - February 27, 2025

Final March 14, 2025

Howard M. Blackson III, Urban Designer, Michael Baker International

Holly A. Smit Kicklighter, Senior Biologist/Environmental Planner, ASK Environmental

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The White Paper is intended to support environmental and community resiliency throughout the community of Borrego Springs. It is a product of funding from Proposition 68, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Grant provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources and the Borrego Water District. Intended to assist with the implementation requirements of the state's Groundwater Sustainability Plan, known locally as the 2020 Groundwater Master Plan (**Reference 1** – Under Separate Cover), this paper is structured to be a resource for members of the community, policy makers, and governing bodies to better understand specific qualities and characteristics of Borrego Springs.

This paper includes a review of key elements of Borrego Springs basin, its community fabric and natural resources. It also includes results from global scientific resources, local academic institutes and environmental professionals, and community surveys and engagement gathered from the pre-application through present, grant project period, 2019-2025. And finally, it is intended to be used as a supporting resource for informing future iterations of the County of San Diego's General Plan and the development of an update to the 2011 Borrego Springs Community Plan (**Ref. 2**).

In January 2020, Borrego Water District (BWD) and the County of San Diego, were the first in California to file a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for their aquifer/basin in compliance with the State's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The GSP was developed in response to the desert community's dependence on groundwater from a sole-source aquifer. For over 70 years the aquifer has been subject to over drafting from farming activities of approximately 15,000 acre-feet annually (**Ref. 3**).

Subsequently, a local Groundwater Master Plan (GMP) was developed to supersede the GSP, and in 2021, over 90% of Basin pumpers negotiated an adjudicated Settlement Agreement. The Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster (Watermaster) was formed thereafter to monitor and sustainably manage the Basin together with implementation and enforcement of the GMP.

Ultimately, this white paper outlines a sustainable and resilient planning framework for current and future development which factors in critical environmental, socioeconomic, and infrastructure community specific constraints and concerns. It spells out strengths, challenges, and opportunities to integrate the new GMP with a future Borrego Springs Community Plan (BSCP) update. And it comments on the state of the region's resiliency today in the face of increased climate challenges in the future.

Key Findings and Themes

1. **Water Sustainability and Climate Change:**

- Borrego Springs was first in the State to utilize and file a Groundwater Sustainability Plan per 2014 SGMA.
- Borrego Springs water source is dependent upon a single aquifer.
- The 90% pumpers with the negotiated Base Pumping Allocation (BPA) are required to reduce groundwater use by approximately 70% by 2040 to comply with SGMA/GMP regulations.
- Community customers of the Borrego Water District (BWD) who historically have used only about 10-11% of the annual share are not expected to decreased allocation or increased water cost as BWD has purchased additional water rights from adjudicated pumpers.

- Climate change is exacerbated air and water quality, water scarcity, and risk of biodiversity loss, that is a threat to human health and well-being due to increased stochastic weather events, such as extreme heat, droughts, floods, and winds.

2. **Environmental Challenges:**

- Declining water levels put basin ecosystems, including Mesquite Bosque and Ocotillo Forest, at risk.
- Habitat loss and declining water levels put local biodiversity and endangered species, such as Peninsular bighorn sheep, at risk.
- Increased dust storms, exacerbated by fallowed agricultural lands, pose air quality risks.

3. **Community Planning and Socioeconomic Factors:**

- Borrego Springs is predominately an aging community lacking diversity that is economically dependent on tourism and seasonal residents.
- Sustainability and water conservation are top priorities as identified by public engagement through surveys.
- Affordable housing and access to healthcare have been identified as major concerns.

4. **Infrastructure and Public Facilities:**

- Transportation considerations, such as commuting distances, local service accessibility, wayfinding, safety, and Vehicle Miles Traveled impacts must be improved.
- Energy reliability conditions and improvements, such as microgrids and battery storage, are essential due to unpredictable power shutoffs and the need to maintain connectivity for safety, communication, and air conditioning due to desert climate conditions.
- Flood risks and water pollution are significant risks due to alluvial fan flooding and climate change, requiring updated stormwater, water, and sewer/septic management measures.
- The community aims to retain and enhance dark sky conservation and quiet park initiatives.

5. **Proposed Solutions and Recommendations:**

- Develop and implement a locally integrated, watershed-scale, master or community plan that augments ongoing sustainable development planning efforts by incorporating new water conservation measures mandated by the 2020 GMP, local, climate adaptive, environmental protections, and resilient town planning elements.
- Support sustainable agriculture and recreation, and ecological restoration of fallowed lands.
- As the aquifer is being restored, provide interim support to native Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem.
- Continue to strengthen education, opportunities, governance, infrastructure, and community engagement for long-term resilience.
- Expand existing local renewable energy infrastructure to increase energy independence.

Summary

Borrego Springs is an actively engaged leader in community ecological awareness and conservation. The community have been working collectively to address critical challenges related to water scarcity, climate change, and infrastructure adequacy and resilience. With continued on-going strategic planning, sustainable development innovation, and community engagement, it will be a role model of success for other arid regions facing similar challenges. This white paper tiers off Borrego Spring's prior planning efforts to provide a roadmap for a resilient, integrated, science-driven, and community-supported outcomes that support its viability into the future.

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DRAFT

1. The White Paper

A. Problem Statement and Introduction of Solutions

Borrego Springs is in San Diego County's most arid climate and is served by a sole source aquifer. It is currently being restored after decades of over drafting. In January 2020, Borrego Water District (BWD) and County of San Diego, were the first in California to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for their aquifer/Basin in compliance with the State's 2014 "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Its Community Plan (BSCP) was adopted in 2011 and needs to be updated with to the new information generated by the state's Proposition 68 SGMA Implementation process. To continue to thrive into the next century, Borrego Springs leadership needs to steward its ecologically sustainable path forward and build towards an economically balanced and socially equitable future by merging its GSP policies into an updated BSCP (**Ref. 4 – FIGURE 1**).

B. What is the Scope of the Problem?

The problem of arid heat with its dependency on a sole source water supply is unique to Borrego within San Diego County. Borrego serves as microcosmic glimpse into the future climatic conditions in hot, arid climates. With temperature goals for the planet of 1.5 degrees Celsius or 3 degrees Fahrenheit now being regularly exceeded (**Ref. 5**), all Californians, and beyond, are now poised to face increasing stochastic weather extremes with global temperature rise. However, due to Borrego's innovate response to its water supply issues to further increase its long-term resiliency, these measures should serve as a hopeful model to sustain arid, desert communities throughout the southwest.

C. Why Does this Problem Require Attention?

After having an unsustainable yield taken from its aquifer since around 1994, Borrego has completed a sustainable groundwater management plan (**Ref. 6 – FIGURE 2**). While residents ace risky environmental conditions and challenges, they now enjoy state and local support in the form of the GMP, SGMA grant money, and willing constituents working towards a resilient community. From this point forward, new issues the community will have to solve for are responses to the abandoned and fallowed agricultural fields and dying native habitats. Recently, mesquite bosque has been proven to still be reaching for and accessing the aquifer (**Ref. 7**). The Final 2020 GMP plan requires a sustainable yield of aquifer drawdown from the high starting use in 2020 of approximately 26,000-acre feet per year to approximately 6,000 to 8,000 AF/yr by 2040, which is a reduction of about 70%.

Note that only the 90% pumpers with the negotiated Base Pumping Allocation must reduce groundwater use by approximately 70% by 2040 to comply with SGMA/GMP regulations. Community customers of the Borrego Water District (BWD) who historically have used only about 10-11% of the annual share are not expected to require decreased allocation or significant water cost increase as BWD has purchased additional water rights from adjudicated pumpers (**Ref. 8**). The momentum of the grant to fulfill annual and 5-year reports will guide Borrego to successful water management outcomes.

D. Steps Towards a Sustainable Future

Borrego's historic agriculture production pumped approximately 15,000 acre-feet of groundwater from a sole-source aquifer for over 70 years (**Ref. 2**). In 2020, the GSP puts Borrego's aquifer/Basin acre-feet groundwater use in compliance with the State's 2014 SGMA. Throughout 2020 and 2021, over 90% of Basin pumpers negotiated a Settlement Agreement and an alternative to the GSP, known as the local GMP, that was approved by the state. In April 2021, the Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster (Watermaster) was established to monitor and sustainably manage the Basin and implement and enforce the GMP.

This paper provides an outline of the critical environmental, socioeconomic, and infrastructure community specific constraints and concerns. Its primary objective is to inform future policies and regulations that guide future development on the need for more sustainable and resilient outcomes. In this era of increased climate challenges, Proposition 68 and a SGMA Implementation Grant funded this paper to explore the challenges and opportunities that the GMP brings to future policy and regulatory updates. This information is particularly relevant to the forthcoming BSCP update, which was adopted in 2011.

E. A Resilient and Integrated Sustainable Land Use Framework in the County of San Diego

In 2011, the County of San Diego adopted its General Plan that had been last updated in 1978. The BSCP was accepted and adopted into the County's General Plan in 2011 (**Ref. 9 – FIGURE 3**). The county's General Plan contains seven (7) state required elements and appendices, which include land use, mobility, conservation, and open space, safety, noise, and housing (updated every 5-years). Its environmental justice and climate vulnerability elements, and the Climate Action Plan were added after 2016 as required by more recent state mandates. The Mobility Element Network Appendix was added in 2018, Land Use Map Appendix added in 2020, and Housing Element Appendices was added in 2021.

In 2022, the County also began a "Sustainable Land Use Framework" (SLUF - **Ref. 10**). See the VTM related discussion under the "Socioeconomics Analysis and Solutions" subsection for further details on how the SLUF came to be a "holistic policy approach intended to balance community priorities, guide future policymaking, and meet the goals of the County's Board" of Supervisors (BOS). The County's BOS is governing body for the unincorporated area. In 2024, the County adopted their final Climate Action Plan (**Ref. 11**). SLUF is will structure or frame the county's sustainability planning for the next iteration of its General Plan, which is also constantly in progress of being updated every 10 to 20 years per state law.

The SLUF is intended to gather community input and develop a more adaptable, inclusive and "holistic approach to sustainable planning and development to ensure that ALL unincorporated communities (which includes Borrego Springs), regardless of their proximity to transit, services, and amenities can live, evolve, and thrive in an equitable and sustainable way." The SLUF "Framework," will then be integrated into the next General Plan update to address any sustainable gaps and to help the County's General Plan evolve with and incorporate "new State legislation and adjacent (community) planning efforts.

F. How Borrego’s Sustainability Planning Will Facilitate and Inform the County’s SLUF

As the County SLUF evolves through 2025, this white paper’s planning and process provides an additional means for Borrego to participate and contribute to in the County’s final SLUF policies. Community interests within the unincorporated County are represented by Community Planning Groups (CPG) and Community Sponsor Groups (CSG - **Ref. 12**). CPG members are elected while CSG members are appointed. The purpose of these groups is to advise County Planning & Development Services, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors on land use related issues. There are 26 CPG/CSGs representing a broad cross section of the community, of which the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group (BSCSG) is a CSG.

The 26 communities advocate for their own community plan and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) update and public review process. This effort has been undertaken in Borrego Springs by the BSCSG in the hopes it will help inform development of a resilient updated BSCP to address current and anticipated needs in the future. The information in the paper was generated by the outcomes of the Proposition 68 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (**Ref. 13**) grant-funding process, as well as 2020 outline/ Scoping Proposal for an “Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning Process (**Ref.14**), and subsequent 2021 grant and grant agreement (**Ref. 15**). In addition, this process is informed by national and international best available science, best management practices, and sustainability guidelines and goals including the UN’s 17 Sustainability goals adopted in 2016 (**Ref. 16 – [FIGURE 4](#)**) and utilized within SANDAG’s regional planning framework (**Ref. 17**).

In the context of discussing conservation and restoration of biologic resources in Borrego, a new program known as “30x30” was adopted by the State in October 2020 (**Ref. 18**), the nation in 2021 (**Ref. 19**), and the international community30x30 is Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (**Ref.20**). The program was hence adopted by over 190 countries by December 2022 to support species and ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change and increasing levels of global land modification. Although, the concept was initially discussed in various sectors as 50% for Nature. Nature needs ½, and Half Earth Day in 2019 and prior, the idea of ‘30x30’ is to reach preservation of 30% of nature, land, and water in each adopter region by 2030 and perhaps reach for 50% by 2050. These percentages have been touted as ways to ensure the ecosystem services of nature continue to function to support development sectors humans depend on, such as agricultural output, fisheries, water recharge, and species diversity/biodiversity (**Ref. 21**).

G. Addressing Limited Water and Facing Climate Change

The heritage, identity, and economy of Borrego Springs is tied to its wide-open vistas, and fragile desert landscapes. For this reason, all planning for Health, Education, and Economic Development in this community must occur with an ecological lens. Recognizing that land use and land use change accounts for 23% of GHG emissions globally, and that biodiversity loss is accelerating at alarming rates, the important ecological characteristics of Borrego’s connection to water, species, and soil and their interplay with land use patterns, including existing local, state, and federal guiding plans and policies, and weather conditions, including climate change, must be considered (**Ref. 22**).

Borrego Springs exists within the direct connection of the health of the community in balance with its natural resources. The water supply of Borrego Springs is its modifying factor. The treatment of water can create positive or negative effects on other natural resource provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting functions (**Ref 23 - [FIGURE 5](#)**).

The Borrego Springs subbasin aquifer provides high quality, potable water. The overdraft of the aquifer began with the rise of agriculture in the early to mid-20th century. With keen forethought and insight, Borrego Springs documented the issue and adopted a vision and commitment to replenish its aquifer within its. As stated, the BSCP has not been updated substantially, particularly since a sustainability oriented 2020 GMP was completed. In 2014 the BWD and County started the plan process because Borrego's water supply met criteria as a severely over-drafted basin and were later joined by the Watermaster (**Ref. 24 - [FIGURE 6](#)**).

A major indicator of climate change is stochastic weather. Examples are the annual threat of possible historic flooding events over a 100-year flood category (**Ref. 25**), an increase in prolonged periods of drought, low-risk fire threats from wildfire, and an increase in temperatures. Borrego is also subject to frequent power grid shutoffs to protect nearby and connected mountain communities during natural disasters (**Ref. 26 - [FIGURE 7](#)**).

In the past, conventional development pressure from housing and commercial development have been impeded by water insecurity. Today, and into the future, new housing goals and incentives are being passed annually by California state legislature bills due to statewide housing deficiencies and affordability crises (**Ref. 27**). And in response to lower carbon emissions to combat climate change, a new class of regional renewable energy projects are creating a new type of development pressure.

In the face of climate change, more sustainable living fosters a community's resiliency by conserving resources responsibly and having resources in reserve to respond to future unknown events. For this, and other reasons listed above, an integrated town planning and environmental-focused community plan, at the scale of Borrego's watershed, will produce a resiliency-based plan. And it is important to amplify Borregos voice to inform County and State governance decisions.

2. METHODOLOGY and RESEARCH

A. Grant Context

This work is funded by Proposition 68, SGMA Implementation Grant. It is in conformance with the grant agreement between the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and BWD, per Grant Agreement Number 4600014652. Deliverables for this grant are listed as Components 1 – 8 (**Ref .28 - [FIGURE 8](#)**). Borrego Spring's Groundwater Subbasin Characterization, and its companion appendices and other deliverables, are identified in "Component 5 - Resiliency Strategy, Category (b): Environmental / Engineering/Design [Task 2: Basin Characterization](#)," which mandates Task 2: Basin Characterization (**Ref. 29 - [FIGURE 9](#)**) to compile and summarize research in collaboration with the region's experts, including but not limited to UC Irvine Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center researchers, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park environmental scientists, and BWD in natural resources/environmental characteristics, planning, and governance.

These documents informed the community visioning process and the development of community priorities for the basin under Task 5, which identified and prioritize basin issues and opportunities and included potential basin restoration or management projects. The process obtained feedback on this summary white paper from a minimum of five (5) water network partners and/or cooperators. The grant funded the work to perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the natural resources within the basin.

The deliverables of this component include this white paper, a “factsheet summary of white paper and website/brochure FAQ,” a standalone “Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis for Borrego’s natural resources” and documentation of basin monitoring and evaluation roles, responsibilities, and decision-making protocols from authorities such as BWD, the GMP, technical consultants to parties in the basin, and other key federal, state and San Diego County entities under Component 5 Resiliency Strategy.

B. Research Limitations and Biases

All research including for this White Paper has limitations and biases. Foremost engagement bias occurs during public engagement with surveys and at events as not everyone will wish to engage in one form or another, or at all, therefore the data can be skewed to engagers in the community. Various sources, and general temporal and spatial (time and space) of the study also inherently influence data.

For instance, the timeframe in which data was gathered included time limitations imposed by the grant period limitations. Additionally, differences of opinion among various experts and providers of data can occur and may present as occasional minor differences between various sections of the paper (i.e., one source might report Borrego is 87 miles from San Diego and another reference says 90, or the median age may be reported as 53.8 in one section and 58 in another). Overall, the individual biases, strengths, and weaknesses each analyst brings to the team effort ultimately influences how data is presented.

Finally, the intended target audience, such as laypeople, academicians, executives, students of different ages, etc., and tone, which is conversational, scientific, persuasive/marketing, etc., are also biases in the final presentation. This paper attempts to focus on best available science that is peer reviewed or expert opinion/data, with facts that generally have consensus around them, and showing and explaining work for other information sources process. The paper presents this methodology in an understandable way is thus critical for helping audiences understand and assess inherent bias and limitations of research and data.

C. Research

This paper consolidates knowledge assembled from the existing BSCP, prior planning documents, and GSP work. Information was collected from an exhaustive literature search, especially publications produced after the existing BSCP, and an integration of the community, county, state, and federal level plans and policies. And it utilizes academic environmental and town planning expertise expressed during this grant process.

This paper references the other in-process components of the grant as part of the Groundwater Subbasin Characterization section. Component 5 task compiled and summarized our research in collaboration with the region’s experts. In addition, Component 6 - Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands, Component 7 - Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan

Update, and Component 8 - GDE Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring informed the paper's research, analysis, and recommendations.

Community Input came via the 2024 survey (**Appendix**), and engagement events such as the Town Halls, and Borrego "University" expert presentations on various media platforms (in-person and on-line) between 2019 to 2025. The "Draft Final Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin Plan (**Ref. 1**)," and the "Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning Process Scoping Proposal (**Ref. 14**)" were used extensively to inform the environmental and planning sections.

The BSCP is a major base source of information. Other important data sources include the research and information documents from the California DWR (**Ref. 13**), County of San Diego, and Borrego Springs specific data used to initiate the GSP (**Ref. 1**), the subsequent legal proceedings of the GMP. Additional documents perused include all relevant County documents including the 2011 General Plan, (**Ref. 9**) the 1988 regional Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP – **Ref. 30**), and the in-process and pending North County and East County MSCP subarea plans signed 2021 Planning Agreement (**Ref. 31**).

The County's development code and guideline documents for grading, and newer climate change and sustainability documents (**Ref. 10 and Ref. 11**) and efforts are explained in more detail below. Federal, state, regional, and local data was referenced from planning and resource agencies. Federal agencies include the United States Census (**Ref. 32**), United States Forest Services (**Ref. 33**), United States Geological Survey (**Ref. 34**), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (**Ref. 35**), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (**Ref. 36**).

State of California agencies and resources include Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LUCI - **Ref. 37**), California Environmental Quality Act, (**Ref. 38**), California State Parks (**Ref. 39**), California's 30x30 program (**Ref. 40**), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (**Ref. 41**). Locally, research included County of San Diego, San Diego Association of Governments (**Ref. 42**), as well as from academic institutions and a variety of professional environmental planning consultants including University California Irvine Land IQ (**Ref. 43**), Dudek (**Ref. 44**), WestYost (**Ref. 45**), and others. Finally, non-profits and local community committees and consultants, including the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council (BVSC - **Ref. 46**), Civic Well (**Ref. 47**), the implementing agency under the BVSC, and the BSCSG (**Ref. 48**) also informed this paper.

Many documents utilized in this paper are works in progress and meant to be 'living documents,' especially those related to climate change and biodiversity. In fact, the GMP itself is constantly evolving as the program requires both annual and 5-year reporting period documents so the state and locals can track, monitor, and inform and update the parameters of the management plan and programs. Additionally, the County's on-going climate planning includes recent adoption of the final CAP (**Ref. 11**), the in-process Regional Decarbonization Plan (RDP – **Ref. 49**), and in-process SLUF (**Ref. 10**).

To serve a variety of community users and planning officials, this White Paper, and the Basin FAQs and SWOT analysis are intentionally structured in a succinct, high-level format, with footnotes or references and hyperlinks provided for additional information. References and Figures provide additional resources and weblinks to supporting information. The appendices are complete documents for reference as well.

D. Demographic and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Data

Government census data, and other value adding government sources, such as SANDAG, and school districts that “crunch” data were perused for relevant demographic information. The state of California determined that Borrego Springs is a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) as defined in California Health and Safety Code, Section 116760.20 (**Ref. 50**). SDACs are Census geographies having less than 60% of the statewide annual median household income.

Anecdotally, official demographic data, such as the American Community Survey Data (**Ref. 51 – FIGURE 10**), may not be representative of local community perceptions or observations. Perceived inconsistency is understandable based on the seasonality of the area, as it is estimated that part-time residents, seasonal workers, “snowbirds,” and weekenders inflate the population two-fold (**Ref. 14**). Additional reasons may also include that there is simply less meaningful “crunched” data for the small community of Borrego where numbers may not add up as “statistically significant” in government databases.

United State Census Bureau 2018 data (**Ref. 32**) collected for 2010, 2020, and 2015 from the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates may be incomplete for reasons which may include the pandemic, and/or peoples fear of government motives. Thereby, attempts to accurately identify all members of Borrego’s fabric to reach and serve the needs of all in the community, including underrepresented, underreported, or hidden populations in Borrego has been on-going issue. Solutions may include anecdotes from personal communications with trusted community representatives.

E. Public Input

To better understand the needs and preferences of the Borrego Springs Community, the BVSC, funded by the SGW Implementation Grant and DWR, conducted a comprehensive community survey (**See Appendix - Community Survey 2024**). This intent of the survey was to inform the development of a community resiliency strategy. The survey addressed various aspects of community life, including housing, infrastructure, public services, and economic development.

168 people responded to the 2024 survey. Due to a variety of engagement methods including in person gatherings, an on-line portal, and emailed surveys, the total number of engagements is unknown. The survey’s response format was multiple choice, with priority selection questions with additional input boxes available. Engagement was open and included residents, property owners, and visitors.

The result of the survey reveals a mature, predominantly white residential community facing significant challenges with healthcare access, water sustainability, and affordable housing concerns. Borregos surveyed stated they benefit from strong community bonds and amenities of being surrounded by the protected natural landscapes of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The survey provided additional insights into community demographics, needs, and priorities.

F. Intended Use of This Paper

This paper is intended to be used as a planning aid to update the BSCP update, to interact the County’s SLUF planning process, and then to inform a future County General Plan update. The General Plan Land Use Maps (**Ref. 52 – FIGURE 11**) should be utilized to determine the type, location and density of land use currently allowed. Additionally, county land use map. General Plan LU-A-6.6 map (**Ref. 53 – FIGURE 12**) illustrates greater desert lands surrounding Borrego

Springs and should be updated for consistency with the adjacent land use and communities. This and other information provided on other current local, state, and federal programs should help Borregons identify where countywide policies and practices could be updated to further sustainable development and resiliency in the Community.

1) To Update, Implement, and Monitor the BSCP

It is the responsibility of the county to implement any current and subsequent Borrego Springs Community Plans. Additionally, it is hoped that the county considers in-progress efforts, such as this paper, to update or amend the BSCP, consider new elements for resilience, and/or to monitor progress towards Borrego's stated community vision, goals, and expressed policies. The existing Community Plan includes the community's key issues as well as goals and policies to reach them. Additionally, for each policy or set of policies, there are one or more implementation actions identified to carry it out.

The planning process base of this white paper tiers off the latest BSCP, which demonstrates the distinctly, progressive, and more sustainable development ethos of Borregons. This is new mindset is crucial in facing to proactively mitigate for and adapt to the volatile outcomes due to climate change. Subsequently, this white paper analyzed, updated, and added community data, best available science, and research information relevant to Borrego and desert communities to the provide a planning framework to assist with updating the BSCP.

The implementation program also identifies the County department or agency responsible for its implementation, where appropriate. Many of the adopted policies and implementation actions are aided by County ordinances and discretionary action requirements related to zoning, design guidelines, and development standards per County Zoning and Building Codes and development regulations. Implementation of Community Plans and related community documents should be monitored on a periodic basis by the County and the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group for progress towards its implementation.

For compliance with State law, Community Plans shall be reviewed no less than once annually so that its implementation status may be included in the County's Annual General Plan Report to the State. The annual review also provides the opportunity for Community Plan to be updated and amended, as appropriate. Or the BSCP may be augmented with ancillary information, such as contained in this paper, to reflect changes in the community's vision, conditions, or attitudes.

3. BACKGROUND and CONTEXT

A. Overview

This broadest section includes broad cultural, environmental, and planning setting sections. Those broad sections are in turn broken in to subsections topics such prehistoric, and historic information and Desert Lands, along with their natural hazards and risks; The current local, state, and federal planning setting that shapes the community; and its present socioeconomic standings are also discussed, along with existing public infrastructure and facilities which support the community.

This background/context section is intended to lead the reader to independently discover many of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the community for themselves. Each subsection will have appropriate analysis and discussion of challenges and solutions. And at the end of two broader combined sections, Cultural, Environmental and Hazards and Planning Settings, a SWOT will be is provided.

B. Borrego Springs Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

The community of Borrego Springs recognizes that it sits on pre-historic and historically tribal lands of the Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, and Cupeño, and for millennia the indigenous people lived harmoniously with the land as its first stewards.

C. Public Involvement – A Tradition for Planning in Borrego

Public Involvement in Preparing the original BSCP were gathered during Community Plan “Community Meetings” held beginning with the BSCSG on January 2, 2007. Public forums were held on January 29, 2007; February 26, 2007; and March 26, 2007. There was a presentation to the Borrego Springs Real Estate Association on April 10, 2007, and a final presentation to the BSCSG on April 24, 2007. These meetings involved more than 100 representatives of groups and individual citizens.

D. Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning Process

This paper presents a framework for an “Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning Process” that celebrates and identify Borrego Springs past, current, and future potential “strengths and opportunities.” These include the people’s resiliency while living within their uniquely arid and fragile desert ecosystem. This approach will help avoid, minimize, curtail, and reform Borrego’s “weaknesses and threats” such as those caused by current outdated or generalized land use practices and policies. “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats” SWOT analysis are provided for environmental and planning in the sections below.

E. Pre-Historic and Historical Setting

A million years ago, the Borrego Valley was part of a vast savanna/grassland covered with lakes and streams. The Park contains one of North America’s richest concentrations of Pleistocene fossils, dating from 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Today in the Borrego badlands, ancient fossil remains of mammoths, mastodons, camels, horses, giant sloths, and saber tooth cats can be found.

Borrego's earliest human habitants (6,000 to 10,000 years ago) were likely ancient ancestors of the Cahuilla and Kumeyaay peoples, who became active in the area about 2,000 years ago. These semi-nomadic tribes traveled from the desert lowlands to the mountains, and thousands of recorded sites mark their occupation within the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Borrego Valley. The community of Borrego Springs is named for the Borrego, which is Spanish for "sheep," that acknowledges its natural inhabitants, the federally endangered species known as Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Native Americans are credited with being careful stewards of the land for time immemorial and specific tribes in Borrego Valley include The Kumeyaay utilized the southern part of the Anza Borrego State Park (ABSP) and large parts of the central section, and their territory extended from Laguna Salada in Mexico to the Imperial Valley. The Cahuilla Native American tribes traditionally occupied the northern part of the park, and they spoke a Shoshonean language. The Cupeño people also lived in the northwestern part of the park, including the middle fork of Borrego Palm Canyon. Their territory extended to Hot Springs Mountain and Warner Springs.

The Northern Diegueño lived in the southern part of the park, including Lake Henshaw, San Felipe Creek, and Blair Valley and spoke a Yuman language. Evidence of Native American presence can be found as Rock art/Pictographs in many places in the desert. Additionally, one can find morteros used to grind and prepare food, and Agave plants: An important food source for the native people (Ref. 54).

F. Early European and North American Exploration and Settlement 1750 – 1930

Explorers such as Juan Bautista de Anza forged overland routes through the Borrego Desert in the 1770s; primitive paths that would become major transportation corridors. The Juan Bautista de Anza Trail is designated a National Historic Trail, and five historical sites mark where the Anza expedition camped. As they journeyed through Kumeyaay and Cahuilla lands. The event may have been documented as pictographs that exist today.

The 1800s and the California Gold Rush brought a flourish of immigration, transportation, and communications development. The historic Butterfield Stage Route quickly followed. Today it is recognized at sites such as the Vallecito and Carrizo Stage Stations, about 40 – 50 miles south of Borrego Springs, where weary travelers and horses once stopped for rest and food.

Following the Civil War, the cattle industry was supported by abundant feed and easily accessible water. Homesteading started in the early 1900s, and some structures and home sites remain. The homesteaders lived a rugged life of farming and ranching, drilling their own wells or hauling water to do so.

The 1920 – 30's era coincides with early records of "tourists" journeying from the Warner Springs area to admire the Valley's great natural beauty, plant life, and scenic vistas. In 1928, the Ensign Ranch was producing the first irrigated cash crops, including alfalfa hay. Also in 1928, Borrego Springs' first store and post office were established at the location known today as "Old Borego".

Increasingly, visitors and residents realized the great beauty and scenic value of the area, and in 1932, the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was formed to protect these unique desert lands.

In the mid-1930's Burnand, Jr. became a significant agricultural investor, and there were at least eight major ranches in production. Agriculture was the mainstay industry, sustained by the favorable climate and irrigation with easily accessible water. After World War II, Jeeps and other transportation improvements made desert exploration popular and brought the colorful spring wildflower blooms to wider public notice.

G. The Role of Agriculture (1940 to Present)

By the mid-1940's, the DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, the largest grape grower in California's central valley, had developed a thriving business here. DiGiorgio saw profit in getting Borrego grapes to market a full month earlier than other growers. To protect the seedlings, DiGiorgio planted miles of the highly invasive tamarisk tree (**Ref. 55**) windbreaks.

By 1950, DiGiorgio had more than 1,000 acres under cultivation along north DiGiorgio Road. Much of the natural desert landscape was removed with heavy equipment to make parcels more suitable for farming. The payoff came in mid-June 1950, when Borrego grapes grossed over \$750,000, with competition only from Coachella Valley. By 1957, DiGiorgio was cultivating grapes on over 2,500 acres, and there were at least 20 major ranches in business producing cash crops like grapes, flowers, alfalfa, and cotton. Agriculture was the community's main economic driver, providing jobs and stability.

DiGiorgio's enterprise alone took nearly twenty wells to irrigate and more than 600 seasonal workers to harvest, pack and ship. As a result of Caesar Chavez' United Farm Workers' efforts to unionize DiGiorgio employees in 1966, DiGiorgio turned off the water, abandoned farming and turned his attention to residential and commercial development.

With grapes gone, large-scale citrus farming took hold in the valley. For the past several decades, the few remaining citrus and ornamental plant farms and palm nurseries have employed a handful of local people to manage operations year-round. These growers import seasonal harvesting crews to pack and ship produce and decorative palms to national and international distributors.

Now farming in Borrego Valley is changing dramatically. The implementation of SMGA requires the sustainable use of groundwater. SGMA is discussed throughout this paper (i.e. Executive Summary, Problem Statement, Methodology and Environmental Setting, etc.), but essentially in Borrego, the law led to a negotiated, legally adjudicated, agreement between the greatest (non-de minimus) pumpers to reduce water use each year by a specified amount, until by 2040, when a required cutback approximately 63-70% must be achieved (**Ref. 56**).

In lieu of the water cutbacks, several farm owners have chosen to fallow their land and/or sell it, along with its water allocation, to other entities who desire the water for their own use. Anecdotally, local farmers have recently sold acres of citrus farmland to the Borrego Water District. Simultaneously, families who have farmed here for decades intend to remain and are currently experimenting with less water-intensive crops and other water-saving methods. The two examples are of today's integrated watershed-based planning approach in the basin.

It is recognized that stopping irrigation on those acres and exposing them to frequent winds can lead to airborne dust particles which can be harmful to human health. Fortunately, the same Proposition-68 funded SGMA Implementation Grant that supports this paper, is also funding a study of how fallowed land with high winds spread invasive plant species across the basin.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Borrego's greatest natural resource is its desert environment. The low-desert climate is characterized by mild winters and extreme summers. Rainfall averaging less than seven inches per year. And the warm, arid climate is a major influence on the area's history of success and continued future as a resilient community.

Visitors and residents alike appreciate the stark natural beauty of this vast desert landscape. This paper explores the potential impact of future man-made development on its natural setting. Its local characteristics—clean air, dark night skies, underground water supply, scenic mountain vistas, natural flora, and fauna—are vital to the social and economic vitality of future development.

A. Landscape and Habitats

Borrego Springs is surrounded by and biologically influenced by Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the largest and most biodiverse Park in the United States second only to the Great Smokey Mountains. High elevation species such as white fir grow on several nearby mountaintops. Sonoran Desert stalwarts such as ocotillo, palo verde, fishhook cacti, and creosote are found in hotter, lower elevation areas.

A perennial stream, Coyote Creek, offers rare riparian habitat within this arid region. Thirty fan palm oases, ocotillo, piñon pine and juniper forests, and live oak woodlands. The eroded formations of the Borrego and Carrizo Badlands are found in the eastern portion of the park.

The 932 plant taxa found in the park include a number of species unusual in California, such as the elephant tree more typical of Baja California. Late winter and early spring bring spectacular wildflower blooms and throngs of visitors. 331 bird species such as greater roadrunners and golden eagles are on the park checklist. Reptiles and amphibians include over 60 different species such as chuckwallas, desert iguanas, and the red diamond rattlesnake. The 60 species of mammals range from kit foxes and mule deer to the majority of the endangered desert bighorn sheep remaining in California.

Due to aquifer overdraft and long-term drought, there has been very significant vegetation loss in Borrego Valley and the Park in general. A 2021 study by University of California at Irvine found that between 1984 and 2017, vegetation cover in desert ecosystems decreased overall by about 35 percent in the desert portions of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (**Ref. 59**). The already-designated Environmentally Constrained Borrego Sink area is losing large amounts of native mesquite woodlands, along with wildlife dependent on the habitat, and impacting the historic value of the area.

Along with the Borrego Sink, Borregos still have an opportunity to conserve other areas containing rare and endangered plant and animal species, archaeological sites, agricultural preserves, and other environmentally sensitive areas that could otherwise experience adverse impacts from development and/or climate change. In the absence of codified protection, natural habitats are regularly converted to manufactured landscapes using plant materials that are foreign to the desert ecosystem and require lots of water to maintain.

In the 2011 and prior BSCPs, the term Resource Conservation Area (RCA) was a designation used by the County to identify lands requiring special attention. Per the 2011 BSCP, one designated RCA was created for Mesquite Bosque and a cultural area in Borrego and four other elements were intended to be protected by RCAs including other areas of Mesquite Bosque, Ocotillo Forest, Wildflower Areas, and Prehistoric and Historic Cultural Areas. The RCA areas preserve significant natural resources in a manner best satisfying public and private objectives, in comparison to the 2011 County Land Use Plan and the EC-MSCP Focused Conservation Areas from the 2021 Planning Agreement (**Ref. 60 - [FIGURE 14](#)**).

To further clarify RCA's, according to the Valley Center Community Plan were adopted in 1979 and amended through 2014. The County intended that RCA protection (**Ref. 61 - [FIGURE 15](#)**) be accomplished via several actions, depending on specific situations, including public acquisition, establishment of open space easements, application of special land use controls such as large lot zoning, scenic or natural resource preservation overlay zones or the incorporation of design considerations into subdivision maps or special use permits (**Ref. 62**).

Legal status, ownership, management, and other parameters of the RCA areas should be clarified in future iterations of the BSCP Community Plan and County General Plan/related policy and guideline documents (**Ref. 63**) County Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO - 2010), 1998 Regional MSCP (**Ref 64**), and 2021 East County Subarea MSCP (**Ref 65**).

Borrego Springs is located in a desert valley in the rain shadow of the Peninsular Mountain Ranges. The community is surrounded by the 600,000+ acres of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The diverse terrain supports a wide variety of native plant and animal species on surrounding lands. Many species of plants and animals are listed as State and Federal Endangered Species. Open space and unimpeded movement corridors are essential to the long-term health of many species of wildlife.

One of the native animals of note is the Peninsular bighorn sheep, which inhabits the steep slopes, deep canyons and the alluvial fans of Borrego Valley and the nearby state park. Bighorn sheep attract wildlife enthusiasts in large numbers to view these rare mammals in areas such as Borrego Palm Canyon, Coyote Canyon, Montezuma Grade and Yaqui Pass. They are observed crossing the Valley in places such as Indian Head Ranch near Henderson Canyon, the Vern Whitaker Horse Camp near the mouth of Coyote Canyon, and have even been seen crossing Di Giorgio Road near the Santiago Estates Mobile Home Park. Large numbers of Bighorn Sheep rely on the steep slopes of Coyote Mountain, Indian Head Peak, and Dry Canyon to safeguard their lambs during early spring and frequent the deep canyons west of the Borrego Valley for reliable water sources in summer.

Residents of Borrego Springs enjoy the proximity of wildlife near their homes and throughout the Valley as they travel to the town center to conduct business. Many residents maintain feeding stations for birds and are protective of their local wildlife. Antelope ground squirrels, quail, doves, roadrunners, and cactus wrens are well known to most Borrego Springs residents. The howl of coyotes is a common accompaniment to the dark skies of the desert. Open spaces between homes and businesses, preservation of intact native plant communities, and natural drainage patterns are all vital to the health of native animals and plants.

The current County General Plan, and County Ordinances & Regulations, however, allow for grading by right for many land use designations and have not been tailored to the fragile desert ecosystems of Borrego Springs. Even minor grading of desert lands can lead to rapid wind and

water erosion, unsightly scars, and a reduction of native plants and natural habitats. Native plants are essential to the retention of desert soils, wildlife corridors, and natural wind breaks.

The BSCP addressed many related grading and land clearing concepts and solutions to address them which are equally important today. The next BSCP iteration should comprehensively look at each of these vision, goals, policies, and implementation recommendations and update progress and information for the conservation of natural lands and species in the community. In the interim, fortunately, these concepts are being addressed through the GMP and SGMA Grant program, namely, with Component 6 “Restoration of Fallowed Lands” discussed below, in detail, under Soil and Air.

B. Desert Lands

The dominant influence on the community character is the desert lands. These lands create a sense of open space and unique community character through long sightlines, sweeping vistas, unique geography and unique flora and fauna. Desert wildlife is commonly observed throughout the Borrego Valley as they travel through the yards and roadways of the community. Borrego is on the migration path for Swainson’s hawks, turkey vultures and others (**Ref. 66**).

Coveys of quail, flocks of white-winged doves, roadrunners, Cooper’s hawks, jackrabbits, coyotes, bobcats and a variety of amphibians and reptiles are frequent visitors in the residential areas of the town. Even bighorn sheep and mountain lions find their way through the fringes of its valley, crossing from one mountain range to another, dependent upon open spaces and movement corridors.

The entire area of Borrego Springs is composed of a desert habitat native to the Colorado Desert, the northernmost subregion of the larger Sonoran Desert (**Ref. 67 - FIGURE 16**). This desert native habitat, flora, fauna and associated desert soils and drainages, has been disturbed by the process of urbanization by residential and commercial developments, roads, resorts, extractive uses and agriculture. Unlike ecosystems in other areas of the County, desert native habitat does not “bounce” back after development occurs.

Borrego’s privately-owned land falls into three categories: 1) Undeveloped and undisturbed desert native habitat with no recent past or current uses; 2) developed with current, active uses and all- or partly disturbed desert native habitat; and 3) previously developed with now-abandoned uses and all or partly disturbed desert native habitat. There is a sizable amount of acreage in the latter category, which detracts from community appeal and attractiveness.

C. Mesquite Bosque (Forest)

On the eastern margin of Borrego Valley, in the low-lying area known as “Borrego Sink,” large concentrations of the native Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) are found. The mesquite forest, known by its Spanish name, Mesquite Bosque is a valuable native plant community that attracts large numbers of resident and migratory bird species. The mesquite provides large quantities of food sources to migratory birds as well as those species that stay through the nesting season. The mesquite flowers, and the insects they attract, are extremely important to scores of bird species, including the endangered Least Bell’s Vireo.

An important foundation plant in the lower elevations of the Borrego Valley, the Mesquite is a deep-rooted, woody legume that produces and recycles large quantities of nitrogen, a component rare in desert soils, and one upon which desert grasses and other native plants

depend. Nutrient enrichment of soil under a woody legume canopy can result in production values twice those measured between canopy spaces. The deep mesquite roots and the grasses that thrive underneath in the enriched soil serve to stabilize the surrounding sandy soil allowing other native shrubs to take hold, which then further stabilize and fertilize the soil with organic matter in the form of leaf and seed litter. Soil in these mesquite forest ecosystems tends to be more stable in wind and rainstorms, resulting in less runoff and wind-blown sand.

Culturally significant, lithic (stone) artifacts discovered in and around the Mesquite Bosque and surrounding low area known as the Borrego Sink indicate considerable use by Native Americans who harvested the mesquite bean pods and ground them into meal or flour, an integral part of their diet. The mesquite forest also provided wood, shade, and shelter for early desert people. In addition, native tools and weapons were fashioned from the heavy, dense wood of this native tree (**Ref. 68**).

The mesquite bosque plant community has been classified by the County of San Diego as an area of special concern which requires preservation. The Mesquite Bosque of Borrego Valley is the largest such plant community left in San Diego County and the only habitat in Borrego with a designed "Resource Conservation."

Mesquite trees are documented as having the deepest root systems of any plant in the world. Despite the depth to which the roots can grow to reach water, a large number of the local mesquite can be observed as having died, clearly attributable to the declining water table (**Ref. 69 - FIGURE 18**).

D. Ocotillo Forest

The ocotillo plant (*Fouquieria splendens*), a tall, woody shrub species, is commonly thought of as the signature plant of the Colorado Desert. Ocotillos are thought by botanists to live as long as 200 years; they are slow to reach maturity, and once removed from a parcel of land, will not naturally regenerate for many decades or centuries. High densities of ocotillos are found in the northern and southern areas of Borrego Valley.

Thousands of acres of ocotillos have been removed for agricultural purposes in northern Borrego Valley, and large parcels of ocotillo forest are currently threatened by proposed development in the southern and southwestern portions of the Valley. Ocotillo is used for forage by bighorn sheep, mule deer and for food and nesting by many species of birds, including hummingbirds and orioles. Insects, an important part of the desert food-chain, also gain nutrients and water from the flower buds of the ocotillo.

The ocotillo forests are a key part of the natural desert surroundings in Borrego Springs, and a concerted effort needs to be implemented to protect this natural resource through acquisition by public/private land trusts and specific protection from destruction or disturbance due to development. Once removed, the ocotillo forests essentially can never be replaced. The ocotillo forests have taken many centuries to develop and cannot be easily restored (if at all) once destroyed.

E. Wildflower Fields

The most popular attraction to Borrego Springs for visitors from all over the United States and Europe are fields of native wildflowers, which in good rainfall years can literally cover the Borrego Valley in color. Several hundred thousand additional visitors will travel to Borrego

Springs and the nearby Anza-Borrego Desert State Park during a good flower season. The desert area needs to receive plentiful rainfall in mid-to-late winter in order for the seeds of annual wildflowers to respond in vast fields of splendid colors. This phenomenon may present itself only once every five to eight years and will last from late February to early April. The massive crowds of flower seekers cannot be over emphasized in their importance to the local economy, supporting business and local organizations of all types, including motels, hotels, inns, restaurants, markets, gas stations, gift shops and other retail and art galleries.

Wildflowers are found on all the lower mountain slopes surrounding Borrego Valley, in the State Park, but many of the best annual wildflower fields are found within the Community Planning Area on the floor of Borrego Valley. It is imperative the best of the spring flower fields are preserved, not only for the sake of this wonderful natural resource, but also for the sake of the future of businesses in Borrego Springs. Good flower seasons save many local small businesses, as they prepare for the five summer months of extreme heat when tourism slows considerably.

The most notable flower fields are found along Henderson Canyon Road, Bighorn Road, DiGiorgio Road, Borrego Valley Road, east Palm Canyon Drive, and Pegleg Road. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute have successfully purchased several hundred acres of prime flower fields in the northern Borrego Valley, and they continue to pursue new acquisitions to save the best wildflower areas.

The best areas for the annual flower bloom present a wide array of native annual plant species, including dune primrose, desert sunflower, sand verbena, popcorn flower, fiddleneck, desert lupine and the desert lily. Shrub and cacti species of note during the spring flower show include brittlebush, chuparosa, ocotillo, numerous cactus species, desert indigo and desert senna.

Preservation of the prime flowering areas of the Borrego Valley is key to the local business community and the health of the tourist industry in both Borrego Springs and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

F. Dark Skies

The dark night sky over Borrego Springs and the surrounding desert area is so unique to San Diego that a 2003 USA Today article rated the Anza-Borrego Desert one of the top ten stargazing locations in the nation. Residents and visitors to this area are privileged to view the Milky Way in the dark night sky. Due to diligent monitoring of public and private exterior lighting, Borrego has maintained its dark sky environment.

Light pollution from local and encroaching growth is threatening dark sky, even though County lighting ordinances now call for outdoor lighting that does not point upward. Consistent lighting code enforcement—especially critical where proximity to Palomar and Mt. Laguna Observatories makes dark skies essential for scientific operations—must be achieved and exceeded.

In July 2009, Borrego Springs became California's first International Dark Sky Community. This designation was awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association (I.D.A.). Borrego Springs became the second, worldwide "International Dark Sky Community" and the first in California. Throngs of visitors venture to Borrego Springs and the nearby Anza-Borrego Desert State Park from all over the world to experience the natural desert landscape and the astounding clarity of the desert's night sky.

This designation serves to promote the community as a preferred destination for star-seeking visitors. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park will also pursue an International Dark-Sky Park designation. The area is highly susceptible to light trespass and degradation of its unusually dark night skies and dark night environment, both of which are unique and important elements of community character.

G. Quiet Conservation Area

Along with the Park's designation as a Dark Sky International Park; ABF, the Park, and the Community of Borrego Springs are committed to preserving the land, its flora and fauna, and the sounds that accompany a natural landscape. To achieve this, ABF and the Park has communicated the importance of quiet with the citizens of Borrego Springs and its visitors, namely by including noise in our 'Leave No Trace' principles when enjoying the Park and the Community's natural lands.

Understanding noise in a region, one gains a sense of the health of its ecosystems. By visiting wildlife habitats in the Community mindfully and quietly, one can help preserve their integrity. In March of 2022, Matt Mikkelsen, the Executive Director of Wilderness Quiet Parks, and his team came to Anza Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) to record and listen in the park. They set up their equipment ready to record before the sunrise and dawn chorus. Ultimately, they wished to determine whether it qualified under the Quiet Parks International Assessment Criteria for being a Wilderness Quiet Park. They worked over four days in four different locations of the park and returned to gather additional information the following year.

While it was hoped the Park would be named a Wilderness Quiet Park, there are several sources of human-generated noise that disqualify it from the current assessment criteria. However the crew wished to continue working with the Park and ABF to find other ways of recognizing, protecting, and uplifting the beautiful soundscapes here. The solution was to name ABDSP a 'Quiet Conservation Area,' a first for public lands in the nation. Quiet can be most consistently found in the State Wilderness Areas within Borrego basin (**Ref. 70 - [Figure 19](#)**).

H. GROUNDWATER, SOILS, AND AIR

1) Groundwater

Borrego's groundwater is effectively drawn from a sole source of water supply. Since 1945, when large scale pumping began in the Borrego Springs area following World War II, the cumulative volume loss within the Subbasin, which accounts for both annual inflows and outflows, has been approximately 520,000 acre-feet (AF), equivalent to about one-third of the groundwater volume originally present (**Ref. 71**). By the mid-2000s, agriculture, golf course recreation uses, municipal uses, and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park habitually used about four times more water than is available through natural recharge.

Anecdotally, it is said that fifty years ago the water level was about 40 feet below the ground and easy to pump out. Today, wells extend 300 feet and beyond to extract sufficient water to feed agriculture and ornamental landscape for export. Future costs of water and uncertainty of supply have made planning difficult in Borrego and have acted as a deterrent to growth. As a result, the demographics of those willing to invest in the community—both businesses

and residential housing, has been impacted. Alternatives to augment the sole source aquifer, such as piping Colorado River water to the area, were explored and rejected.

Explored circa 2010 and again in 2020, a proposal to have the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) construct a Regional Conveyance System pipeline (RCS) that would have piped 20,000 AF per year from the Colorado River using a 47-mile-long tunnel from Escondido to Borrego Springs was explored in 2010 and again in 2020 (**Ref 72**). Both times, however, the project was deemed infeasible due to significant financial, environmental, socio-cultural, and temporal costs including:

- \$10-\$30 million for water rights
- \$5-10 million to SDCWA for new pipeline, pumping station, and 230 kV powerline transecting ABSP
- \$5-10 million for BWD to clean inferior Colorado River water quality
- An extended impact/construction timeline to 2047, or 7 years after the BWD Plan will have reached its 2040 sustainable water consumption goal per SGMA statute.
- Uncertainty of supply as the Colorado River is already over-allocated and due to unknown effects of climate change.

In 2009, the U.S. Geological Survey began a cooperative study of the Borrego Valley with the BWD in 2009. The purpose of the study was to develop a greater understanding of the hydrogeology of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin and provide tools to help evaluate the potential hydrologic effects of future development (**Ref .73 - FIGURE 20**). It is estimated that commercial and domestic uses consume 10 percent of the annual total and golf courses consume up to 20 percent (**Ref. 74 - FIGURE 21**).

By 2014 however, the SGMA was adopted with the required GSP for all "high" or "medium" priority basins to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040 or 2042. By 2015, the BWD received preliminary results of its aquifer status by USGS. It estimated that the underlying aquifer had sufficient water in storage to serve the community for the next 50 to 100 years (**Ref. 75 - FIGURE 22**).

The number, however, was preliminary and arrived at without any well monitoring to fine-tune and calibrate the model. Ultimately, based on USGS data, the CA DWR determined Borrego's water supply met criteria as a critically over drafted basin. Under SGMA, due to the aquifers severely overdrafted status, Borrego was required by the State to embark on its GSP to address the situation (**Ref. 76 - FIGURE 23**).

2) SGMA and Adjudication of Water Rights (2021)

Following submittal of the first GSP in the State by the BWD in January 2020; over 90% of Basin pumpers began discussions and ultimately negotiated an Agreement to implement an alternative to the GSP required by SGMA, known as the GMP. The Agreement was approved by the Orange County CA Superior Court in April 2021 resulting in a formal adjudication, which in other locations has taken decades and millions of dollars to accomplish (**Ref. 77 - FIGURE 24**).

Included in the Adjudication is the mandate to create the Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster. The Watermaster, is comprised of a Board of Directors representing a cross section of stake holders; and professional legal/technical staff capable of managing the

Basin, implementing the GMP, and complying with SGMA. The law under SGMA essentially led to a negotiated agreement between pumpers to reduce water use each year by a specified amount, until by 2040, it will be cut back by approximately 64% from present day use. Since the Watermaster's inception in 2021, all pumpers required to install a meter have done so. Basin pumping is down by approximately 50%, and a Basin-wide water monitoring network has been developed (**Ref 78**).

3) Effect of SGMA and Watermaster

Large-scale water use is now measured and constrained. Resolution of the aquifer overdraft is in-process. The community is building a more sustainable and resilient future.

4) Soil and Air

The soils, mostly sands and gravels of varying gradations, derive from alluvial materials deposited by seasonal floods from surrounding mountain regions, with little organic material. However, in some areas, soils are enriched by nutrients like nitrogen, a natural benefit for agriculture. Residual fertilizers remain on many fallowed farmlands and may leach into soils and groundwater supply and become airborne in dust. Existing high septic tank usage (instead of wastewater treatment in the Community) has the potential to degrade soils and water quality due to leaching. Currently there is no use of treated effluent (wastewater recycling) to irrigate golf courses and other high water use areas. Degradation of air quality in the community is due to large-scale clearing of soil crusts and native vegetation and other disturbances (such as grading natural landscapes into flat terrain, compressing soils with heavy equipment), and removing topsoil and other biotic features, such as burrowing animals.

Cryptogamic or cryptobiotic are both terms which refer to biological soil crusts which are made up of tiny organisms, including cyanobacteria, algae, lichens, mosses, microfungi, and other bacteria that live in the top layer of soil. The crusts are formed by interwoven filaments of cyanobacteria and microfungi and act as important soil stabilizers because they thwart erosion. They are a critical, but often overlooked component of arid, and semi-arid ecosystems in Borrego and throughout San Diego County. They not only provide nutrients to plants (including nitrogen and phosphorus); but accelerate weathering of rocks with their filaments, thus speeding up formation of soil.

In addition to San Diego County, they are found in all dryland regions of the world, (including polar regions), covering most soil spaces not occupied by trees, grasses, or shrubs. Without them, the interstitial soil space is left bare, open to topsoil loss, and proliferation of weedy species. The crusts are similar to ocotillo forests and other sensitive habitat in that they do not readily regenerate. Contributing factors to their destruction include permitted or unpermitted grading for a variety of reasons (including agriculture), and authorized or unauthorized foot and vehicle use and misuse (extending trail margins or trailblazing). The result of their loss is increasingly nutrient poor soil; and decreasing air and water quality, from dust storms and migration of chemical laden sediments. In Borrego Springs, the greatest impact comes from development in the east and southeast of the community, and adjacent off-road vehicle use in Ocotillo Wells.

Due to the evolving water situation over the last decade, increasing areas of land have been fallowed, abandoned, or sold. Regardless of formal status, it is evident that areas of disturbed land have proliferated in Borrego Springs, which brings us to Component 6 of the SGMA Grant (**Ref. 79 - FIGURE 25**).

The 2020 GMP recognized that fallowing of agricultural lands would be key to achieving the aquifers sustainability goal, but also recognized that potential adverse environmental effects of fallowing could occur. Such effects include airborne emissions through wind-blown dust, the introduction or spreading of invasive plant species, and changes to the landscape that could adversely affect visual quality. Standard farmland fallowing practices identified in the GMP and used statewide (e.g., mulching orchard trees on site), provide temporary dust mitigation, but do not lead to long term recovery of the fragile, native, and arid plant communities that are unique to the Sonoran Desert ecosystem, and protected on adjacent Anza-Borrego Desert State Park lands (**Ref. 80 - FIGURE 26**).

Component 6 was therefore created to develop guidance on techniques to mitigate the potential adverse effects of fallowing of lands that are expected to occur within the Basin. This component is tasked with analyzing existing data and information, conducting field reconnaissance, and assessing biological restoration techniques on existing fallowed lands within the Basin. A final technical report will describe and document their results, conclusions, and recommendations; and identify biological restoration strategies that are expected to be most effective for Basin; with a prioritization of land parcels for biological restoration.

To date Land IQ and UCI Center for Environmental Biology (**Ref. 81**) have published a Literature Review for Rehabilitation of Fallowed Farmlands in Borrego Valley, California (Final March 31, 2023). Component 6 goals include review of, and experiments with, multiple methods of retaining soil on fallowed fields; reporting back on best methods, and practices; and ultimately to educate, encourage, and amplify rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation to return more native habitat to Borrego and increase its ecological resilience (**Ref. 82 - FIGURE 27**).

I. NATURAL HAZARDS and CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Borrego Springs is potentially subject to several natural disasters including earthquakes, flooding, fires, and other major safety concerns. The agencies responsible for coordinating response to these types of events are the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services along with the CA Office of Emergency Services (OES - **Ref. 83**). While SD OES orchestrates the local County response to disasters; CA OES is responsible for alerting and notifying appropriate agencies for mobilization when disaster strikes, and ensuring resources are available and mobilized. CA OES also develops plans and procedures for response to, and recovery from disasters; and develops and distributes preparedness information and materials to the public.

OES staffs the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center, a central facility which provides regional coordinated emergency response, and also acts as staff to the Unified Disaster Council (UDC), a joint powers agreement between all incorporated cities and the County of San Diego. The UDC provides for coordination of plans and programs countywide to ensure protection of life and property.

Locally, governmental institutions playing the largest role in safety response are the Borrego Springs Fire Protection District (BSFD), the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, and the law enforcement arm of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. BSFD, as of July 2023, is part of the CalFire managed San Diego County Fire Protection District (SCDFPD - **Ref. 84**).

1) Seismic and Geologic Risks

The Coyote Creek fault is an extension of the San Jacinto Fault extending from the northwest trending to the southeast extending into the Sea of Cortez. The Coyote Creek fault is a strike-slip fault with two locations in the Borrego CPA. The fault is located along the base of Coyote Mountain in Coyote Creek and in the Clarks Lake basin. It last faulted in 1968 in the general location west of the Badlands. The San Jacinto Fault is active with a magnitude potential of 6.5 to 7.5 (**Ref. 85 - FIGURE 28**).

2) Flooding Risks

With few exceptions, the entire Borrego Valley is subject to flooding from stormwater flowing from the mountain regions in the west down alluvial fans and across the community draining easterly to the Borrego Sink. Per 2021 updates to the County General Plan (pg 264), most community planning areas have between 100 to 4,700 acres of land identified as a floodplain but “Borrego Springs (within the Desert Subregion), has nearly 30,350 acres of land in its alluvial floodplain. Flash flooding that occurs in deserts can attributed to such high alluvial acreage (**Ref. 86**).

The County of San Diego Flood Hazard Map for Borrego Valley (1993) delineates boundaries of known special flood hazard areas along alluvial fans and lines of equal probability (showing flood depths and velocities). Alluvial fans are generally a desert phenomenon where streams emerge from canyons and deposit sand and rock in a cone-shaped formation fanning out from the canyon mouth. The potential for high-velocity flow and heavy sediment load coupled with the complex nature of alluvial fan flooding means that virtually all parts of the fan can be threatened by catastrophic flooding. The Borrego Valley Flood Management Report (**Ref. 87**) provides methods for reducing risk to structures built on the alluvial fan (**Ref. 88 - FIGURE 29**).

Runoff from storms in this area has the potential to convey large amounts of debris from the upper watershed to the lower areas of the alluvial fans in and near the Borrego area. Debris flows of this nature present one of the most hazardous and unpredictable types of flooding. The basis for flood control is the standard 100-year event as mapped on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which is regulated in the community via the County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Regulations (**Ref. 89 - FIGURE 30**).

There are several properties in Borrego that are subject to flooding, mapped as “repetitive loss properties” in the County Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), and many of these properties have filed flood loss claims in the past. Any future develop should consider flood risk and the appropriate land uses for flood prone areas, including allowing areas in a flood zone to be utilized for agriculture, open space, or habitat restoration. County ordinances and the NFIP Regulations have specific requirements and restrictions that apply to development within mapped areas of alluvial fans. Due to the potential hazards, and other restrictions for development, proposed development in this area requires safety related drainage measures above and beyond what would normally be anticipated within other areas of the County.

Acceptable safety-related drainage measures required for development in the Borrego Springs area impose substantial cost and site planning burdens on individual property owners and create substantial planning, policy, and design considerations for structures in concentration, such as identified in the county’s General Plan as Village Core area, with resulting negative impacts on area commercial revitalization. The County recognizes this

impact to the community and is active in national dialogues to explore alternative approaches that are protective of human life and property but less burdensome. However, due to the risk associated with alluvial fan flooding, including debris flows, as well as their unpredictability, relaxation of standards is not anticipated and alternatives such as master drainage improvements are currently deemed to be cost prohibitive for communities like Borrego Springs.

3) Wildland fire/Urban fire Risks/Climate Change/ and Air Quality Risks

The Borrego Springs CPA is not located in the Wildland Fire Zone as defined by California Fire (CFD) whereas neighboring communities such as Julian are so defined. The impact from actual fire on the desert communities therefore is minimal since the sparse plant communities do not contribute to wildfires with the occasional exception of grass fires in the agricultural areas. Borrego is impacted to the extent that firefighting personnel and equipment can be called to adjacent communities to assist in wildfire suppression, and importantly when fire in other communities require shutting down of the power grid.

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) updated "Public Safety Power Shutoff" portal which depicts that SDG&E Customers, including Borrego, likely experienced one, or many more of the 51,992 Public Safety Power Shutoffs between 2018-2024. Often times during periods of high winds associated with Santa Ana's, Borrego's entire grid is shut down to ensure that fire prone communities connected only to Borrego by the powerlines, remain safe from downed or damaged transmissions and/or arcs and sparks. In other words, Borrego suffers when locally dispersed (i.e., Borrego's microgrid), or fully independent energy sources (such as roof top solar, or generators) are not available (**Ref. 90 - [FIGURE 31](#)**).

A Santa Ana event in December 2024 alone, led to the loss of over 16,000 homes and structures in the Los Angeles area. Power shut offs in San Diego, including in Borrego Springs, for 51,022 customers over a span of 2 or 3 days (**Ref. 91**). But Borrego is one of the few resilient communities in San Diego County that has been planning sustainably and does have an existing microgrid that was installed in 2013 (**Ref. 92 - [FIGURE 32](#)**).

Additionally in CA, Valley Fever cases tripled from 2014–2018, and from 2018– 2022, between 7,000 and 9,000 cases were reported each year. The Valley Fever fungus can infect people who work or dig outdoors in certain areas in California, including wildland firefighters digging and moving soil to control fires and can cause death (**Ref. 93**).

Since 2015, in a joint venture between UCI, BDW, and the Borrego Valley Endowment Fund, Borrego Valley has developed one of the most sophisticated air quality monitoring systems of any small community in California. The monitoring system is composed of five stationary nephelometers located strategically throughout the region – Clark Dry Lake, Wilcox Well, the UCI Research Center, the Borrego Springs Elementary School, and Viking Ranch – and one mobile nephelometer used to intercalibrate the stationary monitoring devices with an official EPA-approved monitoring device in the Imperial Valley. The Borrego Air Quality monitoring system provides for constant monitoring of dust, or "particulate matter" sizes PM 2.5 and PM 10, which are the sizes of particulate matter regulated by EPA clean air standards. The process of intercalibration of the maturing Borrego Air Quality monitoring system with EPA-approved monitoring devices will allow for closer coordination with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District for monitoring of air quality in Borrego and enforcement of federal clean air standards (**Ref. 94**).

One USFWS restoration project, which began in the area in 2015 at Salton Sea, would have air quality benefits for Borrego. The Red Hill Bay project, aimed to restore 420 acres of important saline shallow-water habitat for migratory waterbirds, and to cover the newly exposed playa with saline water in order to decrease fugitive dust released during wind events. The site however, has been discovered to have underlying potential for a rare earth mineral (lithium) and logistics to separate the surface restoration and the underlying mineral rights are believed to be in process (**Ref 95**).

J. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING-ANALYSIS AND SOLUTIONS

A. Strengths

Borrego Springs possesses significant natural resource advantages, particularly in its infrastructure and environmental monitoring capabilities. The region's natural landscape benefits from strong regulatory protections that safeguard its desert ecosystem. The area's sophisticated environmental monitoring network, particularly its air quality system, represents one of the most advanced systems for a community of its size in California. The existing microgrid infrastructure demonstrates the community's commitment to sustainable energy solutions, while its geographic position outside the primary Wildland Fire Zone provides a natural buffer against wildfire risks. These strengths reflect a community that has successfully integrated technological solutions with natural resource management:

- Strong environmental protection measures through existing regulations (e.g., RWQCB requirements under state and federal Clean Water Acts)
- Advanced air quality monitoring system with five stationery nephelometers strategically placed throughout the region
- Existing microgrid infrastructure providing energy resilience
- Location outside the primary Wildland Fire Zone, resulting in minimal direct wildfire risk
- Sophisticated partnership between UC Irvine, Borrego Water District, and Borrego Valley Endowment Fund for environmental monitoring

B. Weaknesses

The natural landscape of Borrego Springs presents several inherent challenges. The extensive alluvial fan system, while a distinctive geological feature, creates significant flooding vulnerabilities across the valley. The desert environment's limited capacity for natural regeneration makes it particularly susceptible to long-term damage from human activities and natural disasters. The area's location along the Coyote Creek fault line introduces seismic risks that affect both natural and built environments. These geological and environmental vulnerabilities are compounded by deteriorating air quality conditions, which impact both human health and ecosystem stability.

- Extensive flood vulnerability with nearly 30,350 acres of land in alluvial floodplain
- High-risk alluvial fan flooding patterns with potential for debris flows
- Multiple properties designated as "repetitive loss properties" due to flooding
- Significant seismic risk due to proximity to the Coyote Creek fault (extension of San Jacinto Fault)

- Deteriorating air quality and public health (increases in asthma, and other diseases such as Valley Fever) from fallowed land and residual farm chemicals which release dust and toxins into air and water.
- The fragile ecosystem of Borrego is vulnerable to stochastic weather events (wind and rain, heat, etc.), work on resilience of all sectors and keep vigilant not only about current projects but cumulative effects
- Borrego needs to be vigilant and engage with politicians, lawmakers, and in advance and regional planning processes to remain informed on large energy, housing, agricultural, and extractive projects and the effect of cumulative regional projects.
- Over 72% of all land in Borrego is still native or undeveloped land but zoned rural residential with by right grading, work on creating a new conservation zone to rewild land and create a healthier overall environment for humans and wildlife
- increased desertification in the region leading to loss of vegetation and visual blight and possible change in weather due to loss of plant microclimates

C. Opportunities

Borrego Springs' Environmental Setting presents opportunities for both cultural and ecological conservation and sustainable development. The community's existing planned environmental framework, outlined in the BSCP, provides a foundation to monitor and enact conservation efforts. Programs targeting fallowed agricultural lands, Ground Dependent Ecosystems and Resilience are particularly supported by the existing Community Plan, GMP, and SGMA Grant. The unique desert ecosystem and placement within a state park continues to offer opportunities for enhanced ecotourism, while the new GMP structure amplifies opportunities for comprehensive resource protection and preservation. The nearby Red Basin Project represents a significant opportunity to restore critical wetland habitats with added air quality benefits, and demonstrates how environmental restoration can enhance multiple ecological services.

- Track Cumulative impacts on Borrego
- SGMA Grant Components 5, 6, and 8 recognize the value for a resilient Borrego in rewilding it's many fallowed fields and disturbed lands in that:
 - restoring natural biological ecosystems will also restore many natural processes that benefit the aquifer and general wellbeing of life in Borrego.
 - Restoring natural ecosystems and processes or 'ReWilding' contributes net positive effects as follows:
 - Reducing wind-blown sand storms which improve air and water quality and human health.
 - Native species roots stabilize and break up surface compacted soil and develop deep pathways to allow increased water filtration into the aquifer.
 - Return of native species stabilizes soil to allow reformation of biological crusts which further sequester carbon, contain loose soil, and provide add additional biodiversity in the form of microhabitats in desert interstitial spaces.
- Borrego is a true learning library with first class academic institutions, continue to utilize these resources to attract ecotourist and students synergize, capitalize, and elevate this presence in the community
- Build relationships with Community Politicians including Assembly Member Jeff Gonzalez and others
- Follow and engage on legislative bills and projects that can affect the community with unintended consequences (i.e., institutional solar projects, expediting laws that weaken

existing checks and balances between government bodies or existing laws such as CEQA and endangered species acts.

- High potential for permanent and interim conservation benefits from rehabilitation and restoration of fallowed lots through existing County, State, and Federal mitigation, acquisition, and credit (programs (development process, PACE, RCIS's, 30x30, Section 6 and other Grants, Williamson Act, and biodiversity and carbon markets)
- High potential to retain and enhance rare dark skies and quiet auditory environment to support increased sustainable ecotourism and educational opportunities.
- High Sustainable Development and Resiliency Integrated planning opportunities with the resilient Water Master Plan and supporting SGMA grant.
- The BSCP outlines the desire in the community to salvage native plants subject to legal development impacts, cryptogamic soil crusts can also be harvested and used to rehabilitate fallow areas.
- The presence of state agencies and scientific non-profits in the region such as ABDSP, UCI, CNPS, and ABF as well as the school district could aid in salvage and restoration nursery operation, including offering internship and work opportunities.
- Opportunity to evoke and expand sensitive land use via education and academic internship opportunities through local, worldclass, academic, government, and non-profit program partners (i.e., including immersive hands-on training and project development by starting a native plant and biological crust salvage, nursery, and restoration program for the Community and/or work on the Red Basin Project to restore wetland habitat and reduce fugitive dust)
- Foster and support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion throughout the Community with health and education programs and various means of outreach to reach traditionally marginalized peoples.
- Foster partnerships and opportunities with the first peoples of Borrego. Explore and opportunities for relation building through experienced tribal partners including Climate Science Alliance and other supporters of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Apply for grants and opportunities via programs such as State "30x30", USFWS, and "Land Back" programs.
- Foster education, and sensitive preservation and access for, and to, existing prehistoric and historic resources in the community.
- Continue to encourage community uplift using citizen scientists, indigenous peoples, and historians in the community to protect and increase knowledge of the community cultural resources.
- Hold regular "Climate College" and Sustainability education opportunities for the Community to spread information on nature based solutions to living surrounded by nature, past agricultural and water impacts, and increases in stochastic weather. Class topics could include permaculture and organic gardening, integrated pest management, understanding the species around you, natural flood control (rewilding, best management practices, growing native and propagating native plants, how to enjoy our dark skies and quiet areas, etc.).
- Explore new opportunities for sustainable agriculture in the community with academic and indigenous partners including till or no till methods, permaculture, polyculture, companion planting, low water or alternatively irrigated crops, and other regenerative farming technique to augment restoration of fallowed lands in the community and increase soil health.

D. Threats

The natural resources of Borrego Springs face multiple interconnected threats, primarily driven by climate change, regional environmental challenges, and even from economic opportunities (i.e., to mine lucrative resources, or utilize the deserts wide open spaces for out of the way clean energy project). The community's desert ecosystem is particularly vulnerable to climate-related impacts, affecting everything from water availability to air quality. The proximity to the Salton Sea and Ocotillo Wells Off-Road Vehicle Recreation areas introduces additional environmental pressures through dust storms, lithium mining, and other air quality degradation mechanisms. The increasing prevalence of Valley Fever (caused by a soil fungus) also represents a significant public health concern linked to environmental conditions. These environmental threats are compounded by development pressures, enforcement staff shortages, and infrastructure challenges that could potentially compromise the region's natural resources:

Natural Setting and Climate change impacts include:

- Public health through increased temperatures and frequent power shut-offs
- Drought conditions and past unsustainable use of water and natural resources
- Reduced wetlands
- Air quality deterioration
- Reduced surface water availability
- Reduced Groundwater recharge from natural and climate induced weather patterns, pumping, compacted soils, diversion, lack of recycling, and waste.
- Dust storms from the Salton Sea area increasing hazardous particulate matter
- Rising asthma, Valley Fever cases and other respiratory conditions in the region
- Pressure to convert/impact Agricultural Reserves and Sensitive Deserts Lands for non-local energy generation and/or long-distance infrastructure projects
- Flood-related development constraints impacting commercial revitalization
- Power grid vulnerabilities during regional emergencies
- Increased recreational impacts from use e-bikes and other silent mobility vehicles or other advanced wilderness gear; while they offer increased access opportunities, they must be balanced with the need to maintain trail widths to retain biological crusts, soil, and species; and continue to allow quite space and time for animals resting, foraging, and nursery sites throughout the region.

5. PLANNING SETTING

A. Governance

Borrego Springs is an unincorporated community far removed from the majority of San Diego County and has little local governance. It is overseen by 5th District County Supervisor, 38th State Senate District, and 71st District Assembly. All land use planning is subject to County approval, governed by the County General Plan and the Borrego Springs Community Plan. The Anza Borrego Desert State Park has jurisdiction over much of the land surrounding Borrego Springs, but no authority outside the park boundaries.

1) Countywide General Plan Authority

County of San Diego's General Plan (GP 2011) Land Use Element is a framework that provides maps, goals, and policies that guide planners, the general public, property owners, developers, and decision makers as to how lands are to be conserved and developed in the unincorporated County. The first section, Land Use Framework, defines the categories of use to be permitted. These are defined at two scales: (a) broadly defined regional categories differentiated by character and overall density and (b) detailed categories that break-down the regional categories into more precise land use types, population densities, and development intensities.

The Land Use Maps Appendix presents the Land Use Map depicting the allocation of these categories to all unincorporated County lands based on the General Plan's Guiding Principles in Chapter 2 (Vision and Guiding Principles). The Land Use Map serves as the regulatory document guiding land use, conservation, and development. The final section presents the goals and policies that carry out and amplify the intentions of the Land Use Map.

2) Community Plan Authority

While the Land Use Element inclusive of Land Use Maps and Goals and Policies applies to all lands throughout the unincorporated County, there are special land use issues and objectives that uniquely pertain to each of its diverse communities. These are addressed by Community Plans in which goals and policies are defined to provide more precise guidance regarding the character, land uses, and densities within each community planning area. Though Community Plans are a part of this General Plan, they are bound separately and must be referenced in determining the types and density of land use that may be considered for any property within the community planning area.

B. Relationship to Adjoining Communities

Since the town is completely surrounded by the 600,000-acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Borrego Springs is the most isolated San Diego County community. It is over an hour's drive to any "full-service" town. The nearest neighbors are Ocotillo Wells, Shelter Valley, Ranchita and Salton City, all very limited-service communities. Geographically Borrego Springs is a small town centered literally in the heart of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and is positioned as 'the gateway' or hospitality hub for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This nexus connects the planning and management of the Borrego Basin with the Anza-Borrego State Park, which basically serves as a surrounding watershed. Connecting them not only in a physical systems sense but also in an economic development and land development sense.

The town is the primary gateway for visitors to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which surrounds the community on all sides, is a National Natural Landmark, and part of a larger International Biosphere, which encompasses both the Colorado and Mohave deserts (**Ref. 95 - FIGURE 33**). ABDSP is the largest desert State Park in the nation (635,000 acres) and one of the largest protected areas in the west. It also achieved distinction as a part of the University of California (UC) Natural Reserve System (**Ref. 96**), added in 2011, and its University of California at Irvine Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center (**Ref. 97**).

Borrego Springs is located about 90 miles from San Diego, California's 2nd largest city, which drives Borrego's national and international visitation to exceed 500,000 tourists each year. Despite this popularity, perceived level of development pressure in Borrego has not translated into frequent planning updates or modernization of desert policy by the County. Due to distance to major urban and suburban areas, high temperatures/weather extremes, and limitation on water availability; planning attention has been minimized to the detriment of the Community. While not readily apparent; adjacent community, renewable energy and extractive projects now warrant County assistance to ensure Borrego's community vision and environmental heritage are not compromised by massive transmission lines and pipes leading to the coastal population bulk. In this vein, natural habitats and sensitive species require adequate planning now to ensure their survival from these new projects, but also from climate change challenges.

C. Sensitive Species and Habitat Management

1) Local, State, Federal and International Biological Protection Designations, Programs, and Indices for Planning

In the "Physical Setting" section, existing prior biological planning concepts and designations were discussed including the County RCA designation. The Anza Borrego State Park, and the UN Biosphere Reserve These designations, however, offer little protection to the 50 square miles of potential biological resources within the BSCP area, or assurances that connectivity corridors will be adequately planned. The RCA designation has no concomitant guidelines within the County's Biological Mitigation Ordinance and has no codified protection in their General Plan or related land use policies. The State Park while surrounding the Borrego Community has little direct planning power over the management of developed and natural lands that abut them.

Moreover, the Biosphere Reserve is more of an honorary designation recognizing the value of the southwest's unique deserts, but with only voluntary compliance required (**Ref. 98 – FIGURE 34**). Without the benefit of a comprehensive combined state Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) and federal Habitat Conservation Plan known as a Multiple Species Conservation Plan, comprehensive planning for Borrego's unique natural habitat will be left to 'project by project' planning, rather than comprehensive regional planning (**Ref. 99 – Figure 35**).

While the County of San Diego took part in the County's Regional MSCP Planning Process in 1998, they have adopted only one of their three related subarea plans in the 27 years since (**Ref. 100 – Figure 36**). The Regional MSCP (**Ref. 64**) within the County of San Diego is a conservation planning program designed to establish a connected preserve system that ensures the long-term survival of sensitive plant and animal species and protects the native vegetation found throughout the incorporated and unincorporated County. The MSCP

addresses the potential impacts of urban growth, natural habitat loss, and species endangerment and creates plans to mitigate for their potential loss.

The County Regional MSCP Plan covers 582,243 acres over twelve jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction has its own Subarea Plan; however, there are only minor differences in how each is implemented. The MSCP is an important program that significantly contributes to the County's General Plan, which has identified its watershed protection policies and defined its climate change goals.

The premises of the Regional and subarea County MSCP Programs as well as the County (BMO), requires avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating sensitive habitat by a variety of measures and/or policies often encountered in guidelines or agency practices. Biological mitigation may include developing the least biologically sensitive areas and clustering remaining development into a smaller space to accommodate wildlife corridors and preserve development. Additionally piecemealing projects under CEQA so the full picture cannot be analyzed in its entirety is also prohibited. The actual full project must be presented during scoping even if it will be carried out in phases.

CEQA, and its biological mitigation practices, discourage removing existing land protections, such as vacating a conservation easement for a prior mitigation site or otherwise designated open space, and will result in 2:1 replacement because moving the mitigation credits off one site and placing them in another habitat site still results in a net deficit of habitat. For example, when a site is developed in the former mitigation site, decision-makers will need to mitigate for the credit loss and for the additional habitat impact too. Finally, in kind or equivalent mitigation on various levels is usually required or mitigation ratios can again rise. For example, impacting a coastal habitat but proposing to mitigate inland on similar habitat that may be under less development pressure is often discouraged by increase mitigation ratios equivalent mitigate that rarer and more costly coastal parcel. may be discouraged or disallowed by various policies.

While the County has been drafting the North County MSCP Plan (NC MSCP) for decades, and the Planning Agreement for the NC MSCP and the East County (EC MSCP), the NC MSCP draft MSCP planning agreement is currently proceeding after prior attempts in 2005, and 2018. Recently, the 3rd Restated and Amended NC/EC MSCP Planning Agreement expired on January 31, 2025. However, the Wildlife Agencies have confirmed that the County is in the process of renewing the agreement ([Appendix - NC EC MSCP Planning Agreement](#)).

Borrego Springs is located, within the tan overlay and within the desert region shown on the map above. A preliminary list of 157 "MSCP Covered Species" has been created in the EC MSCP and "Focused Conservation Areas" have been mapped. The County and Wildlife Agencies have committed to adhering to the agreed upon parameters thus far, in the interim between now and adoption. Please note, the EC MSCP incorporates the existing County RCA grid and expands to protections to additional FCA areas.

The program provides various strategies for conserving native habitats and species. The strategies may include but are not limited to conditions of coverage, adjacency guidelines, developing the least biologically sensitive areas via unit clustering/ transfer of development lots by acreage to a smaller portion of the site, such as when increasing density in the least biologically sensitive portions of a site. Another benefit of the EC MSCP is that planners, developers, and conservationists alike have developed these plans and will benefit from the

certainty and consistency provided by their plan, rather than apply for individual “take permits” through the lengthy, uncertain, and expensive CA (CESA) and federal endangered species acts (FESA).

The County’s General Plan Regional Categories “Rural” areas largely overlap but are slightly more extensive than the FCA designated conservation lands. The BSCP had one existing designated RCA which encompasses two areas of Mesquite Bosque, a large historical area and a smaller prehistoric culture area east of Borrego Sink. The BSCP plan also proposed incorporating additional RCAs to add four additional ‘elements,’ which are importantly not physical ‘areas.’ The importance of using elements over areas can play out either positively or negatively for the resources as identified ‘elements’ in the community may be subject to intentional destruction or degradation before official protection. While identifying ‘areas’ assures more distinct focus and protection, it could leave out important seasonal appearances, future areas being discovered, or new areas forming due to climate change or other factors.

The EC MSCP is habitat based and includes large swaths of contiguous and connected lands with appropriate habitats broad enough to support all ‘covered species. Other important indices for sensitive habitat and species include the California Natural Diversity Database or CNDDDB, which shows map instances of species filed by biologist in the field with through California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) is another CDFW tool that combines the best available map-based data in California to depict biodiversity (**Ref. 101 - FIGURE 37**), significant habitats, connectivity, climate change resilience, and other datasets for use in conservation planning (**Ref. 102 – FIGURE 38**).

As shown on Figure 37, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) or California Special Status Species contains text and spatial information on California’s special status species (rare plants and animals). It is a positive detection database. Records in the database exist only where species were detected. This means there is a bias in the database towards locations that have more survey work. Also, the database is proprietary and shall be displayed at such a scale (no larger than a scale of 1:350,000). As shown on Figure 38, this ACES map shows a combined Species Biodiversity Summary that is most meaningful for determining priority areas for protection.

The combined the three measures of biodiversity developed for ACE into a single metric:

- Native Species Richness
- Rare Species Richness; and
- Irreplaceability

Using this combined index results in much of western flank of the Borrego Springs Subbasin ranked as “high species biodiversity” areas (grey hexagons) that can be included in the next BSCP to inform high priority areas for conservation. The Work Plan includes activities associated with implementation and continued planning, development, and preparation of groundwater sustainability for the Borrego Valley Subbasin and the resulting work from this grant will incorporate appropriate Best Management Practices as developed by DWR. Of the eight SGMA Grant Components, three of them (5, 6, and 8), especially relate to species, and habitat management and protection. Although all components are running concurrently under the SGMA grant, important preliminary data and guidance has already been made

available through draft reports and documents and are incorporated throughout this White Paper. Component 5 (Resiliency Strategy) and 6 (Fallowed Lands Restoration) have been introduced and discussed above. Below is an overview and discussion of Component 8 (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems).

2) SGMA Grant Component 8: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Identification, Assessment, And Monitoring

Component 8, under UCI as Implementing Agency, will provide essential data to UCI water management planners and affected citizens of the region during implementation of the GMP for the Basin. Impacts upon GDEs is a sustainability indicator identified in the Basin's Groundwater Management Plan. This component focuses on determining if native ecosystems that were once indisputably groundwater dependent; are, or are not, still at the present time utilizing groundwater; and if so, to what extent due to declines in the water table over the past several decades.

This component will also analyze if groundwater that supports the GDEs will be impacted by changes in the groundwater elevations; and how, or how not, the GDEs themselves are affected by these changes. A comment letter from The Nature Conservancy explained the circumstances under which a groundwater dependent ecosystem might or might not be able to access ground water and is included below as Figure 34. Note the draft GSP (**Ref. 103 – FIGURE 39**) which was the precursor to the adjudicated draft final GMP released in 2020. (**Ref. 104 - FIGURE 40**).

As reduction of the Mesquite Bosque near the Borrego sink has occurred in response to the lowering of the water table. Component 8 is using an established method of comparing the isotopic signature of the groundwater to the predominant isotopes found in the local plant. Several data sets are being captured to enable a calculation to determine if the plant assemblage and supported fauna at the proposed GDE could survive only with access to surface water. These data sets are:

- A complete inventory of the plants and fauna in the potential GDE
- A water needs assessment of that plant assemblage found at the potential GDE
- Determining the availability of surface water at the potential GDE.

If data from existing monitoring wells is found to be insufficient, a dual-nested monitoring well will be constructed near or within the Borrego Sink. Definitive preliminary data (**Ref. 105**) has already determined through isotopic analysis that surviving areas of Mesquite Bosque are clearly still accessing groundwater, and that the aquifer's restoration and availability will be critical for this life-sustaining species and habitat. Its beans and seeds are eaten by many animals and its branches shelter the migratory endangered least Bell's vireos and their young as they nest here annually to survival.

D. Biodiversity and Cultural Hotspot

Due to its varying terrain and ecosystems, from the sea, to estuaries, to coastal terraces, inland mountains, and eastern deserts. San Diego is known to be the most biodiverse county in the continental US. San Diego is also known to be collaborative and on the cutting edge of conservation planning. The City and San Diego produced some of the very first pro-active, multiple species conservation programs and plans in the nation in the 1990s. Prior to that,

endangered species acts enacted in 1970 were carried out in a species-by-species fashion in a reactive manner, often resulting in poor mitigation sites and viability.

Recently the importance of San Diego County a biodiversity hotspot was highlighted once again through a partnership with the County's MSCP programs, SANDAG's Environment Management Program (EMP), the SD Natural History Museum and many land use professional from the regions local, state, and federal municipalities and regulatory agencies. This meeting produced renewed commitment and several important biodiversity planning documents including the following for the San Diego Region and its desert empire (**Ref. 106 – FIGURE 41**).

While biodiversity interest and attention in San Diego has been high since the 1980s, the profile of the regions prehistoric and indigenous cultural heritage has only been gaining significant traction since around 2012. Climate change and the realization that "Traditional Ecological Knowledge" (TEK) practiced by indigenous people could help restore balance to the earth once again, has accelerated interest. While Borrego's BSCP included significant and progress goals to preserving cultural resources, a significant problem in the area is that some developable land encroaches on cultural sites and structures.

It is estimated that although 75.2% of the land is still undeveloped or native land, that land is nearly all slated by the County's zoning code as rural residential rather than designated or legally preserved conservation land, which allows grading by right and other damaging planning practices to occur. This also makes it difficult to identify and preserve Borrego's cultural history, both indigenous and modern due to lack of CEQA planning, monitoring, and oversight for small projects. See also the "Environmental Setting Analysis and Solutions" above about restoring and protecting more native land in Borrego Springs, to not only improve biodiversity, but also public health.

Additionally, when CEQA is evoked and monitoring and environmental impact reports are produced, much of acquired data is proprietary and only available to professional archaeologists and Native American tribal designees monitors in order to protect resources. It is necessary to protect this sensitive data in this way to deter pot hunters and destruction of valuable human history, and due to a customary lack of funding for staff to curate and protect them. All planners, and Borrego residents alike, however, should be mindful and aware of these issues and utilize best practices, respect, and required elements for Native American noticing, and standard and local initial study investigations (i.e., from CEQA Appendix G).

Currently, the Old Borego town site is the only cultural site with the Historic District Preservation (H) Special Area Designator. However, the local history committee has identified 40 other potential significant sites in the CPA. These sites include mesquite bosque areas associated with early indigenous use.

Governor Newsom's 30x30 initiative has been adopted across the nation and by over 190 countries in a bid to conserve 30% of natural lands and waters by 2030 to stave off biodiversity loss and insure humans a sustainable future in the face of climate change and the increasing burden of human population size. This program is important as one of the goals of 30x30 is to incorporate reintegration of Native Americans on the land. The "Land Back" programs expanding across the Nation and utilize their (TEK). Importantly TEK should be incorporated for fire management throughout the region as humans have sustainably managed the land and fire regimes for eons in the past, whereas today when humans are excluded, ecological damage compounds. Reference the cultural work of David Bainbridge, UCR, and Biosphere Reserve

Management of indigenous cultures taking place in Honduras (Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve), and in Panamal. And management of Darien Gap is led by Kuna tribes (**Ref. 107 – FIGURE 42**).

E. Town Planning

Town Planning involves processes undertaken by municipal planning departments to visualize, plan for, coordinate, and act on the three-dimensional physical layout of the town. This includes the zoning of different areas for various uses, such as residential, commercial, and office spaces. It also includes the subdivision of public property and the creation of public streets and park spaces. In addition, it takes into consideration the economic, transportation, political, legal, environmental, utility and sanitation infrastructures.

The goal of town planning is to achieve a desired urban form and to ensure that a certain level of accessibility, walkability, adaptability, efficiency, and economy are built in and adapted to over time. The public streets and spaces provide the long-term framework for building a town. And private development provides the day-to-day life within this framework is allowed to change and adapt as needed.

Today, town planning discussion have been dominated by housing, zoning, zoning permit processes and its regulation on private property. However, this focus on zoning can sometimes overlook the more permanent and important patterns of subdivision, which involve the ordering of public and private property. Therefore, the challenge in town planning is to balance these two domains of zoning and subdivision, public and private realms, to create a town that is healthy, safe, and welfare-promoting. The foundation of town planning elements involve:

- Development Patterns – Suburban to Urban Street/Block Types
- Public and Private Spaces and Buildings – Location and Scale
- Planning Types – from the Region to the Lot
- Place Types – from Pristine Nature to the Town Center
- Community Character – From Memory to Expectations

Town planning policy forms the rules and regulations that govern the use, ownership, and management of urban and rural lands. It involves both rational and emotional decisions about how the federal, state, and local authorities determine land uses, who are allowed to access to it, and what activities are permitted on it. These policies trend with collective social consciousness between individual property rights and common public good at both national and local levels.

Land policy generates both formal and informal outputs. Formal outputs are often plans, regulations, and programs. Informal outputs are often socially accepted patterns that shape underlying cultural behaviors and social expectations. The study of land policy was founded during the early 20th century's Progressive Era in response to economic and environmental instability generated by industrialization's overwhelming amount of poverty and pollution. Today's global political instability may suggest in the near future a new era of town planning.

1) Existing General Plan Land Use

Most of the land in Borrego Springs, 42.5 square mile radius, is zoned as Rural Lands, some Semi-Rural Residential, and a sprinkling of General Commercial and Rural Commercial. There are also a few industrially zoned land uses related to jobs-based

businesses. The larger Borrego Valley comprises 110 square miles and is defined by its open desert lands and mountains that surround Borrego Springs.

County General Plan 2020 United States Geological Survey report (Scientific Investigations Report 2015-5150) estimated the percent of overall land use in 2009 in the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin as the following. Approximately 72.5% of land is native vegetation, generally desert-type vegetation, while 5.6% of land is phreatophytic vegetation, e.g., plant communities with deep roots that depend on groundwater, like mesquite. An additional 11.1% of land is dedicated to residential or developed land while 3.6% of land is dedicated to citrus farming, 3% dedicated to golf courses, 2.1% to fallowed agricultural land or dedicated to livestock, 1.2% was dedicated to potato farming, and 0.9% was dedicated to dates, palms, or other nursery types.

2. Existing Community Plan Land Use

The Borrego Valley is surrounded on three sides by mountains: the Santa Rosas to the north, the San Ysidros to the west, and the Grapevine Hills to the south. To the east, the mud hills of the Borrego Badlands stretch off toward the Salton Sea. The area has been a major transportation corridor due to its geography and water sources. Native American migrations, Juan Bautista de Anza's inland route to San Francisco and other missions, stagecoach routes, the gold rush, Mexican War troop movement, ranchers and cattlemen, farmers, and settlers. All followed the same routes in use today and used the same water sources.

Borrego sustains a community of over 3,000 permanent residents, 5,000 seasonal residents, six golf courses, 11 lodging establishments, a university research center, two airports, five electric vehicle-charging stations, and a community medical center. It hosts numerous arts, architecture, music, environment, sport, and recreation events and experiences annually. And Borrego has a distinctive desert sense of place, and is a gateway to unique natural experiences.

Described as a "Village in a Park," Borrego is a rural small town set within the second largest state park in the United States. Most residents identify with basin conservation, quality of life, open spaces, and long vistas. Balancing the needs of residents, visitors, and businesses, including agriculture, with the conservation of natural and cultural resources is one of the premier tasks of the BSCP.

The growth of the low desert valley is uniquely limited within the closed perimeter of the park boundaries. Its remote location is not easy to get to, and other than tourism, there is no major industry or source of high-quality jobs. 4,000 acres are devoted to agriculture, and the majority of commercial and residential property is undeveloped.

The Borrego Springs community was envisioned by early resort developers in the 1940's as a new desert town to compete with Palm Springs and other resort communities accessible from Los Angeles, San Diego, and other points beyond in California, Nevada, and Arizona. While other post war Southern California communities have grown exponentially since the 1950s, Borrego Springs has grown very slowly.

The town's slow growth is mostly due to limited access and lack of adequate employment, which created large gaps in the development pattern and timeline. The planned single family residential development requiring substantial infrastructure of roads and utilities resulted in

the eventual sale of lots over time due to the increasing demand for second homes. The present result is a lack of actual building of houses on residential developments. Commercial lands were also left vacant.

Land use patterns are very low density and follow the 1940's design for the New Town Movement of the 1920/30s. The core of the village is Christmas Circle Park which serves as the town center and is a traffic circle similar to those applications in Mexico. Commercial businesses line Palm Canyon Drive (S-22) from Stirrup Road to the east to the entrance of the State Park on the west. And the mid-century architectural style of this era continues to define it's built character.

Borrego Springs has a variety of golf resorts located away from the town center which provide recreation as well as a various types of housing for residents and seasonal visitors. Subdivisions are located mainly to the northwest and south of Christmas Circle and generally follow the availability of water lines provided by BWD. Followed citrus and ornamental tree farms are in the north end of the Valley. Tourism has become the primary source of income during the winter season while summers have less tourism.

F. Community Planning and Design Characteristics

Borrego Springs is a unique San Diego County community, with no traffic lights and few streetlights or sidewalks. Homes and humans share the natural desert landscape with abundant native plants that provide precious habitat to the many wild animals. This "Village in a Park" is truly a "desert island."

Interconnected with the natural environment, the built environment significantly impacts the social, environmental, and economic viability of Borrego. Community design includes everything we see around us, including, but not limited to buildings, landscapes, roads, signs, fencing, lighting, and power poles. With its hospitable winter temperatures and extremely hot summers, the landscape is arid with flora and fauna uniquely adapted to the intensity of the summer sun as well as the cool winter nights. Its climate and landscape are the primarily the reason the town exists today.

Geography in the valley is generally sloping alluvium posing a significant flood risk as well as long vista views. Although land is relatively cheap, lack of building in both sectors is due in part to the FEMA designating most of the valley as a flood zone. This makes construction costs in most areas relatively high and often prohibitive compared to other communities in the region. Due to this cost, very few new commercial buildings have been built in Borrego Springs as recent building is mostly detached residential homes. However, over the last few decades only very few residential buildings have finished constructed.

As quoted from the BSCP local building design themes are mostly inconsistent with historical or natural desert elements. However, much of the built environment at present is not what is typically considered to be desert imagery/ The predominate building style is either conventional architecture found anywhere or mid-century modern. The built environment reflects imported styles and building techniques, resulting in a lack of identity that bonds with the natural surroundings.

New projects, walled communities and residential fencing are being built in a manner that negatively impacts wildlife corridors, natural water flow, and connecting open space. Progress on, and how Borrego will fulfill any remaining vision statement of the BSCP "Community Vision"

is the next step for the any future planning effort. This paper based its community development recommendations on community input and feedback. An example is the following Community Survey completed in 2024:

1) Community Input - Survey Summary (2024)

In 2024 a Resiliency Focused Community Survey ([see Appendices for the complete survey information](#)) was distributed throughout Borrego with the following key demographics and major community design findings:

Relationship to Community

- 75.6% live in Borrego Springs
- 53.0% own property
- 17.3% work in the area
- 7.1% are visitors

Residency Status

- 57.1% year-round, full-time residents
- 26.8% seasonal residents (primarily winter)
- 0.6% seasonal residents (primarily summer)
- 5.4% non-residents

Age Distribution

- 53.6% aged 65+
- 30.4% aged 46-64
- 6.5% aged 25-45
- 9.5% under 25

Racial/Ethnic Composition

- 73.2% White/Caucasian
- 18.5% Hispanic/Latino
- 3.0% Asian
- 1.8% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0.6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Major Findings include “Community Satisfaction” and “Quality of Life” Indicators:

- 80% report a strong sense of community
- 79.5% feel satisfied with their quality of life
- 71.9% feel safe at night
- 84.3% agree there are sufficient public parks and open spaces

Primary Community Attractions:

- Access to nature (76%)
- Quality of life (68%)
- Rural atmosphere (66.7%)
- Sense of community (60%)

Healthcare Services

- 74.7% prioritize healthcare access
- 70.3% concerned about insufficient medical services
- 78.4% support medical care development

- Healthcare ranks as top desired industry (76.3%)

Water Sustainability

- 92.9% aware of aquifer as sole water source
- 84.5% aware of required 70% reduction by 2040
- Water Costs:
 - 46.6% pay \$50-100 monthly
 - 43.6% pay \$100-200 monthly
 - 9.8% pay over \$200 monthly

Housing Affordability

- 73.2% perceive housing shortage
- Affected Groups:
 - 92.9% Low/moderate income families
 - 45.1% Senior citizens
 - 40.7% Assisted living needs

Infrastructure Priorities

- Natural resource protection (59.5%)
- High-speed internet access (55.4%)
- Sustainable water management (41.9%)
- Reliable public utilities (36.5%)

Water Sustainability

- Implement comprehensive conservation programs
- Develop tiered water pricing
- Launch public education campaigns
- Explore water-efficient housing solutions

Housing Strategies

- Develop mixed-income housing
- Focus on senior/assisted living facilities
- Encourage multi-family development
- Implement sustainable building practices

Infrastructure Development

- Secure high-speed internet funding
- Create sustainable infrastructure plans
- Develop integrated trail systems
- Support EV infrastructure

Economic Development

- Focus on sustainable tourism
- Encourage R&D industries that also protect the priority of natural landscape conservation
- Support healthcare/tourism businesses
- Develop workforce training programs

Sustainability

- Balance development with water restrictions:
- Preserve natural resources
- Maintain rural character

- Support sustainable tourism
- Update Community Plan and zoning recommendations

Community Development

- Focus on age-diverse design
- Improve essential services
- Protect natural amenities
- Enhance community connectivity

Community Plan Update Issues Recommendations

- Healthcare Development
- Prioritize healthcare provider recruitment
- Develop telemedicine infrastructure
- Explore public-private partnerships
- Create medical facility development plan

2) Community Design and Character Analysis and Solutions

a) Community Development Model Approach

The County's General Plan Land Use is structured by its Regional Categories Map, Figure LU-1. Its overall planning structure outlines community centers as Villages, it's supporting less urban areas as Semi-Rural lands, and its more rural and natural areas as Rural lands. These three (3) regional-scaled categories depict the general distribution, location, and extent of the uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, education, public buildings, and other categories of public and private uses of the land from more urban to more rural (**Ref. 108 – FIGURE 43**).

When applied to Borrego, the Community Development Model is implemented by three regional categories— Village, Semi-Rural, and Rural Lands— and directs the highest intensities and greatest mix of uses to Village areas, while directing lower-intensity uses, such as estate-style residential lots and agricultural operations, to Semi-Rural areas. The Semi-Rural category may effectively serve as an edge to the Village, as well as a transition to the lowest-density category, Rural Lands, which represents large open space areas where only limited development may occur. Tribal Lands and Federal and State Lands, including Anza Borrego Desert State Park, are assigned to the No Jurisdiction Regional Category.

The County's Community Development model enables the following recommendations for the Village and Semi-Rural areas in Borrego's future Community Plan update:

Green Infrastructure. Incorporating the intergradation of natural elements such as plazas, parks, green spaces, waterways, and green roofs into the community building fabric. Green infrastructure helps mitigate the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, manage stormwater, and provide recreational opportunities for visitors and residents.

Resilient Community Planning. With the increasing impact of climate change and natural disasters, resilience planning measures a Village's ability to weather environmental crises. The county's Hazardous Mitigation Plans, and disaster adaptation audits provide physical plans to protect resources and people in-place. Adaptation tools

include hardening the Village center's edge by clearly delineating Village and Semi-Rural areas with green infrastructure, such as fire breaks and flood management strategies. Communities are developing resiliency strategies to adapt to changing environmental conditions, mitigate risks, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the Village center and Semi-Rural neighborhoods.

Adaptive Reuse and Regeneration. Focus on building in underutilized areas and vacant lands within the Village center. Converting old industrial buildings, warehouses, and heritage structures into mixed-use developments, cultural hubs, or creative spaces contributes to urban regeneration and preserves architectural heritage.

Health and Well-Being. This incorporates the above green infrastructure spaces and places by promoting access to nature, designing active transportation infrastructure, and integrating health-oriented amenities like fitness areas, walking paths, and urban gardens.

Social Equity and Inclusive Planning. Community plans should address issues of affordable housing, access to services, and social infrastructure in marginalized communities. Affordable housing is subsidized by local, state and federal incentives. Attainable housing is allowed via flexible and streamlined processed zoning and subdivision rules. The state assembly is leading the way on these rule and subsidies with new state laws annually. And before these new rules are adopted, county planners must engage the community in the process to ensure that planning decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of all residents.

Mixed-Use Development. Enable mixed-use development, which involves integrating residential, commercial, and recreational spaces within a single neighborhood or Main Street. This approach aims to create places where people can live, work, and access amenities within proximity to Village center destinations.

Multi-Modal Mobility Connections. More sustainable transportation options to reduce reliance on private vehicles. This includes expanding public transit networks, improving cycling infrastructure, implementing bike-sharing programs, and promoting bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets. Building compact centers and connected neighborhoods centered around mobility hubs with public bus and private shuttles connect the Villages to the community and region. These mobility hubs are intended to reduce reliance, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, on private vehicles by promoting public transportation, walking, and cycling. A mobility center hub makes it easier for residents to access essential services and reducing reliance on single-use automobiles for every daily need in the Village lands.

Placemaking. This approach involves low-cost, temporary interventions to test and experiment with new planning and urban design ideas, such as those listed above. Placemaking projects, such as pop-up parks, pedestrian-friendly installations, or temporary street closures, allow for community engagement and provide opportunities for quick improvements. It is also used to measure positive or negative outcomes before the infrastructure is built out.

b) Community Design Guidelines

While standard and voluntary building codes mentioned above should be utilized, developing community led design guidelines would be one method to build consensus and develop a cohesive, consistent design signature for the Community. Such guidelines may be developed for a distinct community sector, or as a signature for the whole community. Gleaning from efforts of other nearby counties, and international desert communities such as Palm Springs, Indio, Joshua Tree (oasis themes), Casablanca, Chile, and other communities which may have strong sustainable planning is recommended (**Ref. 109**). Note that Joshua Tree's 2020 Community Action Guidelines have distinct parallels with this planning process and elements could be perused and perhaps "borrowed" for possible design and format suggestions. (**Ref. 110 – [FIGURE 44](#)**).

c) Desert Design Theme

For development enclaves within Borrego, one or more distinct design and signage district's theme and palettes could be chosen for the Community. For instance, if the community decided to utilize a signature style featuring 'natural desert elements' such design themes often feature warm, neutral, and/or deep saturated colors found in nature's twilight - of burnt oranges, greens, browns, reds, and pinks (such as terracotta; warm deep ambers; deep or yellow (warm) greens; shades of tan, sand, terracotta; and rich hues of dusty ochres).

Natural materials which evoke or enhance its arid atmosphere, such as leather, rattan, cool dark stone, and linen, and lightly woven textures, which result in a color saturated, but uncluttered feel, can be used to create light-filled, interior spaces and exterior spaces that feel like, and blend into the desert. A goal can be to create a soothing ambiance and a connection to nature. To that effect, building exteriors should blend in with the natural terrain in color and stature (simple mid-century modern design with color saturated smooth or textured plaster), typically being low slung with care in orientation to maximize beneficial views and breezes while reducing harsh glare or flood risks.

Landscaping should feature water smart, non-invasive mostly Coloradan native plants (or those from the greater Sonoran Desert) chosen for their architectural impact, seasonal color, or pollinators support function. Garden elements and fences should ideally be made of native rock and found material, such as ocotillo skeletons, weathered wood, and native colored gravel – which is light colored and water permeable as opposed to asphalt which is dark and hot, and concrete which is impervious to natural soil function and water integration. Rooftops and windows, however, should consider heat gain and loss and feature heat reflection features, such as white or tan roofs and UV treated windows. Additional wildlife friendly designs can be incorporated with bird strike safe glass; nectar, seed, salt lick, dust, and water stations, which are approved to be non-impactive to migration, health, and native habitat can be utilized.

The following are examples of desert theme design pallet:

Woven textures. Woven baskets, macrame wall hangings, rugs, and throw pillows

Clean lines. Sleek yet rough, desert modern interior design is a balance between modern and earthy

Rich colors. Rich hues evoke a desert scape

Visual interest. Reduce clutter while emphasizing visual interest through texture
Light-filled spaces. Balance light-filled spaces through scale and height of décor and furniture

For further reference, examples and resources from Palm Spring's famous mid-century architecture may be of interest to future policy directives (**Ref. 111 – FIGURE 45**). Mid-century modern architecture in Palm Springs, California is characterized by clean lines, open floor plans, and an emphasis on natural light. These homes often have flat roofs, tall windows, and geometric shapes.

Design features include:

Clean lines. Simple, basic lines with rectangular windows and doors

Open floor plans. Create a sense of balance and harmony

Natural light. Seamless indoor-outdoor living spaces

Organic forms. Curved contours and flowing lines inspired by nature

Notable examples include:

Kaufmann Desert House. Designed by Richard Neutra in 1946, this iconic home features large sliding glass doors and open floor plans

Twin Palms. Designed by E Stewart Williams for Frank Sinatra in 1946, this estate is known for its piano-shaped pool

Frey House II. Designed by Albert Frey, this home is built into the side of a large boulder Preservation efforts

d) Green Building Code

California has multiple building codes, which are all part of the California Building Standards Code (CBSC), which is Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (**Ref. 112**). Importantly, the County adopted the Green Building Code in 2022, which is made up of both mandatory, and voluntary incentives. The green building code reiterates and incorporates components of many other voluntary "green building" standards found around the world including LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), Energy Star, and the Living Building Challenge. More information about these programs is available on the websites of national and local chapters of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) who manages the LEED program and conducts regular trainings and various certification programs.

Additionally, other concepts can be considered as desired and as technology improves. These may include Net Zero Development aims to produce zero net greenhouse gas emission over its lifecycle, projects that recycle and reuse all water, Moral Architecture, Biophilic, Biomimicry, or Nature Based Solution designs. These emphasize, incorporate, or copy natural biologic or landscape systems. Organic and Sustainable Landscape and Interior Design concepts may also be useful in Borrego to incorporate form and function in harmony with the surrounding natural lands.

e) ADA, Accessibility, and Universal Design

While Title 24 in California does require accessibility features for people with disabilities, under the US Americans with Disability Act or ADA, does not explicitly mandate "universal design" as a standard. It allows for the voluntary incorporation of universal

design features through the "New Home Universal Design Option Checklist" which builders can offer to buyers upon request. This makes universal design an optional feature within the accessibility requirements of Title 24.

Universal Design includes features that make it possible for new and remodel architecture to make it easier to age in place or live with disabilities. Feature may include sturdy railings and wider in entry ways into the dwelling and into all rooms such as bathrooms and can include counters of lowered height with clearances that can accommodate wheelchairs. Typically, the homes may be single story and or feature accessibility components such as ramps, elevators, or motorized stair chairs. Other features may include visual or braille signage and the like. The state's Housing and Community Development provides local jurisdictions a universal design checklist (**Ref. 113 – [FIGURE 46](#)**).

f) Visual Graphics / Signage

The BSCP states, "Signage in the Borrego Valley consists of a broad variety of materials, colors, styles, and size of components, not all of them particularly suited or designed for the demands of a hot, dry, and sometimes very windy desert climate. These elements produce confusion and visual chaos for visitors, who experience wayfinding fatigue. The size of economic loss likely due to poor / absent signage is unknown." The relevant to today plan recommends general themes that incorporate the desired "vibe" or vibes of various parts of the community, which must be developed via community input. Important wayfinding signage could include flower fields and additional interpretive/protection signage where appropriate.

G. SOCIOECONOMICS

In 2022, Borrego had a population of 2,950 people with a median age of 58.8 and a median household income of \$101,458. Between 2021 and 2022 the population of Borrego Springs, CA grew from 2,566 to 2,946, a 14.8% increase; and its median household income declined from \$103,390 to \$101,458, a -1.87% decrease (**Ref. 114**).

The five largest ethnic groups in Borrego Springs, are White (Non-Hispanic) (64.6%), Two+ (Hispanic) (18.4%), White (Hispanic) (15.6%), Other (Hispanic) (1.39%), and Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (0%). Also in Borrego, 96.8% of the residents are reported to be U.S. citizens and none of the households in Borrego reported speaking a non-English language at home as their primary shared language. This does not consider the potential multi-lingual nature of households, but only the primary self-reported language spoken by all members of the household.

In 2022, the median property value in Borrego was \$397,000, and the homeownership rate was 78.5%. Most people in Borrego Springs, drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 25.8 minutes. The average car ownership in Borrego Springs, CA was 2 cars per household. In 2022, 70.6% of workers in Borrego Springs, CA drove alone to work, followed by those who worked at home (27.9%) and those who carpooled to work (1.48%). Using averages, employees in Borrego Springs, have a shorter commute time (25.8 minutes) than the normal US worker (26.7 minutes). Additionally, 11.6% of the workforce in Borrego Springs, have "super commutes" in excess of 90 minutes (**Ref. 115 - [FIGURE 47](#)**).

An important point in Borrego regarding demographic is that while Census Bureau is legally obligated to keep all individual data confidential there can be mistrust in the community over the

handing over sensitive data that could possibly be misused. Collecting data on immigrants, regardless of their legal status, is legal under US law, and considered necessary for accurate population counts. Census data cannot share it with any other agency, including law enforcement.

However, collecting accurate census data on populations can, however, be problematic for a variety of reasons. There could be individuals or groups of people that are transitory, unemployed and/or retired, have little access to on-line systems, disabilities, criminal histories, language differences, or any number of socioeconomic barriers to participating. Marginalized and/or uncounted people may also include those with partial, pending, or no legal citizen (undocumented immigrant) status. Although the Census Bureau employs various methods to encourage participation among immigrant and non-immigrant populations, including language assistance and outreach programs. While the accuracy and completeness of citizen and noncitizen coverage in U.S. is therefore in question, the following data is the best available data on Borrego Springs, CA (or Borrego Springs or Borrego in this section), from cited sources.

1) Population Demographics

Borrego occupies 42.5 square miles with approximately 58 persons per square mile. Borrego has approximately 8,000 seasonal, snowbird or winter residents (**Ref. 116**). The community is largely populated by retired seniors, many living here on only a seasonal basis, with families deriving their income mainly from service industry jobs including landscaping, pool maintenance, and housekeeping positions (**Ref. 117**).

The estimated full-time population of Borrego Springs is 2,328 (**Ref. 118**). The median age of residents in Borrego Springs is 53.8 years, with almost 60% of the population aged 55-years or older (**Ref. 119**). Residents are primarily White (87%), with the remainder Black/African American, Asian, or two or more races. Approximately 20% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latinx (**Ref. 120**). And based on the seasonality of the area, it is estimated that part-time residents – seasonal workers, “snowbirds,” and weekenders – inflate the population by two-fold (**Ref. 121**).

96.8% of the people living in Borrego are citizens. As of 2022, 23.1% of Borregos were born outside of the country (681 people). In 2022, there were 3.52 times more White (Non-Hispanic) residents (1,900 people) in Borrego Springs, than any other race or ethnicity. There were 541 Two+ (Hispanic) and 460 White (Hispanic) residents, the second and third most common ethnic groups. As of 2022, 96.8% of Borrego Springs, residents were US citizens, which is higher than the national average of 93.5%. In 2021, the percentage of US citizens in Borrego Springs, CA was 95.9%, meaning that the rate of citizenship has been increasing.

In 2022, there were 3.52 times more White (Non-Hispanic) residents (1,900 people) in Borrego Springs, CA than any other race or ethnicity. There were 541 Two+ (Hispanic) and 460 White (Hispanic) residents, the second and third most common ethnic groups. 35.4% of the people in Borrego Springs, CA are Hispanic (1.04k people). As of 2022, 23.1% of Borrego Springs residents (681 people) were born outside of the United States, which is higher than the national average of 13.6%. In 2021, the percentage of foreign-born citizens in Borrego Springs, CA was 22.9%, meaning that the rate has been increasing.

2) Residential and Housing Demographics

Anecdotally, year-round residents are comprised of two types:

- Households consisting of individuals and couples over the age of 55, primarily White/non-Hispanic, who are living on limited or fixed incomes.
- Households comprised of multigenerational families, primarily Hispanic/Latinx and consisting of grandparents, working parents, and children who make up most of the students in the Borrego Unified School District (**Ref. 122**).

Part-time residents are comprised of the following three types:

- Seasonal workers: Individuals who work in the area during agricultural harvest seasons.
- Snowbirds: Those with second homes in the area who avoid Borrego's hotter months, typically arriving in November and leaving in March or April.
- Weekenders: Visitors often interested in outdoor activities ranging from golf to hiking to mountain biking.

The seasonal housing vacancy rate of around 40% (**Ref. 123**). Over 1,000 units are estimated to be for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Borrego is largely made up of single-family homes (62.5%), the majority detached, while 24.6% of homes in the area are mobile homes. Duplexes and multifamily units make up the final 12.9% of the housing stock (**Ref. 124 – FIGURE 48**). According to the Borrego Springs Community Plan, over 1,500 homes and condominiums were in the development pipeline in Borrego in 2011. Most of the projects were put on hold due to groundwater supply discussions, while some have had development resume, such as the Rams Hill Golf Course redevelopment.

The larger San Diego County Desert Community Planning Area, which includes the Ocotillo Wells area and expands south encompassing the Anza Borrego State Park, adds an additional 1,000 housing units to the sub-region's total, totaling approximately 3,500-3,700. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) estimates that more than 10,000 additional acres will be developed as Low-Density Single Family or Single Family by 2050, which would increase the total housing units in the Desert CPA by more than 1,500. This census data is old (2013). Newer housing data has been made available on the County's website including a series of 12 (2020) Borrego Specific housing growth maps developed to support the GP update (**Ref. 125**).

Though sparsely populated, Borrego Springs still has unmet housing and infrastructure needs. The Census estimates that about 76% of renters in Borrego Springs are cost-burdened, and 30.6% of renters are severely cost-burdened (**Ref. 126**). This means almost a third of rental households face monthly housing costs that are 50% or more of their total household income. This generally affects lower-income households, as approximately 95% of renter households making below \$50,000 are cost burdened (**Ref. 127**).

3) Income and Poverty

The median property value in Borrego Springs, CA was \$397,000 in 2022, which is 1.41 times larger than the national average of \$281,900. Between 2021 and 2022 the median property value increased from \$339,600 to \$397,000, a 16.9% increase. The homeownership rate in Borrego Springs, CA is 78.5%, which is approximately the same as the national average of 64.8%. According to 2016 U.S. Census data, the median household income (MHI) in Borrego Springs is \$34,046 (**Ref. 133**). This is almost 50% less than the San Diego County MHI of \$66,529 and the California MHI of \$63,783. The MHI qualifies Borrego Springs as a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) as well as an Economically Distressed Area (EDA) according to California Department of Water

Resources guidelines (**Ref. 134**).

With such a large population in retirement, income for many Borrego households comes from retirement, Social Security, or other sources of fixed income. In 2016, there were 1,050 individual Social Security beneficiaries in the 92004 ZIP code – 850 of the total were retired, and 895 were aged 65 or older (**Ref. 135**). The Census estimates 45.2% of households receive Social Security income at an average of \$18,201 per year, and 30.3% of households have retirement income at an average of \$19,371 per year (**Ref. 136**).

It is estimated that 11.5% of Borrego's full-time residents live below the federal poverty line, the threshold for 2016 being an income of \$24,300 for a four-member household. (**Ref. 137**). Though children under 18 make up only 16% of the total population of Borrego, 60% of youth live in a household that receives food stamps/SNAP, cash assistance, or Social Security Income (**Ref. 138**). Additionally, 71% of children in the Borrego Springs Unified School District (BSUSD) qualify for free lunch, while another 17% qualify for reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program. (**Ref. 139**).

The census tract is also designated as "Low Income, Low Access at 10 miles" to groceries by the USD (**Ref. 140**). A census tract is designated Low Income if the poverty rate is 20% or higher, or if the MHI in the census tract is 80% less than the state or metropolitan area. A census tract is designated Low Access if at least 33% of the population lives farther than 1 mile from the nearest grocery store in an urban area, or farther than 10 miles in a rural area.

The main economic driver is tourism, largely from state park visitation. It is estimated that the 900 square-mile ABDSP attracts between 650,000 and 1,000,000 visitors to the region annually. Recent California State Park Statistical Reports from 2013-2016 put the official numbers between 350,000 to 550,000. In FY2015-2016, there were approximately 403,000 visitors to ABDSP, accounting for \$620,169 in total park revenue; meanwhile, Anza-Borrego's 2015-2016 total budgetary expenses added up to over \$3.7 million (**Ref. 141**). In 2022, the median household income of the 1.4k households in Borrego Springs, CA declined from \$101,458 from the previous year's value of \$103,390.

3.23% of the population for whom poverty status is determined (95 out of 2.95k people) live below the poverty line, a number that is lower than the national average of 12.5%. The largest demographic living in poverty are Females 35 - 44, followed by Males 16 - 17 and then Females 18 - 24. The most common racial or ethnic group living below the poverty line in Borrego Springs, CA is White, followed by Hispanic and Black.

4) Community Groups

Borrego Springs has a very extensive and active network of community groups, comprised primarily of year-round residents and part-time "snowbirds." Interests range from outdoor activity and nature clubs to youth and religious groups, volunteer service organizations, and community leadership groups focused on business and governmental affairs.

Two new non-profits, initially formed during the pandemic, have become very active in providing some social services to the community. They are the Community Resource Center and the Borrego Ministers Association. Borrego is so remote that County social service staff only come out once a month, so the community has stepped into the void with donations (used for food and emergency needs such as assistance with rent) and significant volunteer time (for example, there is a weekly food bank at the CRC). Importantly, Hispanic leaders in

the village have also created OLAX – Organizacion de LatinX – a nonprofit to inform and speak for their community as well as stage community events.

Existing Community Groups Current as of February 2025 include:

Al-Anon, Alcoholic & Narcotics Anonymous
American Legion Auxiliary
American Legion Post 853
Anza Borrego Foundation (ABF)
Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association
Borrego Art Institute (BAI), Borrego Springs Civic Foundation
Borrego Ministers Association
Borrego Spring Art Guild
Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Borrego Springs Children's Center
Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group
Borrego Springs Community Resource Center
Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition
Borrego Springs Little League
Borrego Springs Ministers Association
Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center (PAC)
Borrego Springs Rotary Club/Rotary Foundation
Borrego Springs Senior Center
Borrego Springs Youth Basketball League
Borrego Valley Endowment Fund
Borrego Valley Stewardship Council
Borrego Village Association
Borrego Village Foundation (BVF)
Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, Boys & Girls Club of Borrego Springs
Christmas Circle Community Park
Feeding America at Borrego Springs Unified School District
Feeding America at St Richard's Catholic Church
Friends of the Borrego Springs Library
Kiwanis Club
Lions Club
OLAX -- Organizacion de LatinX
S'Interact Club (High School Interact/Rotary plus Soroptimist)
San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond Revitalization Groups:
 Working Group on Economic Development/Tourism,
 Revitalization Working Group on Infrastructure,
 Revitalization Working Group on Community Health,
 Revitalization Working Group on the Environment
San Diego Food Bank at Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church
Soroptimist International of Borrego Springs
Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy

5) Industry and Workforce

The economy of Borrego Springs, CA employs 1.19k people. The largest industries in Borrego Springs, CA are Accommodation & Food Services (206 people), Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (185 people), and Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services (171 people), and the highest paying industries are Professional,

Scientific, & Management, & Administrative & Waste Management Services (\$50,869), Retail Trade (\$48,245), and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (\$46,250). From 2021 to 2022, employment in Borrego Springs, CA grew at a rate of 18.9%, from 1k employees to 1.19k employees.

The most common job groups, by number of people living in Borrego Springs, CA, are Sales & Related Occupations (282 people), Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations (203 people), and Management Occupations (166 people). From 2021 to 2022, employment in Borrego Springs, CA grew at a rate of 18.9%, from 1k employees to 1.19k employees. The industries with the best median earnings for men in 2022 are Professional, Scientific, & Management, & Administrative & Waste Management Services (\$40,281) and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation, & Accommodations & Food Services (\$29,801). The industries with the best median earnings for women in 2022 are Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation, & Accommodations & Food Services (\$14,177).

The most common employment sectors for those who live in Borrego are Accommodation & Food Services (206 people), Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (185 people), and Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services (171 people) although some residents may live outside of Borrego Springs, CA but work there, or visa-versa.

While Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest draw to the Borrego area, visitors are often interested in other activities such as biking, hiking, golfing, stargazing, or visiting the Borrego Art Institute and local galleries. The surrounding businesses in Borrego, such as restaurants, retail stores, and lodging properties, also support this tourism economy. There are 10 lodging options for visitors to Borrego, with additional communities and resorts offering traditional house rentals or RV parking, as well as multiple private vacation home listings for the greater Borrego Springs area.

It is important to note that most of the business in Borrego is seasonal, with the high season from October to May, although the village is still active during the summer months. Since 2009, the Borrego Village Association has been working on a variety of community initiatives to make Borrego's Central Business District more accessible and pedestrian-friendly through design enhancements and traffic-calming. This central area of the village provides much of the support for the tourism economy and hosts many of the local businesses serving the community. In the winter of 2024-25, the County Department of Public Works did extensive work to make the central business district more pedestrian-friendly, completing sidewalks on two roads, calming traffic around Christmas Circle (which is the main community gathering place), and creating very visible crosswalks to the Circle.

There are an estimated 1,000 residents (around 50% of residents aged 16 years or older) in the labor force in Borrego Springs.²² Workers are primarily employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, as well as educational services, healthcare, and social assistance. Borrego Springs' 2015 Work Area Profile²⁴ indicates that just over one-third of workers earned \$1,250 per month or less, one-third earned \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month, and a third earned more than that. The workforce is majority female (60%) and 37.5% are Hispanic/Latinx.

Unemployment data, excluding retired workers, students, active-duty military, stay-at-home parents, and those completing unpaid volunteer work, etc., indicates that almost 20% of the civilian labor force in Borrego Springs is unemployed, compared to 7.8% of the population in

San Diego County and 7.4% of the population nationally. This unemployment rate within the census tract is higher than 99% of the rest of the state (**Ref. 142**).

However, this higher rate could be inflated due to a factor other than a lack of job opportunities in the area, such as the informal or “underground” sector of the local economy (**Ref. 143**). The informal sector is defined as a part of the economy that is unregulated, unrecorded, and/or untaxed by the government. Common examples of informal employment include paid domestic workers, day laborers, or other types of employees (**Ref. 144**). The Census estimates that there were 147 self-employed workers (in non-incorporated businesses) and unpaid family workers in Borrego Springs in 2016 (**Ref. 145**).

According to the San Diego North Economic Development Council (SDNEDC), two sub-regions, the Northern Coast, and Inland North County (where Borrego is located), have lower than average educational attainment and lower than average wages (**Ref. 146**). A result of this disparate growth, SDNEDC suggests targeted workforce development to connect residents in less dynamic regions to high-skill, high-growth career pathways to distribute opportunity more evenly across the North County.

The main economic driver in Borrego Springs is tourism, largely from state park visitation. It is estimated that the 900 square-mile ABDSP attracts between 650,000 and 1,000,000 visitors to the region annually (**Ref. 147**). Recent California State Park Statistical Reports from 2013-2016 put the official numbers between 350,000 to 550,000. In FY2015-2016, there were approximately 403,000 visitors to ABDSP, accounting for \$620,169 in total park revenue; meanwhile, Anza- Borrego’s 2015-2016 total budgetary expenses added up to over \$3.7 million (**Ref. 148**).

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6) Farming

Borrego Valley has long been attractive to the agricultural industry. Early interests brought the growing of cotton, gladiolas, alfalfa, and grapes to the Valley. By the mid-1960s the primary crops turned to grapefruit and lemons, then later in the 1970s evolved to landscape species such as palm and olive. The climate of the desert, along with very inexpensive land and the perception of readily accessible ground water caused the agricultural ventures in Borrego Valley to grow and sometimes prosper.

Approximately 4,000 acres in the northern part of Borrego Valley have been converted to the growing of grapefruit, grapes, palm trees and lemons since the 1940s. The groundwater pumping for intensive agriculture has drawn the water table down at an average rate of about two feet per year for about sixty years, causing the pumping to become all the more expensive and the quality of the water to become more problematic as the well depth increases and the use of fertilizers and pesticides is prolonged.

Today, in spite of the arid desert climate and the declining water supply, agriculture still uses the most water but employs just a handful of local residents. Borrego's agricultural products, by and large, are not consumed locally, and most farm owners actually live outside the Valley. There are approximately 4,000 agricultural acres in the north end of the Valley, about half planted in citrus, largely exported. Landscape ornamentals, palm trees and other nursery products are grown on about 900 acres and shipped to national and international destinations as well.

7) Tourism

One of the community's main economic drivers is tourism—welcoming the estimated 650,000 to 1,000,000 annual visitors to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is one of the strongest economic engines in the region. Visitors to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park account for over \$40 million in annual revenue to the region each year.

The Park maintains an award-winning Visitor Center at the western edge of town. Park and Chamber of Commerce representatives are collaborating closely to more effectively market and promote the area, and the Chamber of Commerce has recently launched a new destination-marketing program, Tourism Borrego, to support those efforts.

Tourism supports nine lodging properties, about a dozen restaurants, and more than two-dozen retail establishments. Two thriving non-profit educational membership organizations offer a large number of programs for locals and visitors—the Anza-Borrego Foundation & Institute (ABFI) and the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (ABDNHA). These organizations and their programs attract members and financial support from people all over the world (**Ref. 151**).

Several nine and 18-hole golf courses are open to the public: Road Runner Club (9), The Springs (18), Club Circle (9) and Borrego Springs Resort (18). Private golf courses include De Anza Country Club (18) and Montesorro (Ram's Hill) (18 x 2 courses). Some of these developments have exercise rooms and tennis courts open to guests, residents or on a monthly or annual membership basis. There is one commercial horseback riding facility. There is a private commercial desert tour company operating in Borrego Springs, which has a concession contract to operate within the State Park. Otherwise, there are no commercial recreation facilities, including movie theater, bowling alley, bike rental, jeep rental, mini-golf, water park or gym/weight room open on a drop-in basis without membership.

Industrial land uses in Borrego Springs are limited to light impact jobs-based businesses that are largely service-related in nature. These businesses are generally located along Stirrup Road. Secondly, service-related businesses are located in the proximity of the airport east of the town center and tend to be of greater land use impact, such as the concrete plant and construction yards. The community supports many professional and trade services, and local Chamber of Commerce has 225 members. The Performing Arts Center and the Borrego Art Institute provide cultural programs for residents and tourists. Beside small businesses, other employers include the San Diego County Road Sub-station, the Borrego Springs Unified School District, and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

8) Socioeconomics Analysis and Solutions:

Every drop of water is now allocated through the judgement outlined in the 2020 GMP. Analysis performed to determine an adjusted housing capacity of 7,651 importantly, does not factor in the need to include the mandated drawdown of the aquifer use to the sustainable yield by 2040 of approximately 5,000 - 8,000 AF/year. While we note that the sustainable yield is reassessed in Watermaster Reports every five years and will fluctuate, limitations on water must be carefully analyzed and included specifically into any adjusted housing capacity.

At the state level, California Assembly Bill 10 is meant to address the housing crisis in CA, requiring each community in the state to meet construction/supply quotas of affordable housing. In future GP iterations, the County will be required to include a "Vehicle Miles Traveled" (VMT) analysis in lieu of the current Level of Service (LOS) traffic analysis included in the 2010 County General Plan. VTM replaced LOS in CEQA to consider actual transportation-related environmental impacts of any given project (**Ref. 128**). Although passed in 2013, under SB 743, to address Green House Gases tied to vehicle exhaust emissions affecting climate change, it did not go into effect until July 1, 2020. In the interim, (2020 to quasi-current) the County has made various decisions regarding VTM, from using the existing General Plan with a 15163 Consistency Analysis under CEQA, to updating its Transportation Study Guidelines (**Ref. 129**).

The County updated its TSG from a prior 2020 version however, which did include VMT analysis requirements but only for the County's unincorporated areas. Subsequently, the County, was sued by The Cleveland National Forest Foundation for not including the entire County in the requirements (**Ref. 130**).

The County BOS voted 4:1 to include the County in its entirety in its final 2022 TSG. Despite the GP consistent, 15163 CEQA Exemption, Consistency Analysis approach, the County thus addresses VMT in using a decision tree from the TSG (**Ref. 131**).

Despite the uncertainty that occurred with the County's compliance with state mandated VMT law, the whole process led to the County's increased commitment to address climate and environmental shortfalls and led directly to its decision to develop the SLUF. Importantly,

the SLUF will be used to augment future General Plan Updates particularly for the unincorporated areas (**Ref. 132**).

H. PUBLIC FACILITIES

1) Public Health

96.6% of the population of Borrego Springs, CA has health coverage, with 35.5% on employee plans, 14.3% on Medicaid, 34.2% on Medicare, 9.71% on non-group plans, and 2.89% on military or VA plans. Between 2021 and 2022, the percent of uninsured citizens in Borrego Springs, CA declined by 27.4% from 4.68% to 3.4%.

Borrego Springs is located within a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) in San Diego County, as defined by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. An MUA is an area with too few primary care providers, high poverty rates, a higher older adult population, and/or a high infant mortality rate. (**Ref. 152**). There is one medical clinic that provides comprehensive healthcare for residents in the Borrego Valley – the Borrego Valley Medical Center, which does not provide emergency services. Desert Home Care provides in-home care and Mountain view Assisted Living is an assisted-living facility in the area.

Borrego's location within the desert of San Diego County poses increased risk for heat-related illnesses. There is also a significant number of sub-populations with greater heat-related risk factors: those 65 years or older, those who are medically underserved and/or low-income, as well as those who are occupationally or recreationally active outdoors (**Ref. 153**). However, since 2014, thanks to the development of one of the largest utilities microgrids in the United States, Borrego Springs and the surrounding northeast area of the county are less likely to have extended power outages that risk residents being without air conditioning (**Ref. 154**). In addition to heat risks, the census tract is also ranked higher than 75% of other state tracts for the number and type of groundwater threats that exist in the area due to contamination (**Ref. 155**).

About 12% of residents in the 92004 ZIP code in 2014 had ever been diagnosed with asthma. This is slightly lower than the statewide rate of 14% and the countywide rate of 16% (1-17 years) and 14% (18- plus years) (**Ref. 156**). However, changes in climate or land use could affect these rates, as the neighboring Salton Sea area has seen a spike in asthma issues due to drought and receding water (**Ref. 157**).

2) Parks and Recreation

Borrego has several community facilities and is also located near multiple public recreation areas. The Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center presents multiple plays and musicals in season and the Community Concert Association also provides regular programming. The Borrego Springs Community Park offers pickleball courts, a dog park, a picnic area, and an astronomy bowl. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Palomar Mountain State Park, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park are nearby, as is Ocotillo Wells Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation, San Bernardino National Forest, Mt. San Jacinto, Joshua Tree National Park, and the Salton Sea.

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park headquarters provides visitor facilities that are also used by residents, including a Visitor Center, developed campgrounds, trails, and an outdoor amphitheater. It provides a number of pleasant, age-and environment-appropriate

recreation facilities at the Borrego Springs Children's Center, a licensed childcare and learning center, the Borrego Springs Elementary School, and Greater San Diego County Boys' and Girls' Club. The middle and High Schools have a "half-Olympic size" pool, plus a track and a football field open for public use after school and on weekends. It also has a two-field Little League complex. Many of these facilities were funded and built by private philanthropic citizens or community organizations.

Christmas Circle Park (maintained and managed by the non-profit Christmas Circle Association) sits at the nexus of major access roads, S-22, and S-3. It has the only easily accessible public restroom facilities, recently upgraded to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Christmas Circle is the focal point for many community gatherings, activities, and events, including Borrego Days Desert Festival, the Circle of Art, and the weekly Farmer's Market. The County has allotted Community Enhancement Funds (CEF) for park improvements and maintenance.

In May 2000, San Diego County purchased a 16-acre parcel along Church Lane and Country Club designated for a Community Park. However, this park has not been developed because there is no local entity responsible for Parks & Recreation, and no agency, funding, or people to manage maintenance and operations for a park of this size. Borrego has an integrated equestrian/pedestrian trail system, the Community Trail System that links with the federally designated Sea-to-Sea, California Riding and Hiking Trail, and the Pacific Crest Trail. There is no community memorial park or cemetery.

3) Existing Circulation and Mobility

The original plan to provide access to Christmas Circle and the Borrego valley from Los Angeles and the coastal population centers to the west was via Coyote Canyon. When this access was blocked by state park concerns, the present road was cut into the side of the mountain down Montezuma Grade to access Christmas Circle via Sunset Road. This plan also failed because the lower section of the road had to be relocated, and the present alignment was realized down

Where Sunset Road was to be the main access road to the Circle, Palm Canyon Drive now took on that role providing access to the heart of the community in its present configuration. There are well-established neighborhoods developed off major corridors (S-22 and S-3) many dating from the 1950s: Sun Gold, Ocotillo Heights, de Anza Country Club, Club Circle, Verbena, Deep Well and Montesorro (Ram's Hill). The primary commercial and tourist-serving corridor is S- 22, Palm Canyon Drive, with a central business district comprising a one-mile stretch from Stirrup Road westward to Country Club Road. Tourist-serving and other businesses are located primarily west of Christmas Circle and in The Center and The Mall. Highway S-22, Palm Canyon drive, is the main thoroughfare through the center of Borrego, and links to State Route 79 to the west and Salton City and Route 86 to the east. Highway S-3 links Borrego to State Route 78, which connects to Julian and Ramona to the west, and Brawley to the east.

Christmas Circle was envisioned by town fathers to be a vibrant town center with a large three- acre park dedicated to the then operational Community Association in the model of the traditional town square. It followed in the vision of the New Town movement of the first half of the century with roads radiating out from the "garden" center and with "grand avenues and boulevards" reaching out to designated activity centers throughout the valley which

were to become Rams Hill (Montesoro), the Borrego Springs Resort and Country Club and the DeAnza Country Club.

It was designed in the shape of a circle as were the Hispanic town centers or the 'Zocalos' in Mexican villages to the south. Land uses around the center were to be crafted in the model of Scottsdale with a vision for shops on small lots being patronized by seasonal visitors filling their shopping bags with gifts for Christmas, which is the start of the high winter season.

Christmas Circle is located at the central crossroads of Palm Canyon Drive and Borrego Springs Road. It combines a community park, a traffic control device and surrounding retail commercial parcels. Originally conceived by its planners to serve as the town center, it remains largely undeveloped except for the community park.

In the 50 years since its initial planning, changing public tastes and governmental standards for hydrology, flood control, public health, road design and parking have made the current Christmas Circle area poorly suited to current and future community needs. Christmas Circle was to be anchored in the model of the 1950's shopping center design with the grocery store, the bank, the newspaper and whatever else could be garnered to support the Circle with respectable businesses all facing the park. The major streets intersecting the park were traffic controllers, but the minor streets were designated as pedestrian shopping streets for the convenience of the general population purchasing items of perhaps other than essential needs in the support of tourism.

In desert country, the resources of quiet, uninterrupted vistas and brilliant night skies are the signature of healthy communities and landscapes. Disturbance of the skyline, silhouettes of towers, powerlines, telephone poles, "cut and fill" road scars, "security" lights, agricultural burning, and dust from off-highway vehicles during busy holidays are all impacts to the scenic quality of Borrego Valley and the surrounding State Park.

State Highway 78 and County Highways S3 and S22 serve the residents. The closest airport is Borrego Valley Airport. The closest international airport is Palm Springs International Airport, approximately 80 miles north of Borrego Springs. Public transit is available by Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), which provides transportation service via routes 891 and 892 but only on Thursdays and Fridays.

A County-approved "Back Country Rural Area" transportation map exists for Borrego Springs, supported by the Community Sponsor Group. Transportation systems include state highways, city streets, horse trails and footpaths throughout the community. The widely dispersed nature of the community means we are "car oriented." Rural bus service to surrounding areas has been significantly reduced. Since the post office does not provide residential mail delivery, residents must drive to pick up and deliver mail. The medical center provides limited transportation shuttles from downtown to its facilities at Montesoro, 6.5 miles away. Without a network of sidewalks or covered walkways, hot weather walking in the downtown area is impractical, at best.

A significant concern is the deteriorating condition of internal and connector roadways. Maintenance methods (patching) are inadequate, and asphalt additives leach out in the warm environment causing roads to break apart and creating potholes. Locals have an average commute time of 25.8 minutes, and they drove alone to work. Car ownership is approximately the same as the national average, with an average of 2 cars per household.

4) Existing Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Due to the large size of the state park, it is about an hour's drive in any direction to get to the nearest communities to assess full services and commerce variety (i.e., 24/7, advanced, and specialty health care options and centers; large supermarkets and discount stores; gyms, auto dealers, or movie theaters). Health care and pharmacy services are limited, especially on weekends. CalFire provides EMT and ambulance services, and Mercy Air, contracted by the Borrego Valley Endowment Fund, provide no-cost emergency helicopter flights to regional hospitals for both permanent and seasonal residents of the village. Borregons, must drive east then north to the Coachella Valley, south to Brawley and El Centro, or west to Julian, San Diego, or Temecula.

The community is supported by the following facilities and infrastructure:

- County Road Station
- School District (High School is Red Cross Emergency Evacuation Center)
- Water District
- Fire Department
- Sheriff's Sub-station
- County Library
- Children's Center
- Boys' and Girls' Club
- Senior Center
- Medical Center
- Airport
- County Rural Bus System
- AT&T Central Office
- Chamber of Commerce

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park headquarters provides visitor facilities that are also used by residents, including a Visitor Center, developed campground, trails and outdoor amphitheater.

5. School Service

The Borrego Unified School District (BSUSD) serves grades K-12 who attend five schools. The school district includes Ocotillo Wells and serves discretionary students from Ranchita and Salton City. Borrego Unified School District, with offices on the High School campus, serves grades K-12 (currently 450 students) who attend five schools. School District includes Ocotillo Wells and serves discretionary students from Ranchita and Salton City. A new charter school was recently approved by the Borrego Unified School District (BSUSD) Board of Trustees, which consists of five elected members.

6. Utilities

Electrical service in Borrego Springs is provided by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). Service reliability from SDG&E is poor, especially during summer 'monsoon' season. Above-ground utility poles are susceptible to damage in frequent high winds, often disrupting service during storms. With high summer temperatures (averaging 107 degrees), costly electric bills for residents and businesses affect the ability to conduct year-round commerce, resulting in fewer services and lessened ability to market the community for year-round tourism. Propane service providers to Borrego Springs are Amerigas and Pro-Flame Gas Co. Increasingly, residents are installing private solar generation systems.

7. Sewer and Water

Borrego Springs receives sewer and water service from the Borrego Water District (BWD), established in 1962. In December 1979, the latent powers of the District were activated by the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission to provide water and sewer services to Montezuma (formerly Rams Hill). Since 1979, the BWD has consolidated water and sewer services within the community.

Sewer service uses existing treatment facilities located in the southeastern area of the Valley adjacent to the Borrego Sink. Service is provided via a collection system extending from the treatment plant approximately 7.2 miles north along Borrego Valley Road, and west along Palm Canyon Drive to Montezuma Valley Road. The Borrego Water District also maintains pest control and flood control powers.

The Water District has 2,100 water customers and 800 sewer customers. Since most of the houses are not occupied all year round only one-third of the sewage is created from year-round residents. Many individual house owners have elected for septic tanks, which lower sewage flow due to fewer customers.

8. Energy - Microgrid

The local Microgrid (completed in 2013 by SDG&E) is the first utility-owned, community scale microgrid in America to demonstrate the capabilities of renewable generation and new technologies to enhance energy reliability. Microgrids that use renewable energy and battery storage can increase energy resilience. The Borrego Springs Microgrid is designed to be a robust, renewable-based system that provides critical power during emergencies and planned outages, which are necessary when system upgrades and maintenance work are needed. The Borrego Springs Microgrid is also a true community microgrid providing benefits to the entire area, and not just to single-metered customers. A utility-grade microgrid controller known as the Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) monitors all assets deployed across Borrego Springs including the distributed battery storage and the solar plant located at the northern edge of town.

When an outage occurs, the Microgrid can be activated to provide power. During the day, the Microgrid can harness energy from a local solar plant as well as the Microgrid's batteries and generators to power the entire community. During the night, the Microgrid's batteries and generators power designated critical-load areas. As needed, non-critical loads are shed to maintain Microgrid stability. Seamless transitions to and from the grid are possible and can be initiated and controlled onsite or remotely.

9) Distribution Communications Reliability Improvement (DCRI) Project

The Distribution Communications Reliability Improvement (DCRI) project will provide more reliable, high-speed communications to help protect communities from wildfires by expanding the use of the Falling Conductor Protection (FCP) technology. FCP uses relays that communicate wirelessly to de-energize downed power lines (typically due to high winds) before contacting the ground, potentially sparking fire.

SDG&E plans to use its new advanced wireless communications network to monitor, communicate with, and control transmission and distribution equipment. They will be able to support additional smart grid functionality such as microgrids, advanced battery storage,

dynamic voltage controllers, falling conductor applications, high-risk fire mitigation and photovoltaic penetration volatility.

SDG&E uses wireless networks to communicate between FCP and other devices. DCRI will replace these systems with a single wireless network serving various purposes, like FCP enabling push-to-talk radio for crews and the ability to monitor and control the power grid. DCRI is part of a comprehensive 3-pronged program to minimize the risk of wildfire. First, SDGE engineers operate the electric system to be fire safe. Second, they have weather models and over 150 weather sensors to predict and monitor fire conditions. Lastly, SDGE has been educating residents in High Fire Threat Districts to be safe and prepared for wildfires.

10) Telecommunications

The local telephone company is AT&T. Only Borrego Valley businesses and residents living near Palm Canyon Drive are able to obtain high-speed data (T-1 and DSL) service. Residents living more than 10,000 feet from the central office must use dial-up or cable Internet service.

The local franchised cable provider is CableUSA, providing television and high-speed Internet service. There are several Internet service providers that provide toll-free local access to their dial-up networks. Footnote 50 Most residents now use only cell phone service, not landlines. This means that free directory lookup for someone's phone number is difficult to impossible. A local non-profit has for years published a directory available at a minimal price, but most Spanish speakers do not participate in it.

11) Trash Collection / Dump / Landfill

Trash collection for Borrego Springs is provided by CRR Waste Services research and update Allied Waste Services out of Imperial County. They provide customers with trash and recycle containers and make weekly pickups. Allied Waste Services also operates the local landfill at 2449 Palm Canyon Drive.

The local landfill is owned and operated by Allied Waste and their subsidiary, San Diego Landfill Operators. It currently uses 19 acres of a 40-acre site and is operating under a 1973 permit from San Diego County allowing the landfill a cap at 50 tons of garbage per day. Occasionally in the wintertime they will reach the cap and have to close for the day. The landfill can accept garbage from many regional communities, and some of the Borrego Valley residential garbage is transported to El Centro for dumping. There are no current plans for expansion of the active 50 County of San Diego General Plan and Borrego Springs Community Plan. Retrieved from landfill area.

12) Airport

The Borrego Valley Airport, three miles to the east of the Village Core, is an ideal area for future commercial and research park development. There is no development surrounding the airport now, permitting a re-thinking of uses in the area. There is a large quantity of disturbed habitat land in the area left over from prior, now-defunct uses.

The Airport Influence Area (AIA) for Borrego Valley Airport affects the Borrego Springs Community. The AIA is comprised of the noise contours, safety zones, airspace protection surfaces and overflight areas for Borrego Valley and serves as the planning boundaries for the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). The Airport Land Use Commission for

San Diego County adopted the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan to establish land use compatibility policies and development criteria for new development within an AIA to protect the airport from incompatible land uses and provide the County with development criteria that will allow for the orderly growth of the area surrounding the airport. The policies and criteria contained in the ALUCP are addressed in the General Plan.

13) Fire Protection

The Borrego Springs Fire Protection District, formed in 1961 and was replaced by CalFire in 2023. The transition eliminated the special district tax on real property in Borrego and property owners now pay the same tax as all San Diego County residents. CalFire provides fire protection, emergency medical services, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings, fuel reduction projects, and fire prevention efforts.

The transition to CalFire resulted in more firefighters and paramedics, updated equipment, improved safety and well-being for residents, and protection of property and resources. CalFire provides structural and groundcover fire protection and rescue services for approximately 300-square miles and about 2,500 residents. The District operates one fire station staffed by professional, full-time firefighters and trained emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics. Its equipment consists of three fire engines, one hazardous material trailer, and three ambulances. All ambulance personnel are either County-certified EMT 1As or paramedics. The Fire Department responds to approximately 390 calls per year. Another fire station is under consideration by the Borrego Springs Fire Department for the purpose of bringing the Montesoro and other developments into compliance with the five- minute travel time requirement for development with densities greater than Village Residential 2.

14) Law Enforcement

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol provide police protection in Borrego Springs. Currently there are two resident Highway Patrol officers and three County Sheriff deputies. Ten Anza-Borrego Desert State Park rangers also maintain peace officer powers and provide additional protection. The Park also maintains a patrol plane and an assigned Pilot Ranger. Borrego Springs has the lowest crime rate in the Rural Law Enforcement sector of San Diego County.

I. PLANNING SETTING PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Planning for and Implementing a Resilient Watershed-Scale Master Plan in the near future is expected to address:

- Strengthen governance and community engagement to enable long-term resiliency.
- Continue to support sustainable agriculture and ecological restoration of fallowed lands.
- Expanding local renewable energy infrastructure will reduce dependency on external power grids.
- Legal status, ownership, management, and other legal parameters of the RCA areas should be clarified in future iterations of the BSCP Community Plan and County General Plan/related policy and guideline documents (such as the BMO and MSCP) Opportunity to further enhance the existing local microgrid with battery and hydrogen storage and further

increase access and use of independent and/or dispersed energy resources increase public health and safety during County heat or fire events.

- Take the opportunity to develop community guidelines which include sustainable desert design themes throughout the Community
 - feature energy efficient, accessible, nature oriented and nature based solution designs to harmonize with the natural environment (i.e., exteriors with earth tones;
 - use permeable light-colored surfaces such as decomposed granite; non-invasive low water use native plants; wildlife sensitive permeable landscapes and buffers with full cut off and/or movement activated light fixtures; open fences made from natural materials, **(Ref. 158)**
 - develop enhanced wayfinding which highlights the communities natural features and ways to enhance or leave no impact when visiting.
- Work with the County on a Clear housing potential base taking into consideration all the developing and existing climate initiatives.
- Items 7 and 11 of the BMO allow too much grading of areas that could retain soil retaining species, work on amending for Borrego with a Special Study Area, etc.
- Define if BWD Profile of the District from Audit Report 2025, is a 5-year report or annual report? If so, please be consistent with nomenclature per the GMD work plan for clarity in the community on work products and discussions.
- Borrego is a strong contender as a world class ecotourism destination; however, Increasing threats from recreational use, not only from wayward hikers but the increasing proliferation of e-bikes and other silent vehicle devices that can easily reach previously inaccessible areas (including resting and nursery sites for animals and their young); must be assessed. Work on related planning documents and opportunities (i.e., with State Parks) to explain any seasonal or current rules, policies, and regulations. In this same vein, provide accessible access tools such as sand wheelchairs and regular guided excursion where situational control and education can occur.
- Be Proactive rather than Reactive when engaging in the Planning Process
- Assess proximity of BLM lands and engage in the new Desert Regional Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), BLM Land Use Planning Amendment (LUPA) to determine impact any proposed energy projects on BLM land will affect Borrego **(Ref. 159)**.
- Determine how to save sensitive species including big horned sheep and species associated with GDE in the interim between current water use and sustainable yield water use in 2040
 - Define how are big horned sheep are classed in the context of GDE
 - Define if GDE is only used for plants?
 - Continue BHS watering and expand to help other specific species and ecosystems such as mesquite bosque **(Ref. 160)**.

6. BASIN SWOT ANALYSIS

This White Paper of Borrego Spring's Groundwater Subbasin Characterization, its companion appendices, and other "Deliverables" for the grant, are under: "Component 5 - Resiliency Strategy, Category (b): Environmental / Engineering/Design Task 2: Basin Characterization" which mandates Task 2: Basin Characterization (see Ref 29 Figure 9 below) to: "Compile and summarize research in collaboration with the region's experts (including, but not limited to, UC Irvine Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center researchers, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park environmental scientists, and Borrego Water District (BWD) in natural resources / environmental characteristics, planning, and governance to inform the community visioning process and the development of community priorities for the basin under Task 5. Identify and prioritize basin issues and opportunities, which will include potential basin restoration or management projects. Obtain feedback on summary white paper from a minimum of 5 water network partners and/or cooperators. Perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the natural resources within the basin."

The SGMA Grant Component 5 Task to requires the following:

"Identify and prioritize basin issues and opportunities, which will include potential basin restoration or management projects."

Basin Comments, Issues, Opportunities, and Suggestions found during the White Paper research include the following:

1. The GSP and GMP were reviewed and exhaustive literature research was conducted which included accessing and assessing draft documents for Grant Component 6 (Restoration of Fallowed Lands) and Component 8 (Assessing Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems)
2. It is recommended that annual or future surveys be included for the GMP program to access the results of the SGMA grant and the program GMP itself.

Identified Strengths of the GMP included the following:

- Overall Aquifer Management
- Recent replacement of dry season wildlife guzzlers (November 2023) to augment water supply and enhance climate change resilience
- Natural aquifer recharges from rainfall
- New Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) includes comprehensive assessment of water use through baseline data compilation, and new continuous monitoring

Identified Strengths of BWD and GMP Stormwater & Wastewater Management

- Implementation of GMP Task 2 to track and assess potential impacts on water quality
- GMP Task 2.1 addresses pollution burden assessment, including analysis of baseline air quality conditions
- 2011 Borrego Springs Community Plan (BSCP) includes goals for wastewater effluent reuse
- BWD via GMP (2020) commitment to track and assess wastewater systems and explore gray water reuse opportunities

Identified Weaknesses of BWD and GMP Stormwater & Wastewater Management

Infrastructure

- Limited stormwaters capture systems

- Restricted municipal sewer service coverage (only 800 units out of 2500 connected)
- Current GMP lacks comprehensive assessment of roadway chemicals, golf courses, and other commercial ventures

Water Management

- Insufficient wastewater system coverage
- Limited water recycling opportunities due to restricted sewer connections

Identified Opportunities of BWD and GMP Stormwater & Wastewater Management

Policy & Infrastructure

- Enhanced enforcement of Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines
- Potential expansion of municipal sewer connections
- Optimization of wastewater treatment and recycled water infrastructure placement to protect sensitive areas
- Implementation of monthly or weather-informed street sweeping programs
- Education and Outreach for Community on BMP, use of low water, organic, and integrated pest management outdoor area controls

Water Quality

- Increased water quality and quantity through BSCP updates
- Potential for expanded wastewater reuse in open spaces and golf courses

Threats

Environmental

- Aquifer over drafting leading to decline of unique biomes (Mesquite and Ocotillo forests)
- Impact on sensitive species (bighorn sheep) due to water scarcity and climate change
- Groundwater contamination risks from:
 - Existing and proposed septic tanks
 - Agricultural runoff
 - Yard maintenance chemical runoff
 - Untrained pest control application

Water Quality

- Potential degradation of aquifer water quality from increased recycled wastewater use
- Risk of salt, mineral, and chemical buildup in areas using recycled wastewater
- Persistent issues with untrained pest control applicators in various settings

7. CONCLUSION

This paper satisfies SGMA Grant Component 5, Task 2 directives to “Compile and summarize research in collaboration with the region’s experts including, but not limited to, UC Irvine Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center researchers, ABDSP environmental scientists, and BWD in natural resources / environmental characteristics, planning, and governance to inform the community visioning process and the development of community priorities for the basin.” It also states to, “Identify and prioritize basin issues and opportunities, which will include potential basin restoration or management projects.” This paper provides “Documentation of basin monitoring and evaluation roles, responsibilities, and decision-making protocols from authorities such as BWD, the GMP, technical consultants to parties in the basin, and other key federal, state, and San Diego County entities.”

Borrego Springs continues to be an engaged leader in community ecological awareness and conservation and has been working hard to address critical challenges related to water scarcity and sustainability, climate change, and infrastructure resilience. With on-going strategic planning, sustainable development innovation, and community engagement, it will remain a role model of success for other arid regions facing similar challenges. To support Borrego’s continued viability well into the future, this white paper tiers off prior progressive planning efforts and aims to provide an updated roadmap for a new, resilient, watershed integrated, science-driven, and community-supported Borrego Springs Community Plan.

**BORREGO SPRINGS WHITE PAPER
TOWARDS A RESILIENT, INTEGRATED WATERSHED SCALE MASTER
COMMUNITY PLAN AND COMMUNITY
MARCH 2025**

ATTACHMENT 2: LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1A: HISTORIC AND FUTURE CLIMATE SCENARIO WITH TEMPERATURES FLATTENING OUT AT A HIGHER AVERAGE LEVEL.
Source: Rehabilitation of Fallowed Farmlands in Borrego Valley—Literature Review, Land IQ, UCI March 2023

FIGURE 1B: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER OVERDRAFT CHART HISTORY WITH SUSTAINABLE USE BRIGHTLINE
<https://borregospringswatermaster.com/>

FIGURE 2: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/generalplan.html>

FIGURE 3: UN'S 17 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/07/17goals17days-progress-made-on-sustainable-development-goals/>

FIGURE 4: NATURE'S BENEFITS
<https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-and-cop15/ecosystem-approach/ecosystem-services-natures-benefits>

FIGURE 5: BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
[Link to Borrego Water District](<https://BorregoWD.org/>)

FIGURE 6: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
[Link to Borrego Springs Watermaster](<https://BorregoSpringsWatermaster.com/>)

FIGURE 7: CPUC (IOUS ONLY) 51,992 SDGE PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS 2018-2024

FIGURE 8: SGMA GRANT, EXHIBIT A, WORK PLAN

FIGURE 9: SGMA GRANT COMPONENT 5 RESILIENCY STRATEGY, TASK 2 BASIN CHARACTERIZATION

FIGURE 10: RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2016 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA, BORREGO SPRINGS

FIGURE 11: BORREGO SPRINGS LAND USE MAP (County General Plan 2011, Map Date 2020)

FIGURE 12: DESERT LAND USE MAP INCLUDING BORREGO SPRINGS (County General Plan 2011, Map Date 2020)

FIGURE 13: MOST COMMON BORREGO JOBS GROUPS IN 2022

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FIGURE 14: BORREGO SPRINGS' ONLY RCA ELEMENT BLOCK SHOWN ON 3 MAPS: COUNTY LAND USE MAP 2020 WITH EXISTING RCA BLOCK IN GRAY DUE EAST OF "SPRINGS" ON THE MAP; EC MSCP 2008 PRELIMINARY FOCUSED CONSERVATION AREAS (FCAS) INCLUDES THE RCA BLOCK IN AN FCA BLOCK SLIGHTLY NORTHEAST OF THE END OF THE WORD "SPRINGS", AND BSCP 2011 FIGURE 8 SHOWING THE ORIGINAL RCA BLOCK WITH RESOURCES

FIGURE 15 -LOCATION OF 2011 PROPOSED RCAS (FIGURE 7 FROM BSCP 2011)

FIGURE 16: BORREGO'S DESERT LOCATION

FIGURE 17: MESQUITE THICKETS HABITAT SUITABILITY MODEL, (Land IQ, 2023)

FIGURE 18: BORREGO SPRINGS FOLLOWING PRIORITIZATION MAP [LINK TO BORREGO SPRINGS Watermaster](<https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Borrego-Lit-Review-2023-03-31-Final-with-Appendices.pdf>)

FIGURE 19: BORREGO'S QUIET AREA MAP (2023)

FIGURE 20: BORREGO SPRINGS LANDFORM SHOWING LARGELY ALLUVIAL PLAINS AND FANS

FIGURE 21: BORREGO WATER USE GRAPHS

FIGURE 22: BORREGO VALLEY HYDROGEOLOGIC CONCEPTUAL MODEL, Dudek in 2020 GMP

FIGURE 23: HISTORY OF GROUNDWATER PUMPING FOR 2015-2023 BY SECTOR WITH OVERALL MEAN SECTOR PUMPING PERCENTAGE (2015-2018), Dudek in 2020 GMP

FIGURE 24: SGMA GRANT COMPONENT 6 BIOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF FALLOWED LANDS TASKS

FIGURE 25: SOILS RELATIVE TO WIND PATTERNS AND VARIOUS METHODS OF FALLOW REHABILITATION, Land IQ and UCI March 2023

FIGURE 26: BORREGO SPRINGS FOLLOWING PRIORITIZATION MAP
<https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Borrego-Lit-Review-2023-03-31-Final-with-Appendices.pdf>

FIGURE 27: BORREGO AREA FAULT LINES SHOWN IN BLACK
Geological Gems of California State Parks, Special Report 230 – Fuller, M., Brown, S., Wills, C. and Short, W., editors, 2015, Geological Gems of California, California

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FIGURE 28: COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, GUIDELINES FOR FLOOD PROTECTION OF STRUCTURES IN BORREGO SPRINGS , Source: County, Date Unknown.

FIGURE 29: FLOOD HAZARD MAP, BORREGO VALLEY ALLUVIAL FANS

FIGURE 30: BORREGO SPRINGS IS MAINLY MODERATE FIRE RISK

Source:

<https://capuc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ecd21b1c204f47da8b1fcc4c5c3b7d3a>

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Source: San Diego Collaboration for Conservation, Sustaining the Region's Legacy of Biodiversity Conservation (SD Nat, June 2024)

San Diego Natural History Museum and SANDAG | San Diego Collaboration for Conservation October 2024

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<https://studio.youtube.com/video/vIF1OWCKsOk/edit>

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Rehabilitation of Fallowed Farmlands in Borrego Valley—Literature Review

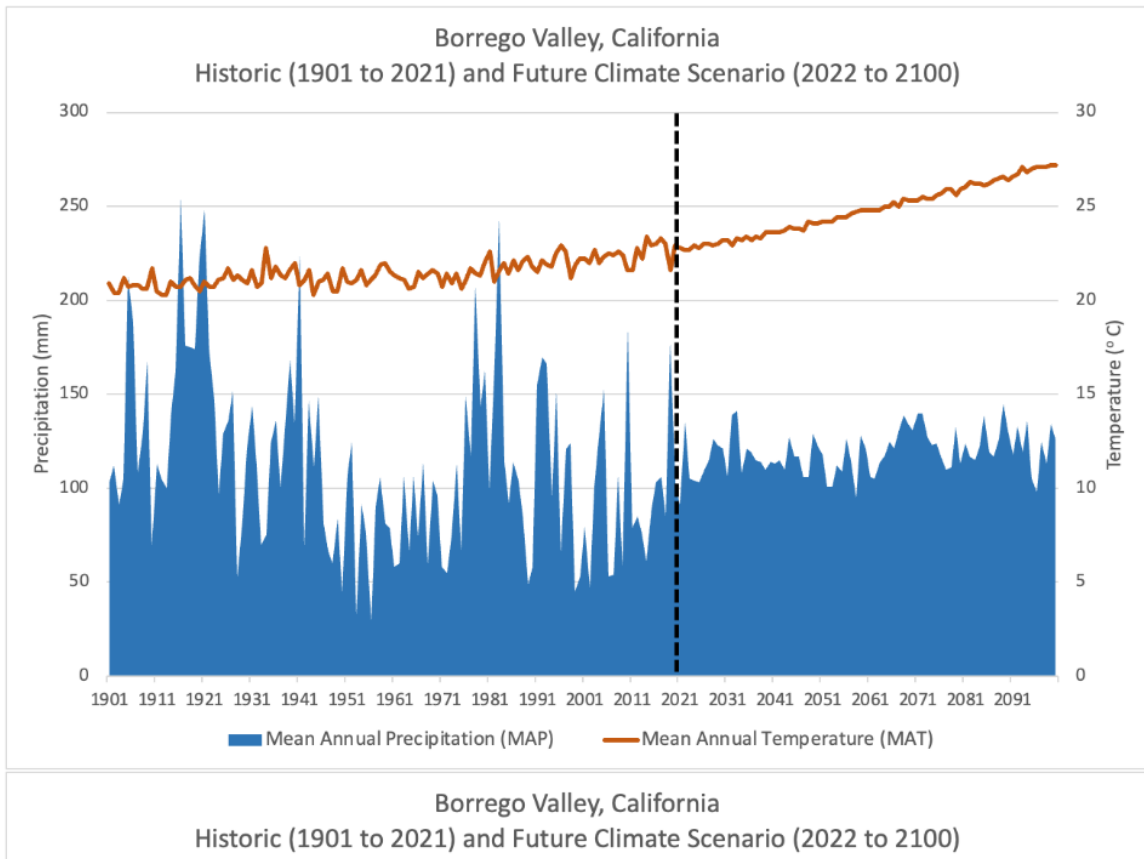


FIGURE 1A . HISTORIC AND FUTURE CLIMATE SCENARIO WITH TEMPERATURES FLATTENING OUT AT A HIGHER AVERAGE LEVEL, Source: Rehabilitation of Fallowed Farmlands in Borrego Valley—Literature Review (Land IQ, UCI March 2023)

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WMB Draft-WY-2024-Annual-Report PDF

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sustainable yield

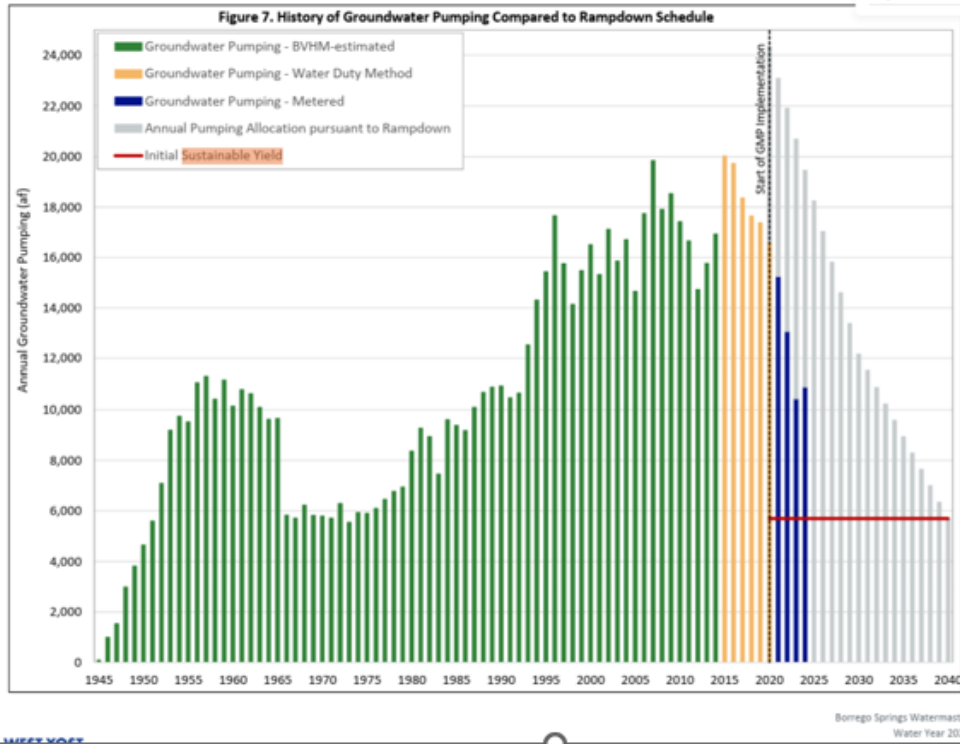


FIGURE 1B: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER OVERDRAFT CHART HISTORY WITH SUSTAINABLE USE BRIGHTLINE, <https://borregospringswatermaster.com/>

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General Plan Implementation Plan

General Plan Map (Countywide)

General Plan Combined

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<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/generalplan.html>

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FIGURE 3: UN'S 17 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

[\(https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/07/17goals17days-progress-made-on-sustainable-development-goals/\)](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/07/17goals17days-progress-made-on-sustainable-development-goals/)

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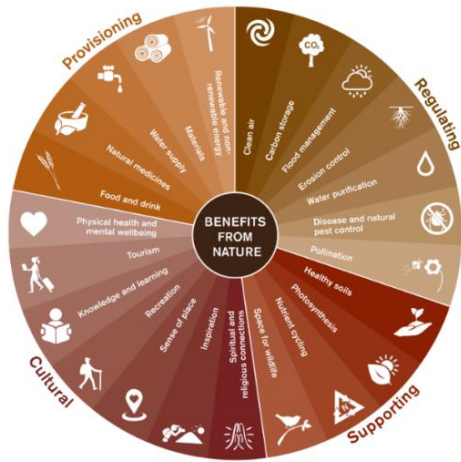


FIGURE 4: NATURE'S BENEFITS <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-and-cop15/ecosystem-approach/ecosystem-services-natures-benefits>

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FIGURE 5: BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
[Link to Borrego Water District](https://BorregoWD.org/)

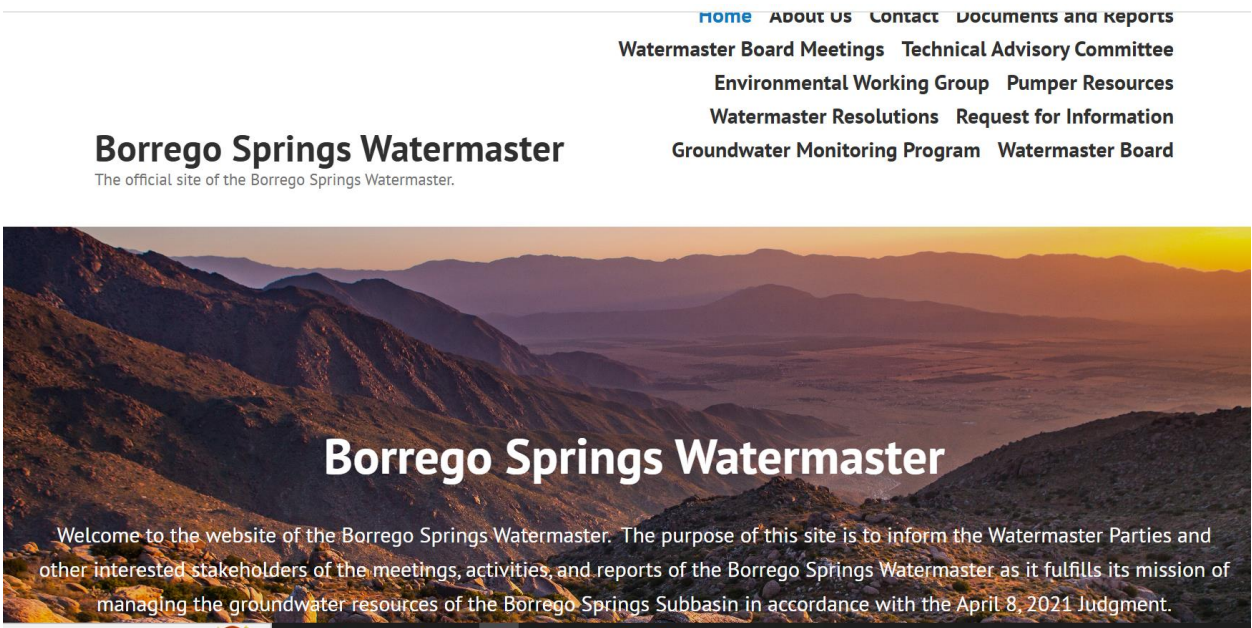


FIGURE 6: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
[Link to Borrego Springs Watermaster](https://BorregoSpringsWatermaster.com/)

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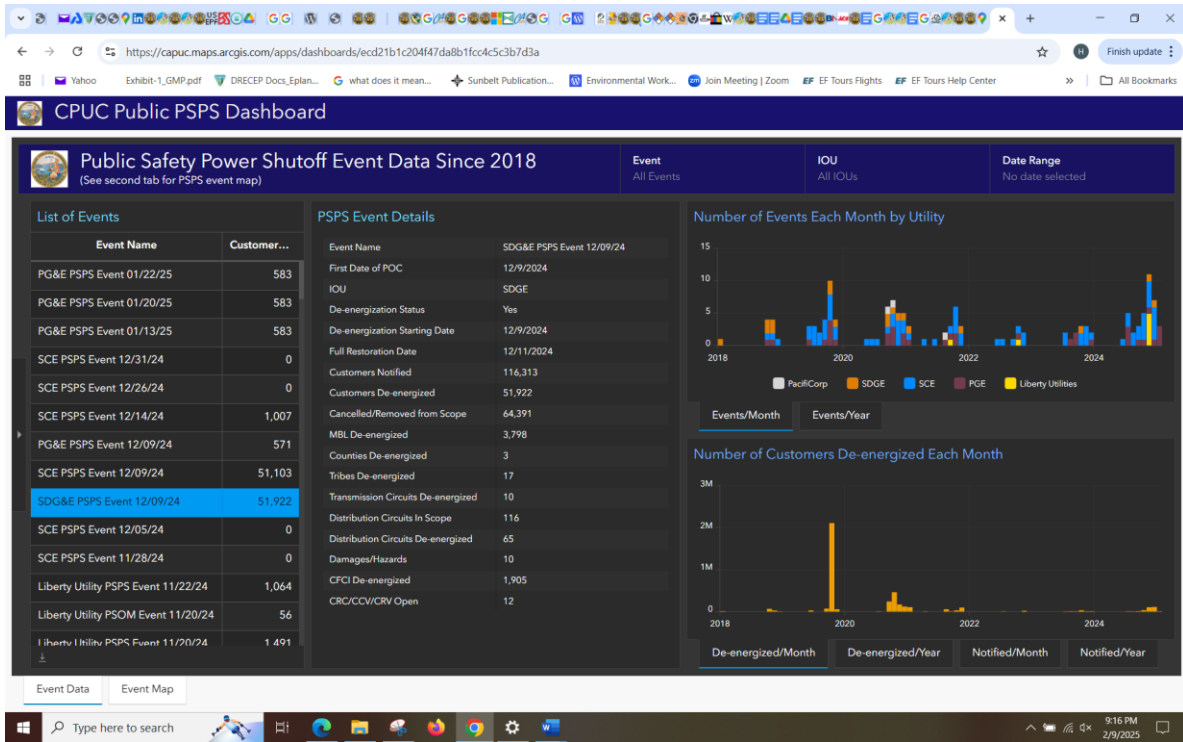


FIGURE 7: CPUC (IOUS ONLY) 51,992 SDGE PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS 2018-2024

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**Exhibit A
WORK PLAN**

Project Title: Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Sub Basin (Project)

Project Description: The Work Plan includes activities associated with implementation and continued planning, development, and preparation of groundwater sustainability for the Borrego Valley Subbasin (Basin). The resulting work from this grant will incorporate appropriate Best Management Practices as developed by DWR, and will result in a more complete understanding of the groundwater subbasin to support long-term sustainable groundwater management. The Project contains construction and planning projects including updating the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The Work Plan includes eight Components:

- Component 1: Grant Administration
- Component 2: Advanced Meter Infrastructure
- Component 3: Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring Wells
- Component 4: Education Project
- Component 5: Resiliency Strategy
- Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands
- Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update
- Component 8: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring

FIGURE 8: SGMA GRANT, EXHIBIT A, WORK PLAN

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COMPONENT 5: RESILIENCY STRATEGY

Category (a): Component Administration

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design Task 1: Planning

Task 2: Basin Characterization

Category (c): Implementation / Construction

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment

Category (e): Engagement / Outreach Task 3: Watermaster Board Coordination

Task 4: Sponsor Group Coordination

Task 5: Coordination with Land Use Planning

Task 2: Basin Characterization

Compile and summarize research in collaboration with the region's experts (including, but not limited to, UC Irvine, Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center researchers, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park environmental scientists, and Borrego Water District (BWD) in natural resources / environmental characteristics, planning, and governance to inform the community visioning process and the development of community priorities for the basin under Task 5. Identify and prioritize basin issues and opportunities, which will include potential basin restoration or management projects. Obtain feedback on summary white paper from a minimum of 5 water network partners and/or cooperators. Perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the natural resources within the basin.

Deliverables:

- → White paper of basin characterization
- → Factsheet summary of white paper and FAQ on website
- → SWOT analysis of natural resources
- → Documentation of basin monitoring and evaluation roles, responsibilities, and decision-making protocols from authorities such as BWD, the GMP, technical consultants to parties in the basin, and other key federal, state and San Diego County entities

FIGURE 9: SGMA GRANT COMPONENT 5 RESILIENCY STRATEGY, TASK 2 BASIN CHARACTERIZATION

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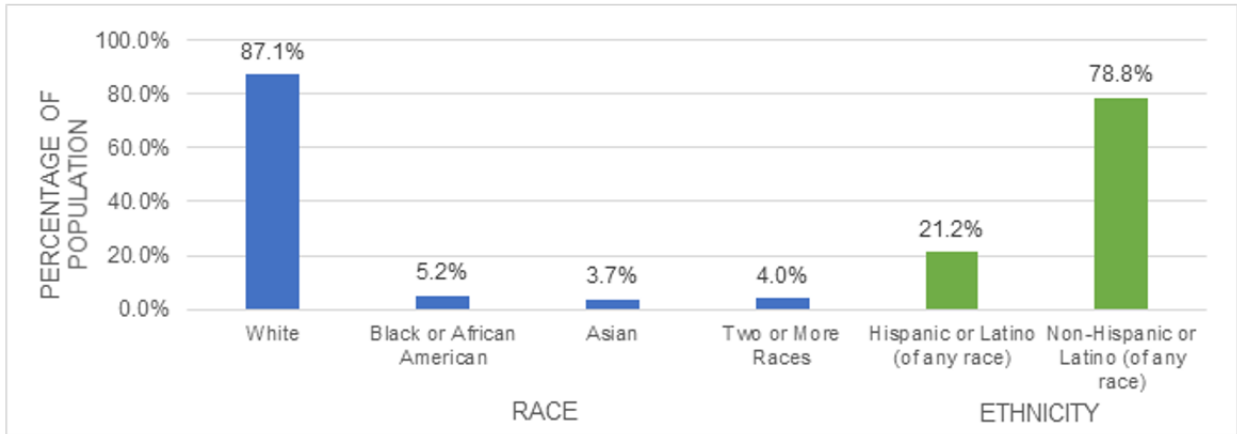


FIGURE 10: RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2016 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA, BORREGO SPRINGS

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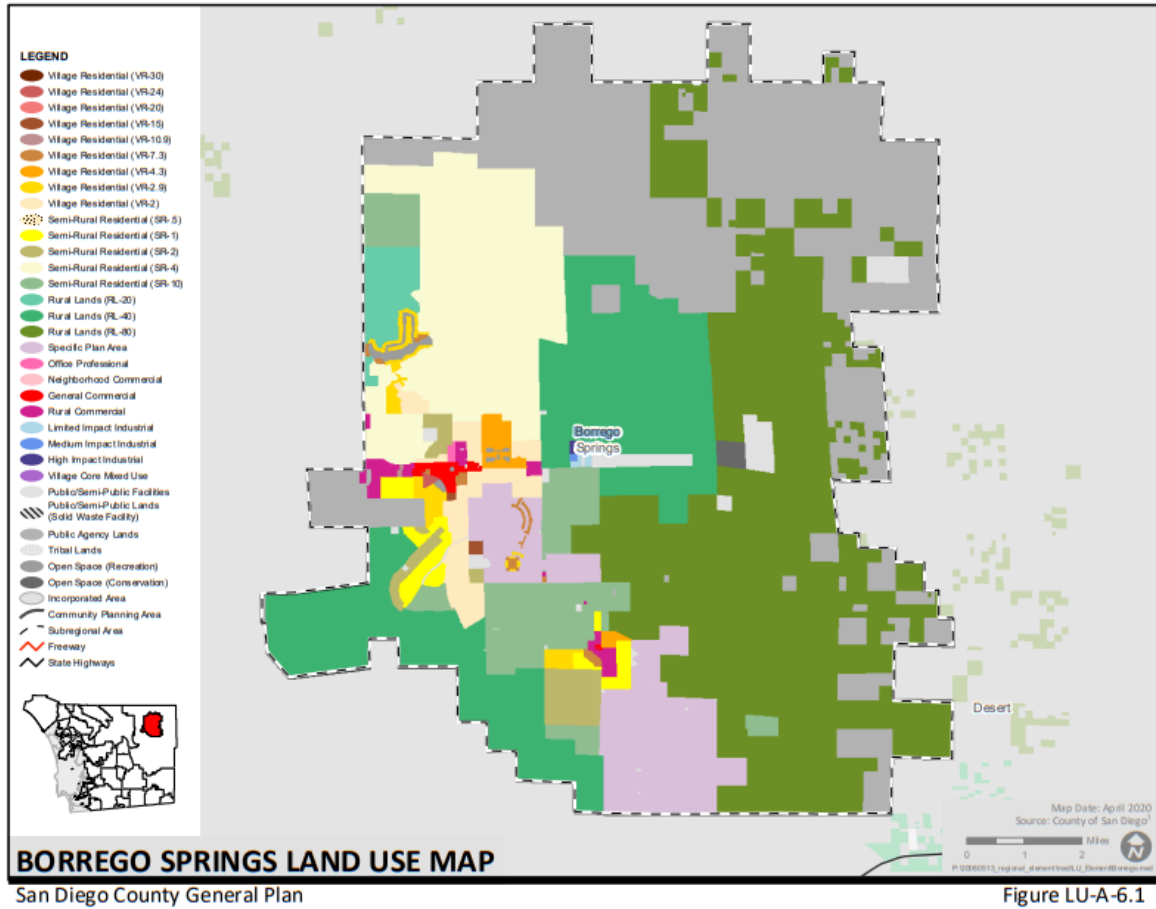


FIGURE 11: BORREGO SPRINGS LAND USE MAP (County General Plan 2011, Map Date 2020)

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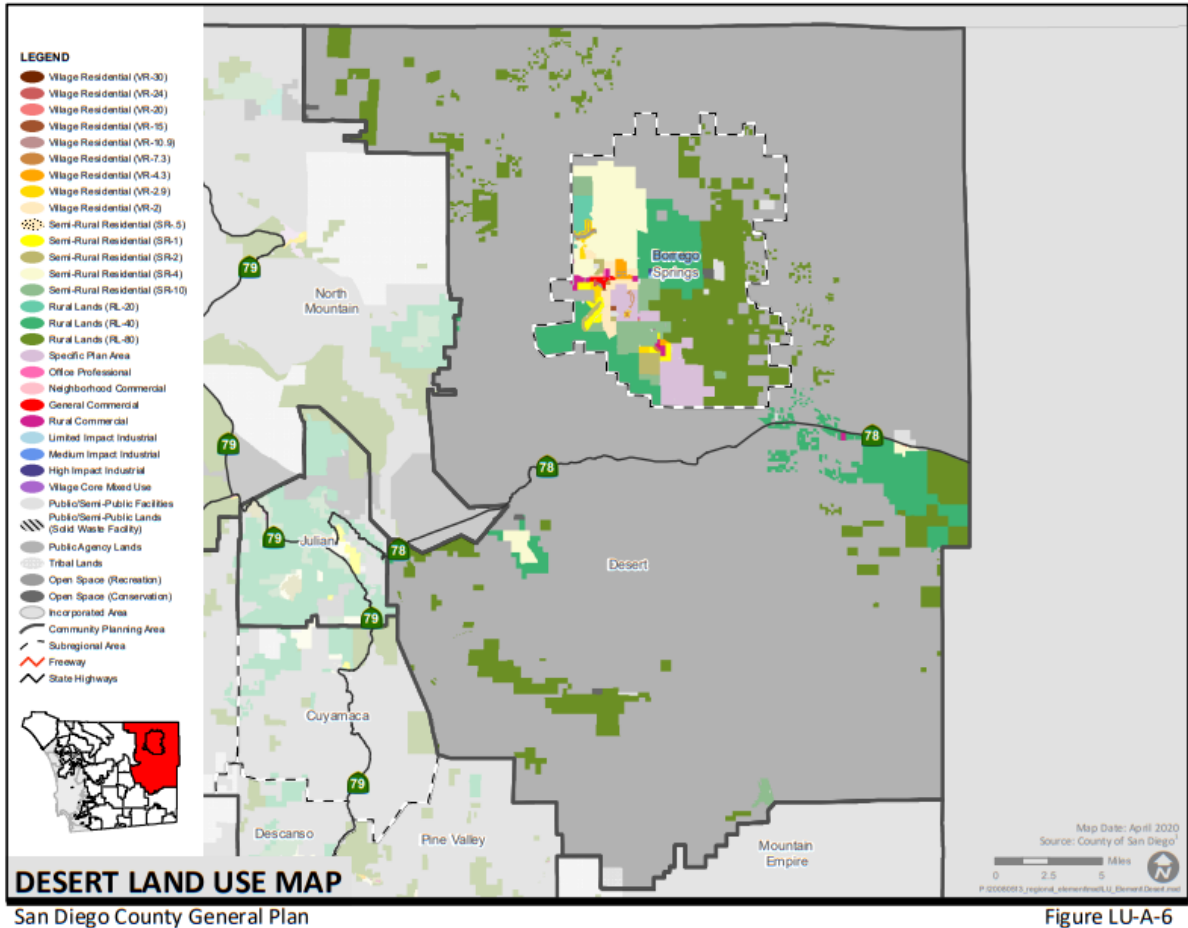


Figure LU-A-6

FIGURE 12: DESERT LAND USE MAP INCLUDING BORREGO SPRINGS (County General Plan 2011, Map Date 2020)

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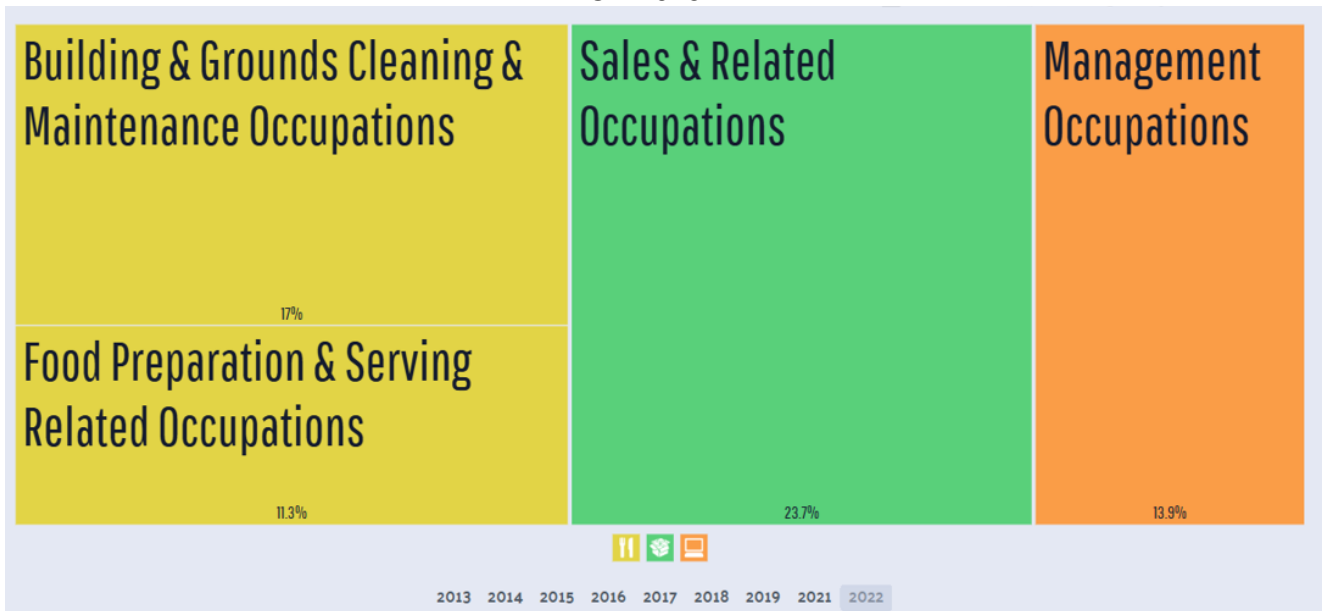


FIGURE 13: MOST COMMON BORREGO JOBS GROUPS IN 2022

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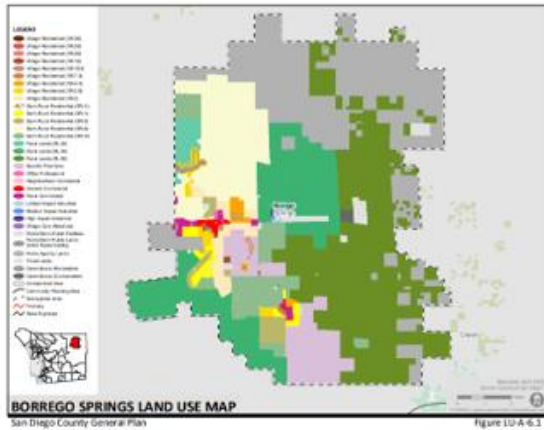
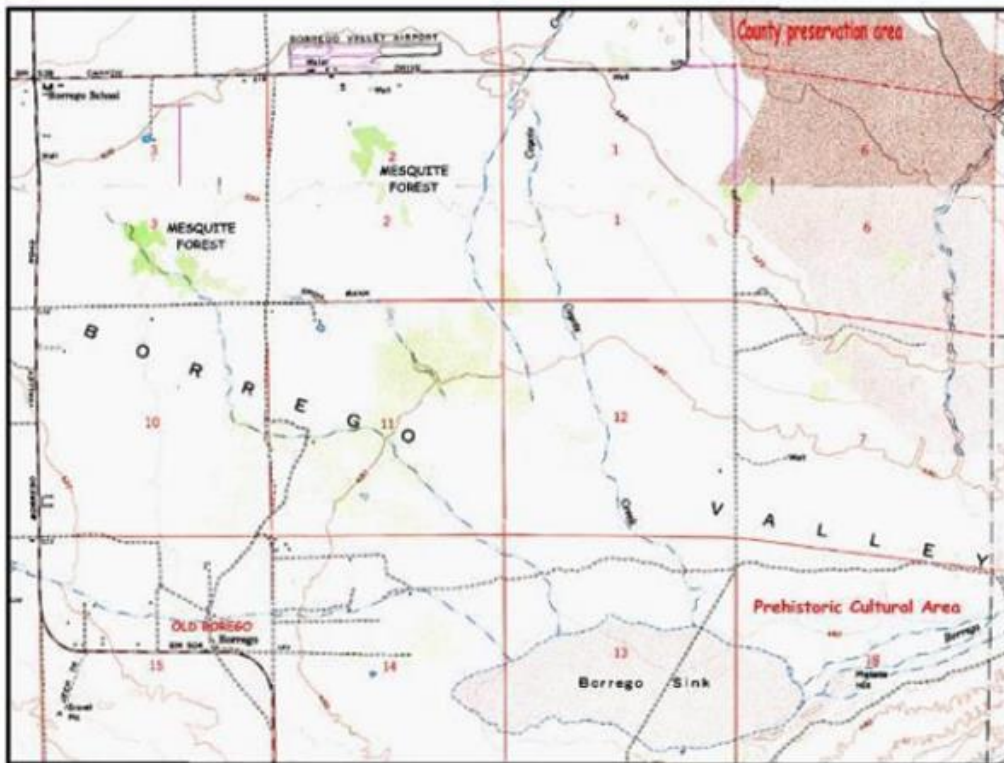


Figure 10-A-6.2



Borrego Springs Resource Conservation Area - Mesquite Forest & Prehistoric Cultural Area

Figure 8: Mesquite Forests and Prehistoric Cultural Areas

FIGURE 14: BORREGO SPRINGS' ONLY RCA ELEMENT BLOCK SHOWN ON 3 MAPS: COUNTY LAND USE MAP 2020 WITH EXISTING RCA BLOCK IN GRAY DUE EAST OF "SPRINGS" ON THE MAP; EC MSCP 2008 PRELIMINARY FOCUSED CONSERVATION AREAS (FCAS) INCLUDES THE RCA BLOCK IN AN FCA BLOCK SLIGHTLY NORTHEAST OF THE END OF THE WORD "SPRINGS", AND BSCP 2011 FIGURE 8 SHOWING THE ORIGINAL RCA BLOCK WITH RESOURCES

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6.3 Resource Conservation Areas (SS-RCA)

The following four elements, 6.3.a. - 6.3.d., are proposed for designation as Resource Conservation Areas under this Plan. (See Figure 7 below for the location of each).

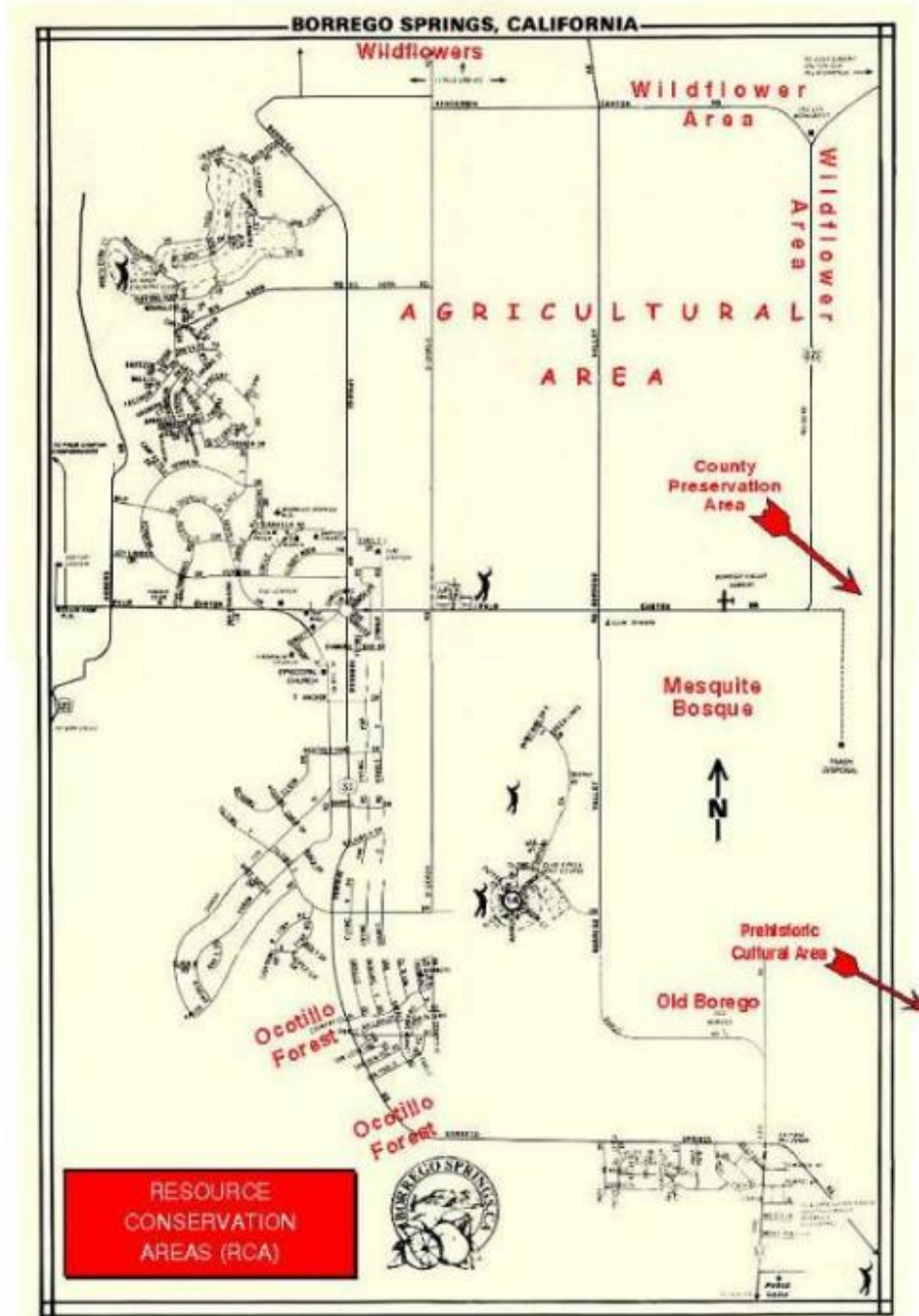


Figure 7: Location of Proposed Resource Conservation Areas

FIGURE 15: LOCATION OF 2011 PROPOSED RCAS (FIGURE 7 FROM BSCP 2011)

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FIGURE 16: BORREGO'S DESERT LOCATION

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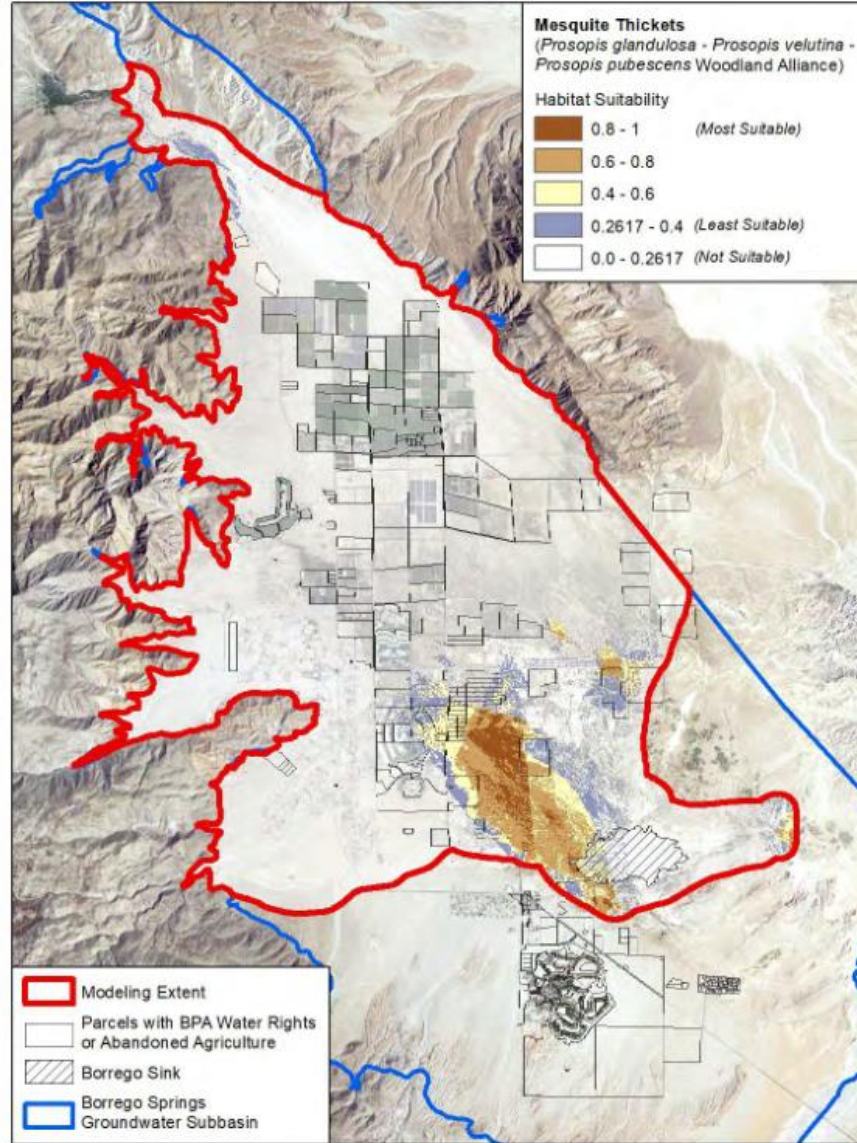


FIGURE 2-22. MESQUITE THICKETS (*PROSOPIS GLANDULOSA* - *PROSOPIS VELUTINA* - *PROSOPIS PUBESCENS* WOODLAND ALLIANCE) HABITAT SUITABILITY MODEL

FIGURE 17: MESQUITE THICKETS HABITAT SUITABILITY MODEL, (Land IQ, 2023)

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Dying Mesquite Trees in Borrego Sink

FIGURE 18: BORREGO SPRINGS FOLLOWING PRIORITIZATION MAP [Link to Borrego Springs Watermaster](<https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Borrego-Lit-Review-2023-03-31-Final-with-Appendices.pdf>)

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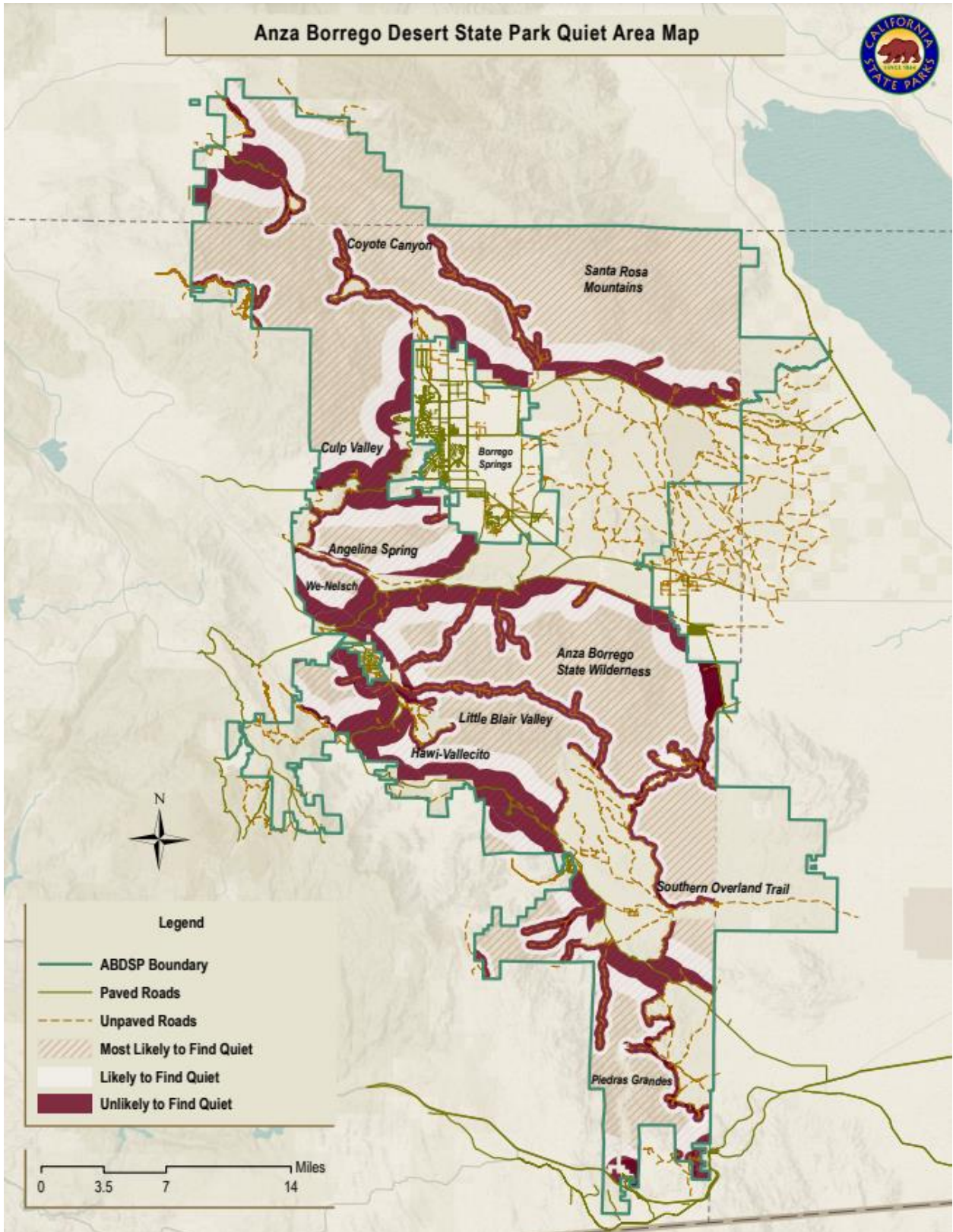


FIGURE 19: BORREGO'S QUIET AREA MAP (2023)

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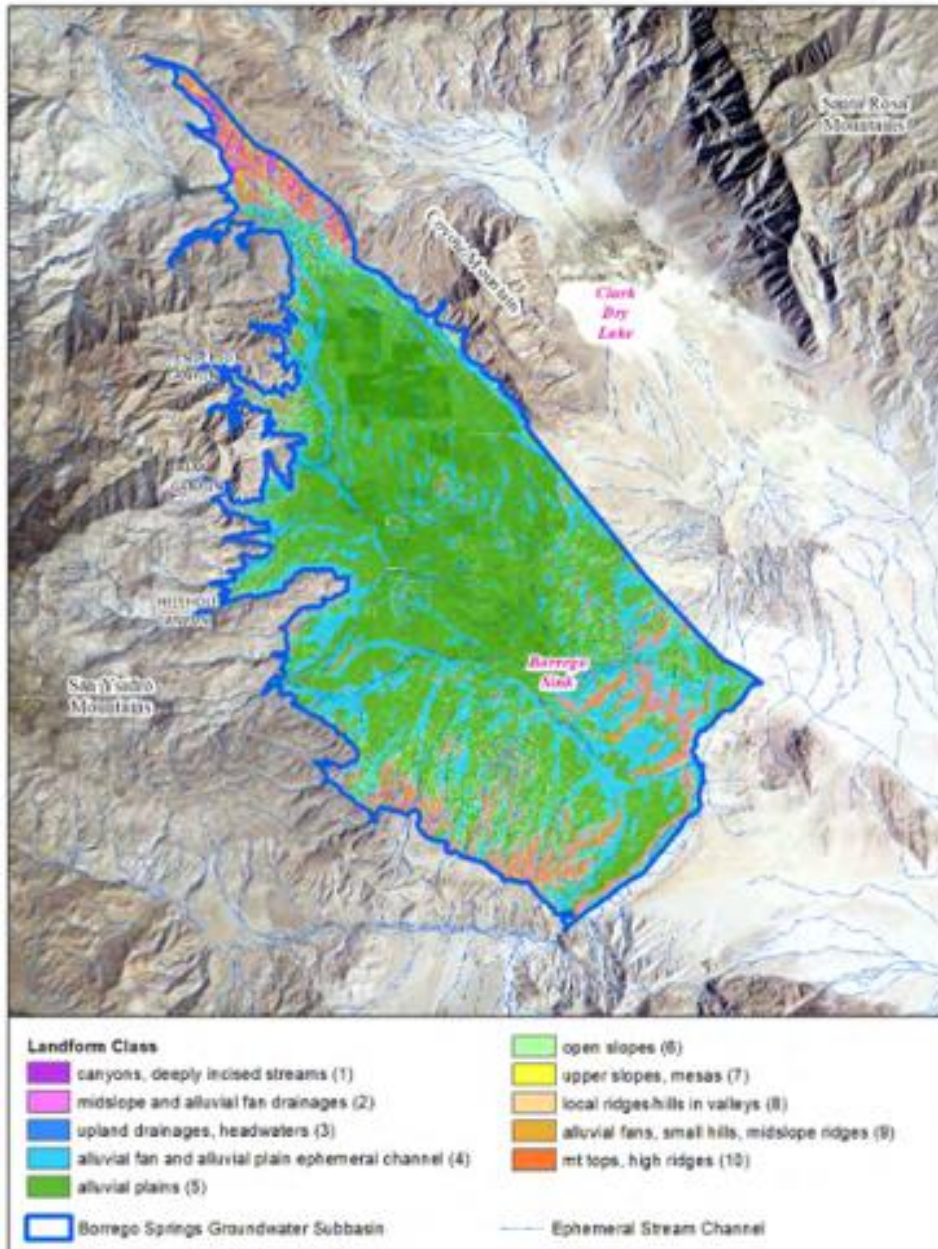


FIGURE 2-7. LANDFORMS IN THE BORREGO SPRINGS GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN.

Source: Topographic Position Index and Slope calculated from San Diego Regional DEM (2.5-ft resolution; 2015 and 2017 LIDAR data). Classification of landforms according to Weiss (2001). 2020 NAIP Aerial. Stream Data from USGS National Hydrography Dataset.

FIGURE 20: BS LANDFORM SHOWING LARGELY ALLUVIAL PLAINS AND FANS

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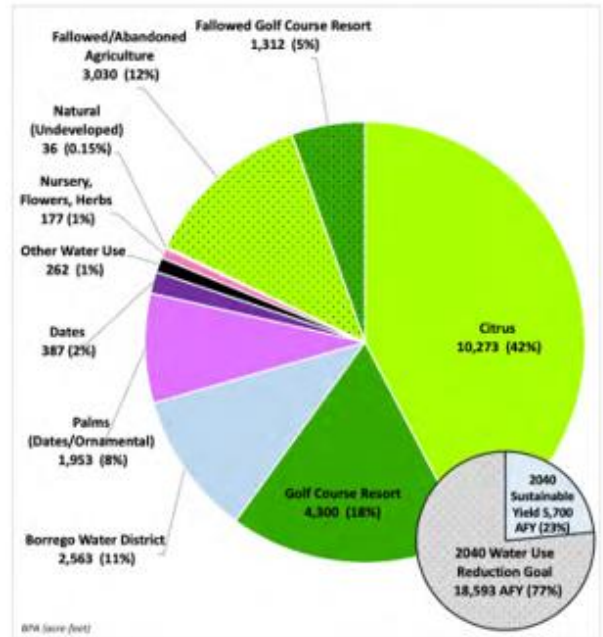
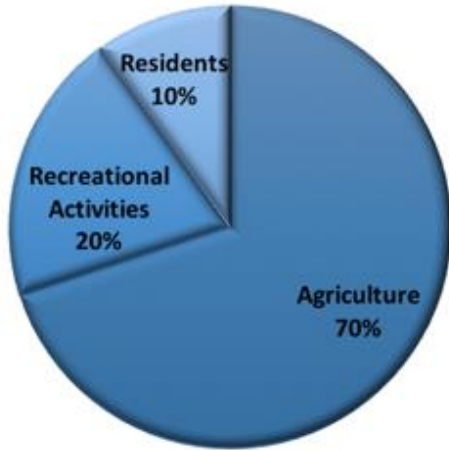


FIGURE 3-15. CURRENT (2022) LAND USE TYPE BY BASELINE PUMPING ALLOCATION (BPA IN AFY) AND FRACTION (%) OF TOTAL BPA (24,293 AFY).

Does not include 43 AFY BPA for De Alamos Water Rights for Borrego Unified School District and Arroyo Borrego Desert State Park.

FIGURE 21: BORREGO WATER USE GRAPHS

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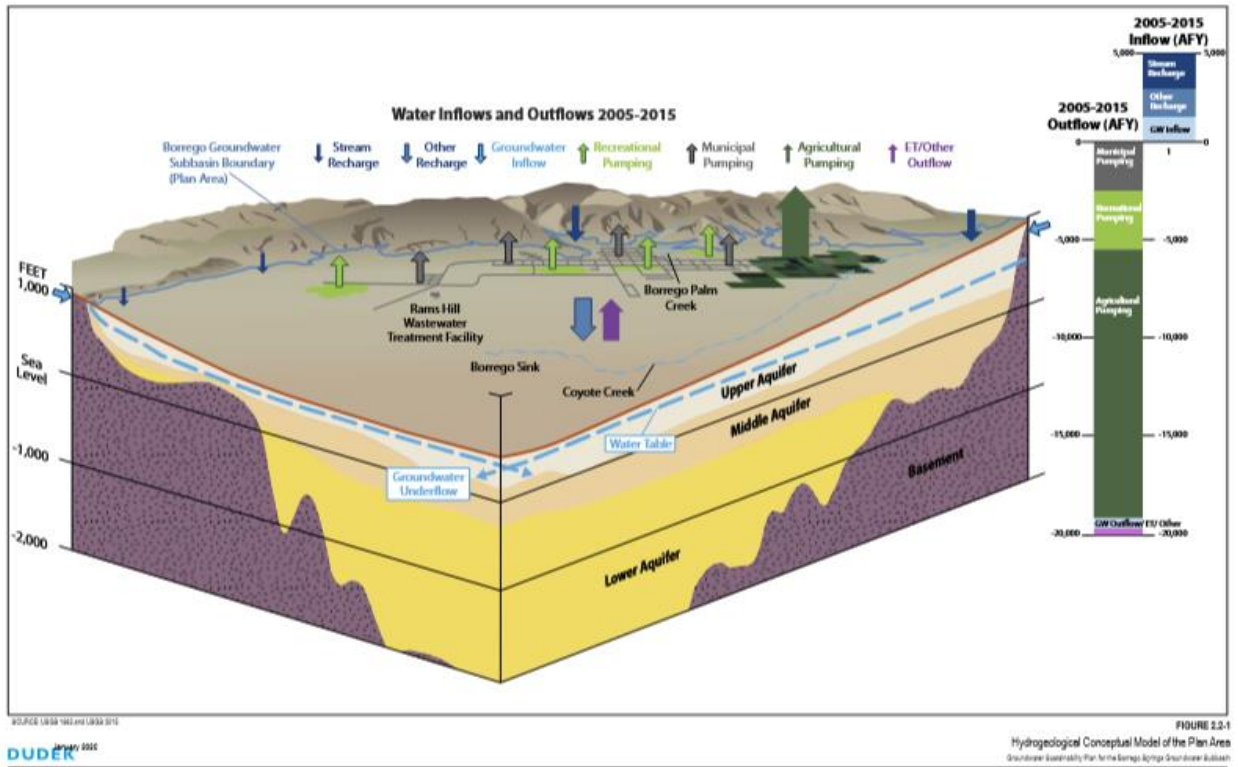
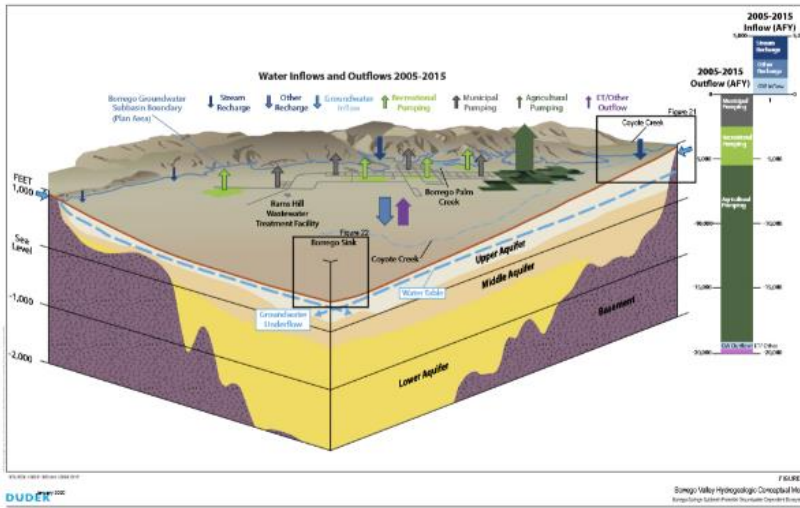


FIGURE 22: BORREGO VALLEY HYDROGEOLOGIC CONCEPTUAL MODEL, (Dudek in 2020 GMP)

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Table 18. Groundwater Pumping by Sector - 2015 to 2023

Groundwater User Type	Annual Groundwater Extraction, acre-feet									
	2015 ^(a)	2016 ^(a)	2017 ^(a)	2018 ^(a)	2019 ^(b)	2020 ^(c)	2021 ^(d)	2022 ^(d)	2023 ^{(d),(e)}	
Agricultural	15,093.73	15,007.35	13,668.09	13,006.45	13,025.81	12,771.21	11,282.89	8,986.39	7,189.78	69%
Recreational	3,137.39	3,045.22	3,058.91	2,973.94	2,807.67	2,245.84	2,317.84	2,131.40	1,408.81	13.5%
Municipal	1,719.91	1,610.42	1,568.04	1,593.74	1,466.48	1,541.42	1,528.84	1,545.46	1,516.10	14.5%
Other Non-De Minimis	50.40	49.72	47.93	52.51	52.51	52.51	91.89	374.42	288.69	2.7%
De Minimis	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	.03%
Total Pumping	20,027.93	19,739.21	18,369.47	17,653.14	17,378.97	16,637.48	15,247.96	13,064.17	10,429.88	

(a) Source for 2015-2018 estimates: Dudek. 2020b:

FIGURE 23: HISTORY OF GROUNDWATER PUMPING FOR 2015-2023 BY SECTOR WITH OVERALL MEAN SECTOR PUMPING PERCENTAGE (2015-2018) (Dudek in 2020 GMP)

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Specific tasks of the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands component include the following:

- Task 1. Review and Analysis of Existing Data
- Task 2. Existing Fallowed Farmland and Reference Natural Habitat Field Study
- Task 3. Brush Pile Wildlife Sand Fence Case Study
- Task 4. Farmland Fallowing Rehabilitation Strategies
- Task 5. Farmland Fallowing Prioritization
- Task 6. Watermaster's Environmental Working Group Meetings

Land IQ
March 2023

FIGURE 24: SGMA GRANT COMPONENT 6 BIOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF FALLOWED LANDS TASKS

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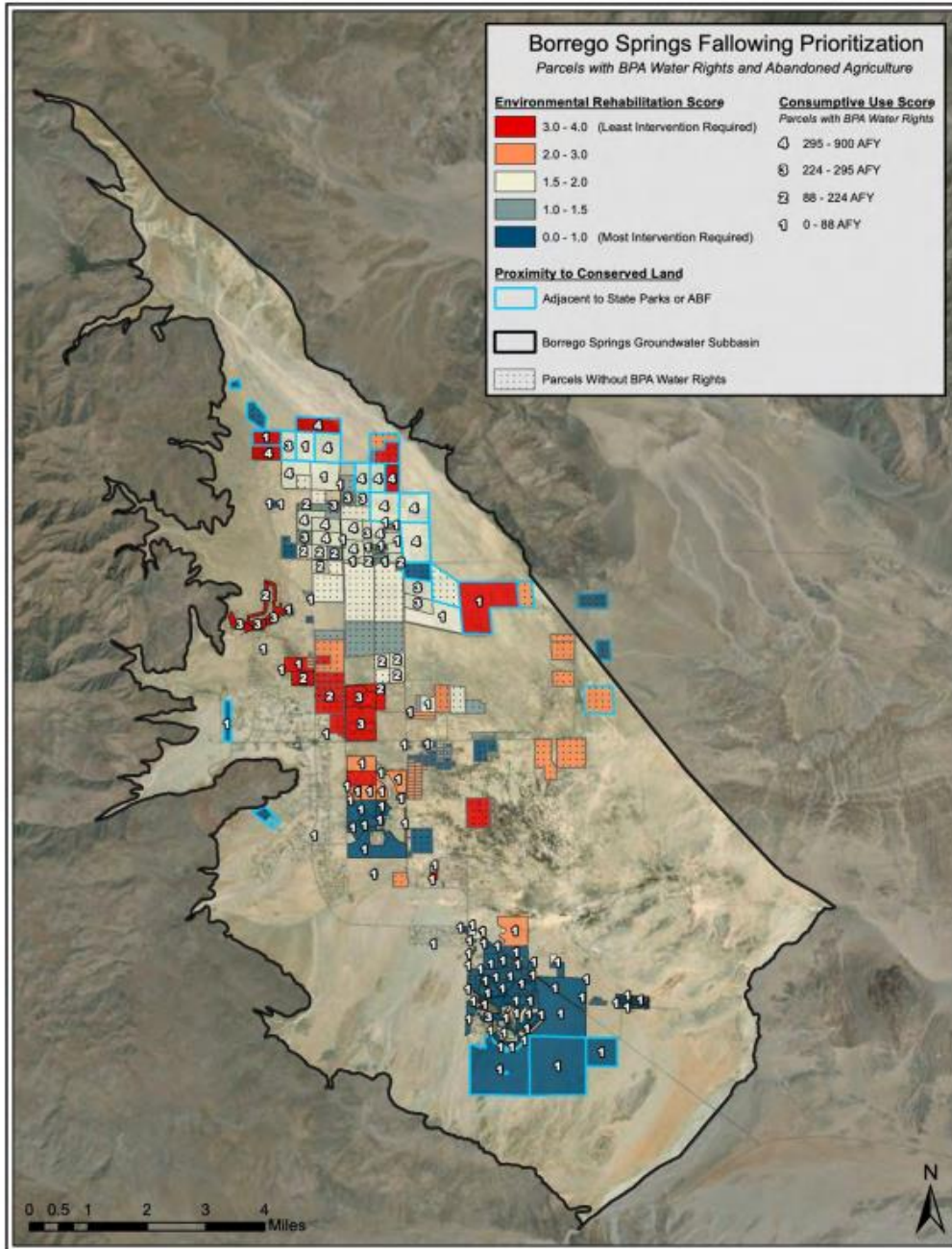


FIGURE 6-1. INTERIM BORREGO SPRINGS FOLLOWING PRIORITIZATION

FIGURE 26: BORREGO SPRINGS FOLLOWING PRIORITIZATION MAP
<https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Borrego-Lit-Review-2023-03-31-Final-with-Appendices.pdf>

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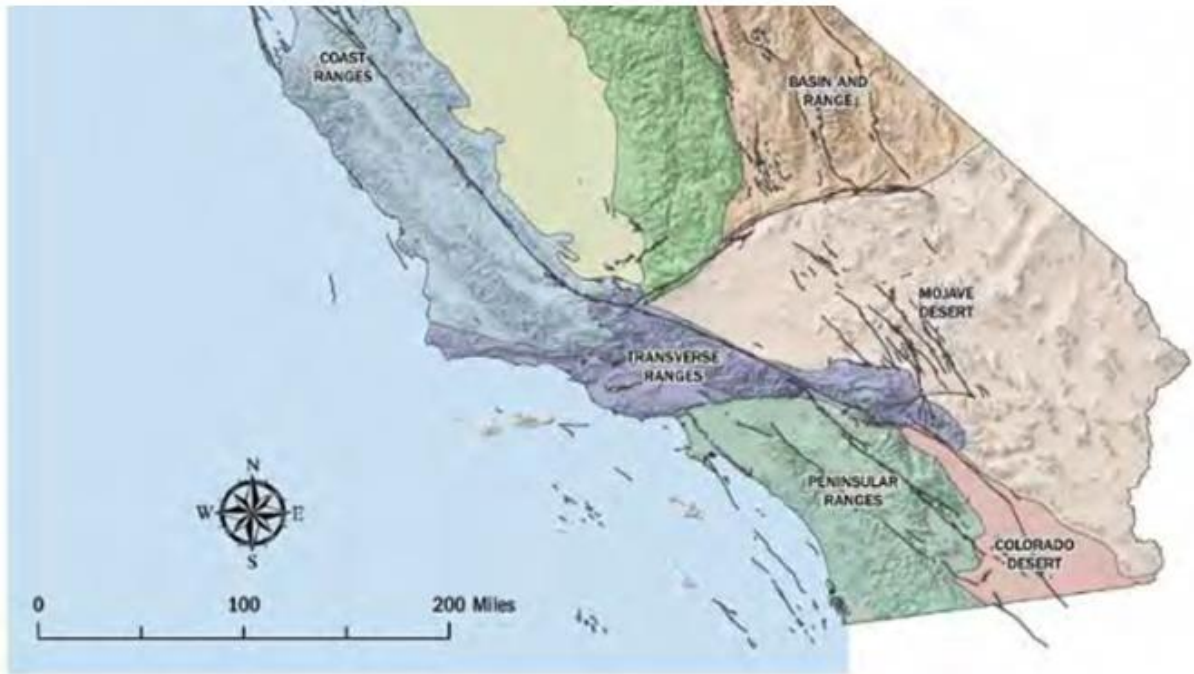


Figure 2-1: Geomorphic provinces with major active faults in black. Note how the faults virtually define many province boundaries.

FIGURE 27: BORREGO AREA FAULT LINES SHOWN IN BLACK
Geological Gems of California State Parks, Special Report 230 – Fuller, M., Brown,
S., Wills, C. and Short, W., editors, 2015, Geological Gems of California, California

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Department of Public Works

Guidelines for Flood Protection of Structures in Borrego Springs

Purpose – To offer information concerning the existing County ordinances and policies regarding flood protection for new structures in Borrego Springs.

Background - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides federal flood insurance, emergency aid, and assistance in the event of natural disasters. In order for the citizens and local government to qualify for the federal flood insurance, FEMA requires local governments to adopt and enforce certain minimum floodplain management standards.

On December 7, 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted the [County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance #8334](#), which establishes flood protection criteria for construction of structures in flood prone areas.

On October 17, 1989, the Board accepted the Boyle Engineering report, *Borrego Valley Flood Management Report*, which specifically deals with flood protection on alluvial fans in Borrego Springs.

Alluvial Fans – Alluvial fans are created when flash floods move rapidly down the steep desert canyons, depositing sand and debris in a fan-shaped pattern onto the desert floor. Smaller flood flows will typically move along an existing channel, or wash, on the fan for several years until either an obstruction is

encountered or the sediment builds up on that section of the fan to a level at or above the general elevation of the local fan. When this condition is reached, the floodwaters can suddenly change course and move to a new wash location on the fan. A design-storm flood is typically too large for the existing washes, will tend to sheet flow across the fan, and may even establish a new wash location. Therefore, all areas on the fan are subject to flooding unless appropriate flood protection is provided.

Specific Sources of Flash Floods – Box Canyon, Unnamed Canyon, Coyote Canyon, El Vado Canyon, Henderson Canyon, Borrego Palm Canyon, Fire Canyon, Hellhole Canyon, Dry Canyon, and Culp-Tubb Canyon complexes have been analyzed and mapped by the County to assist in designing flood protection on these alluvial fans. These areas are shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

The NFIP identifies alluvial fan hazards on FIRMs as Zone AO and provides information on flood depths and velocities. AO zones are Special Flood Hazards Areas (SFHA) subject to inundation by 1% annual chance (100-year) sheet-type flow, which are sometimes associated with high velocities.

Flood Protection - Construction within alluvial fan areas is subject to certain regulations (in addition to those which apply to *all* SFHA's) found in Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60.3:

- Elevate lowest floor (including basement) above the highest adjacent grade to at least as high as the depth number specified on the FIRM. It is recommended, however, that the depth of flow assumed for a site should take into consideration local topographic anomalies when determining the elevation of any flood protection measure.
- Mechanical and utility equipment must also be placed above the depth of flooding.

- Provide adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes, to guide floodwater around and away from proposed structures. The intent is to prevent scour from undermining the foundation of the structure, thus preventing structural collapse.
- Do not deflect flood flow onto adjacent properties.

Summary - Several methods of flood protection are available for flood safe construction in Borrego Springs. However, there is no one method of design acceptable for use on every lot. The method of flood protection chosen for your property must adequately address the local conditions of the land on and upstream of your property. Lots with unique characteristics may require special engineering studies to determine associated flood hazards and flood protection details.

Before purchasing any lot or architectural plans, the potential project owners/developers should obtain all available information about the local geology and possible flood hazards. It is the property owner's responsibility to make certain that the lot and plans together satisfy intended project goals and incorporate flood protection for their property without detriment to adjacent properties. For additional information, please contact the Flood Control Counter at the County of San Diego Operations Center Annex at (858) 694-2112. Information can also be found on the county website at: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/flood.html>.

RFigure 28: COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, GUIDELINES FOR FLOOD PROTECTION OF STRUCTURES IN BORREGO SPRINGS, Source: County, Date Unknown.

BORREGO SPRINGS WHITE PAPER
TOWARDS A RESILIENT, INTEGRATED WATERSHED SCALE MASTER
COMMUNITY PLAN AND COMMUNITY
MARCH 2025

Flood Hazard Map

Borrego Valley Alluvial Fans

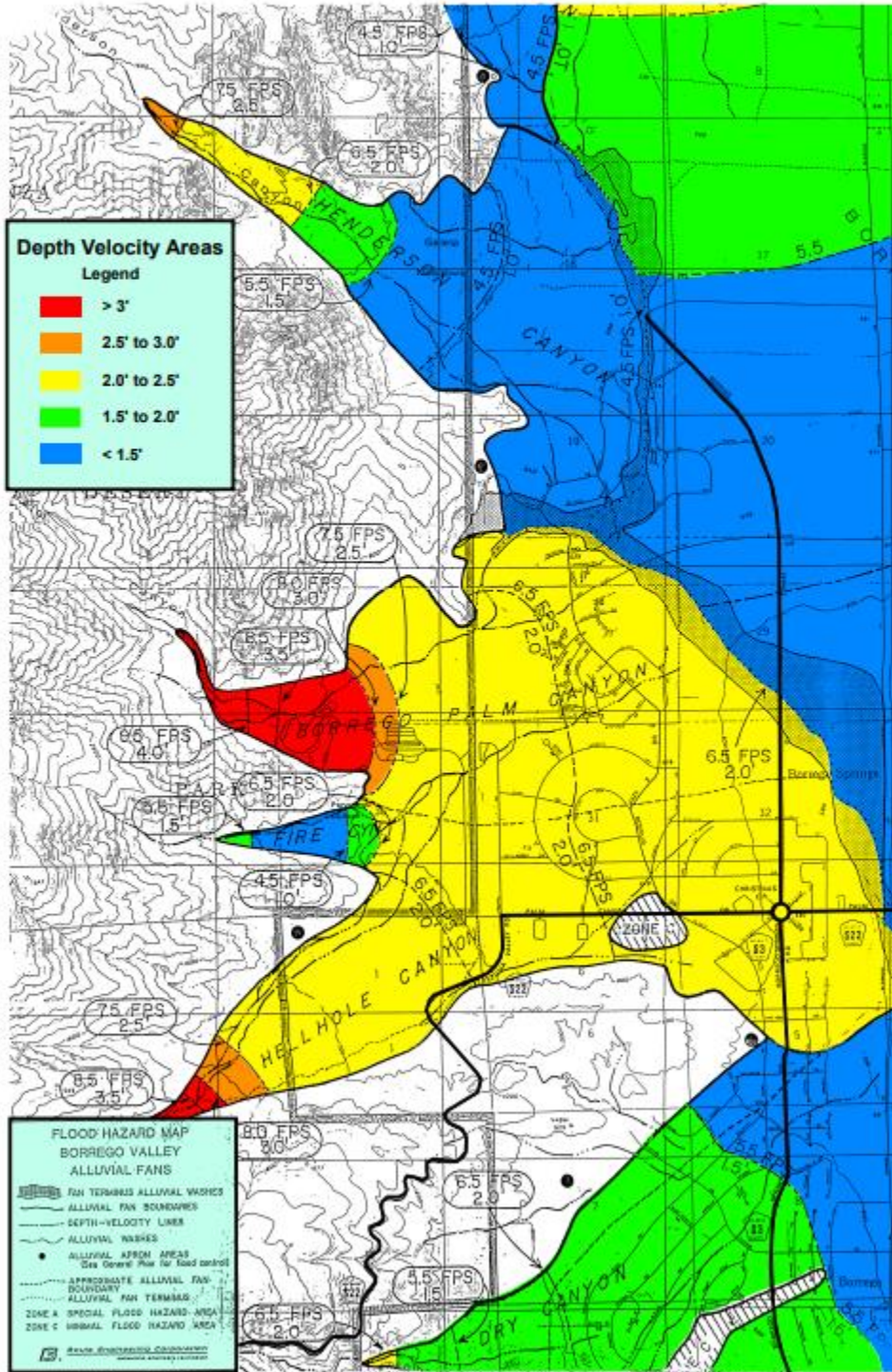


FIGURE 29: FLOOD HAZARD MAP, BORREGO VALLEY ALLUVIAL FANS

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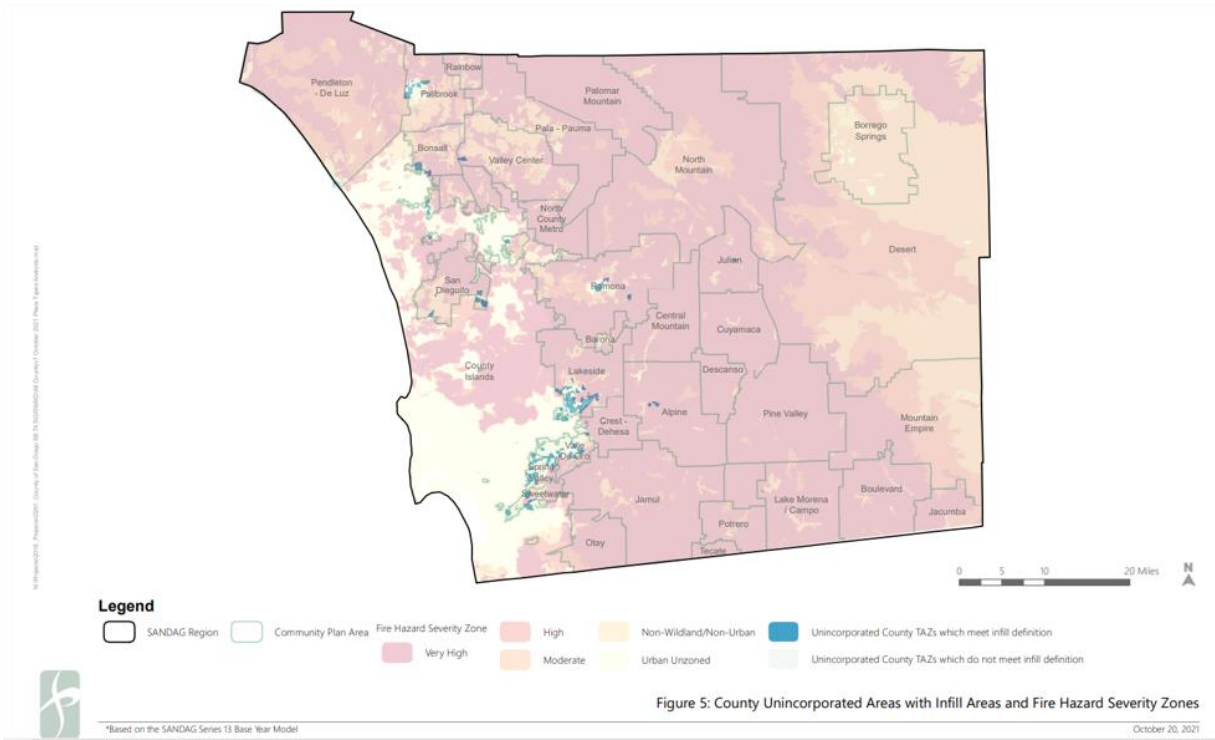


Figure 5: County Unincorporated Areas with Infill Areas and Fire Hazard Severity Zones

FIGURE 30: BORREGO SPRINGS IS MAINLY MODERATE FIRE RISK

Source:

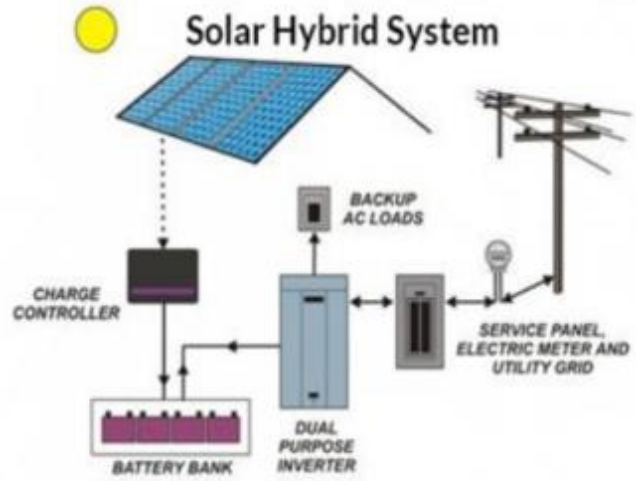
<https://capuc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ecd21b1c204f47da8b1fcc4c5c3b7d3a>

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California Independent System Operator

CommP/AG/02.2025



THIS? → → → → → OR THIS? Source: ZunRoof

FIGURE 31: INDUSTRIAL TRANSMISSION ORIENTED GRID OR LOCALLY DISPERSED ROOF TOP ENERGY (W/OR WITHOUT INTERACTIVE GRID CONNECTION)

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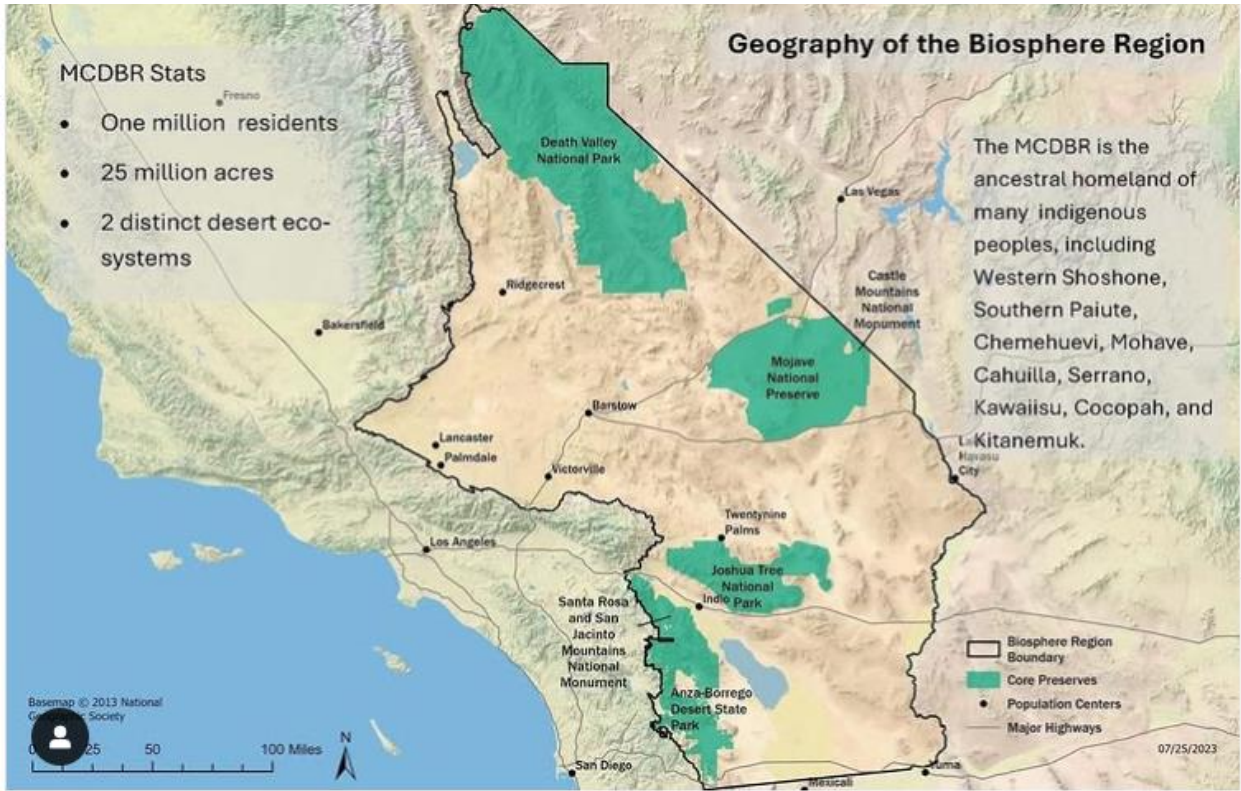


FIGURE 32: BORREGO SPRINGS AND SURROUNDINGS - ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS, BIOLOGICAL CORE PRESERVES (ABDSP) WITHIN THE LARGER MOJAVE AND COLORADO DESERTS BIOSPHERE RESERVE, from AB Instagram page

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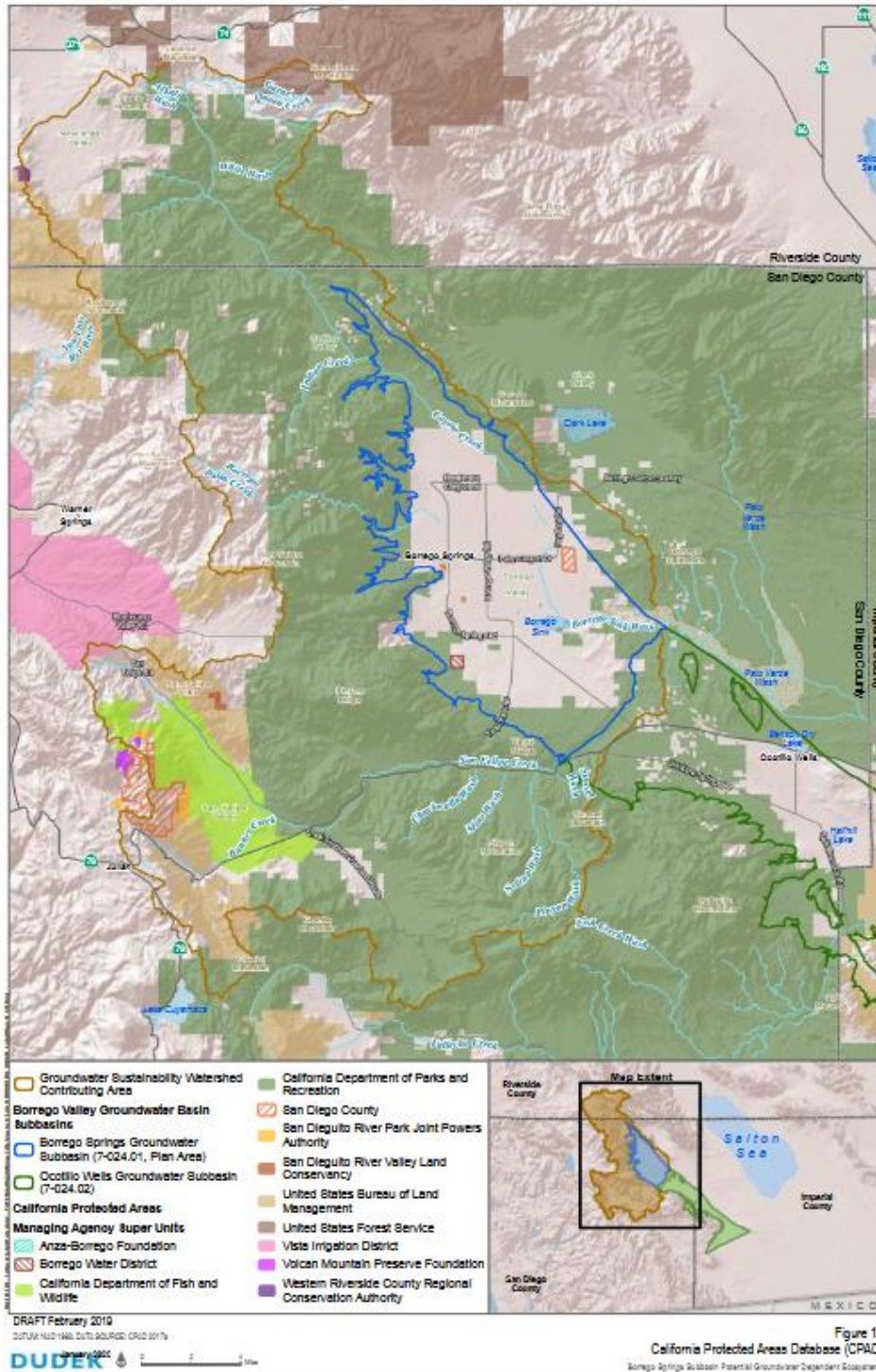


FIGURE 33: CA PROTECTED AREAS DATABASE (CPAD) SHOWING BORREGO SPRINGS CPA WITH ABUTTING PROTECTED LANDS (from Dudek GDE doc)

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Regional Conservation Plans

- **Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)** identifies and provides for the regional protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing compatible and appropriate economic activity. An approved NCCP leads to state issued "incidental" take authorization for species identified in the plan. A **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** is the federal analog to an NCCP and provides for federal take authorization.
- **Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS)** voluntary, non-regulatory regional planning process intended to result in higher-quality conservation outcomes, including advance mitigation

FIGURE 34: ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS OF STATE AND FEDERAL CONSERVATION PLANNING, Pathways to 30x30 Final Report, April 2022

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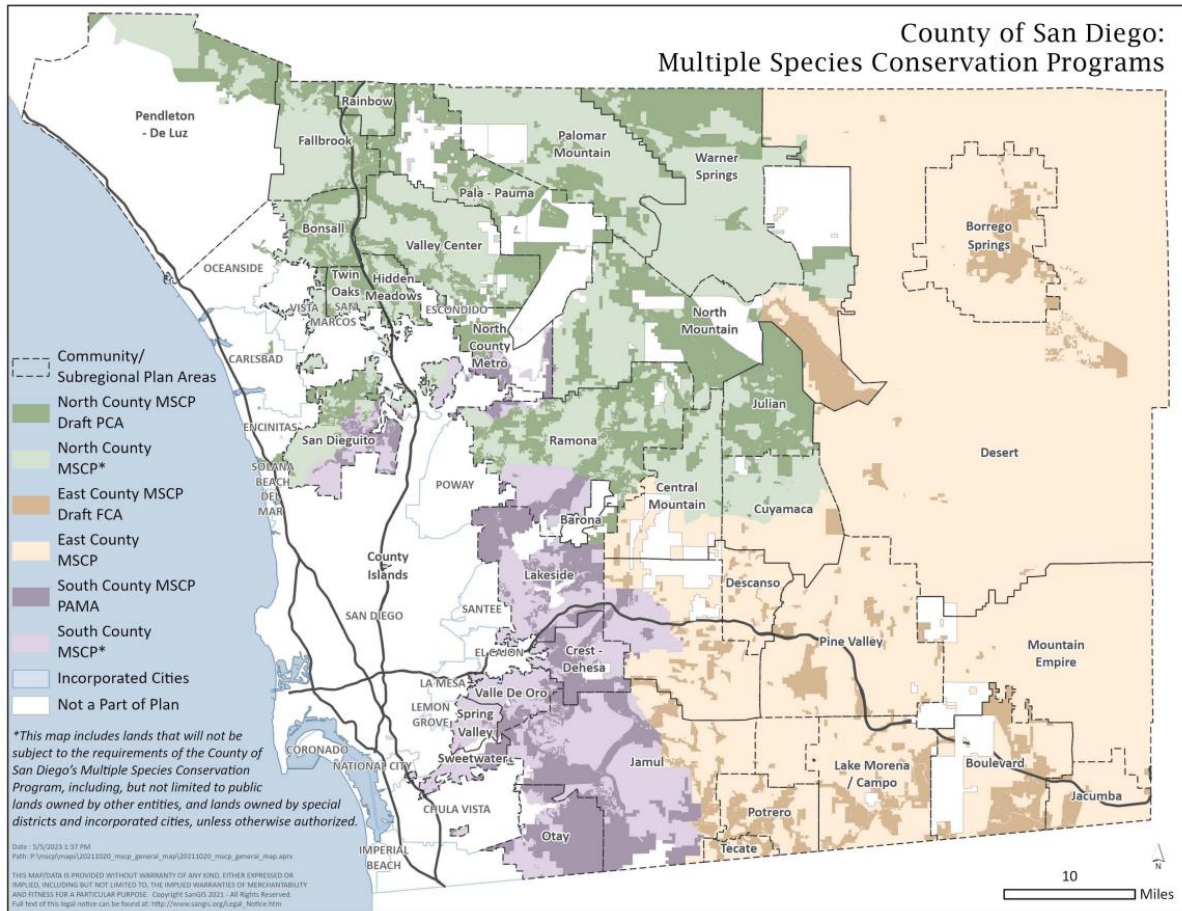


FIGURE 35: COUNTY GENERAL MSCP MAP 2023

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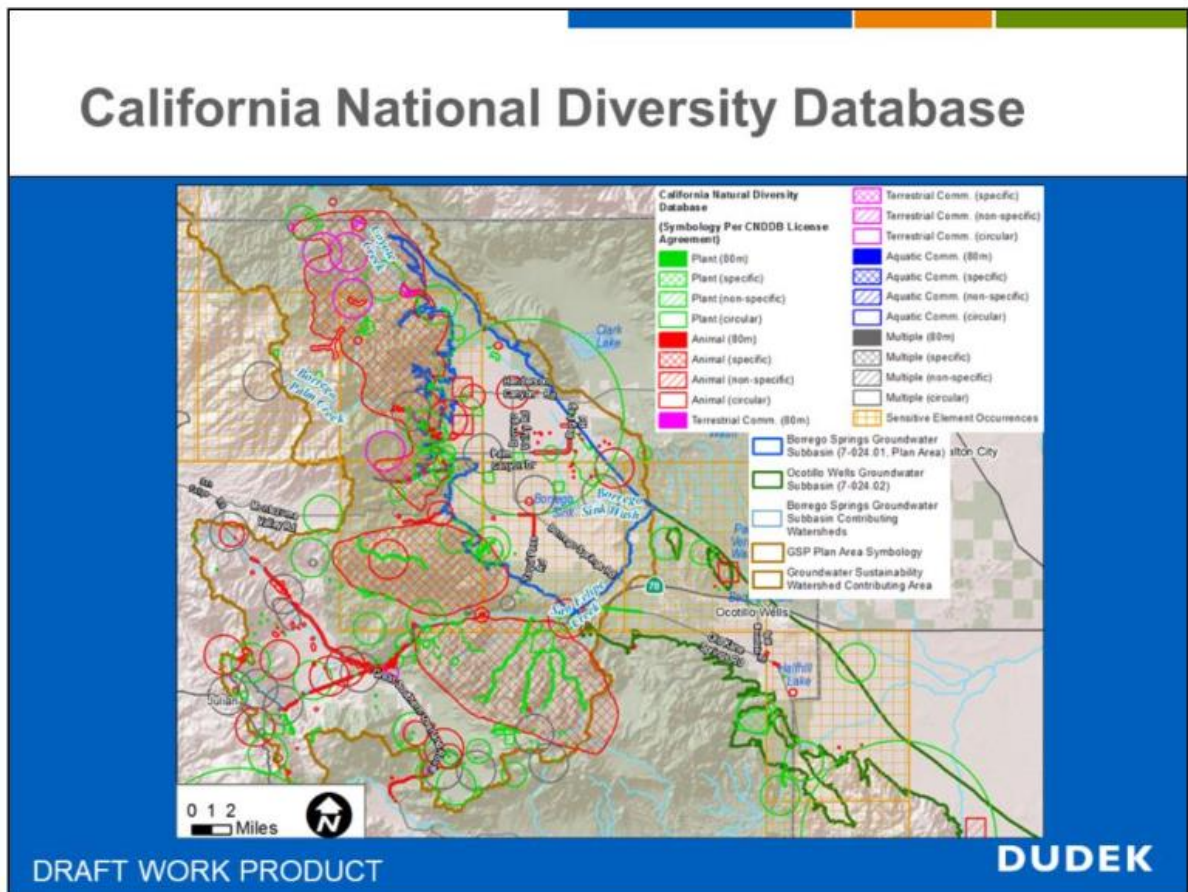


FIGURE 36: CALIFORNIA NATIONAL DIVERSITY DATABASE (CNDDDB) ENTRIES IN AND NEAR BORREGO SPRINGS(Dudek GDE)

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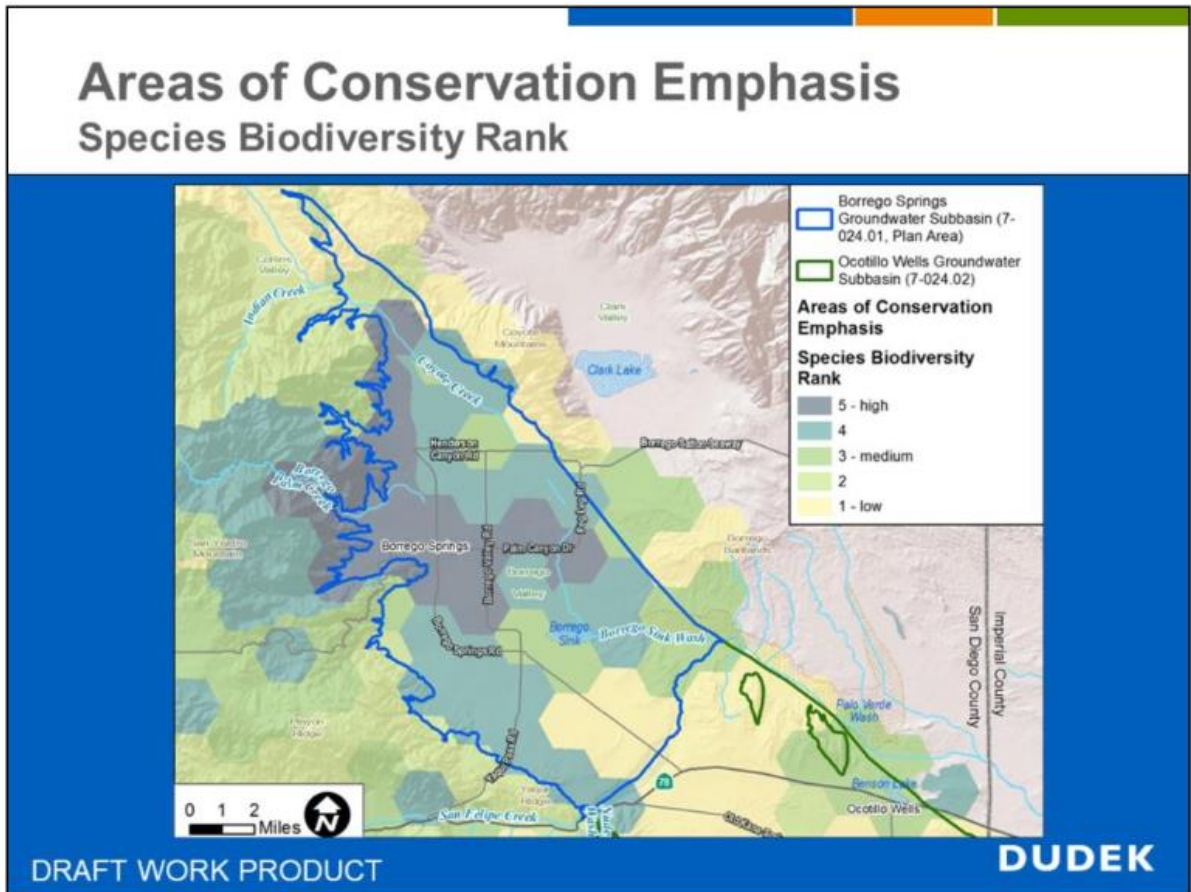


FIGURE 37 ACES MAP, COMBINED SPECIES BIODIVERSITY RANK WITH NATIVE AND RARE RICHNESS AND IRREPLACEABILITY FACTORS. (Dudek GDE)

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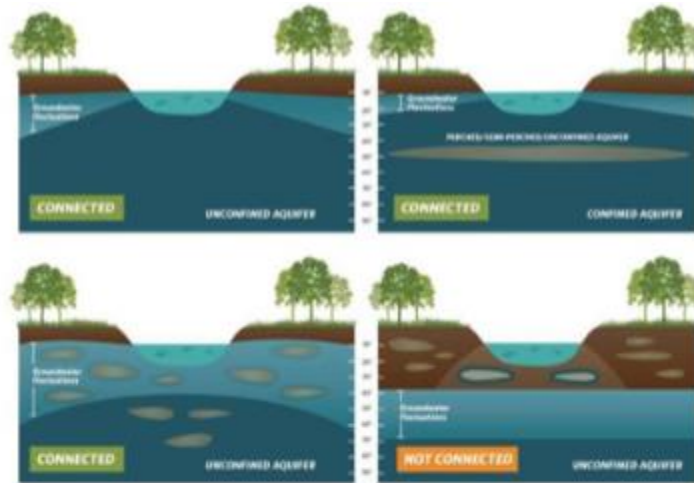


Figure 2. Confirming whether an ecosystem is connected to groundwater in a principal aquifer. Top: (Left) Depth to Groundwater in the aquifer under the ecosystem is an unconfined aquifer with depth to groundwater fluctuating seasonally and interannually within 30 feet from land surface. **(Right)** Depth to Groundwater in the shallow aquifer is connected to overlying ecosystem. Pumping predominately occurs in the confined aquifer, but pumping is possible in the shallow aquifer. **Bottom: (Left)** Depth to groundwater fluctuations are seasonally and interannually large, however, clay layers in the near surface prolong the ecosystem’s connection to groundwater. **(Right)** Groundwater is disconnected from surface water, and any water in the vadose (unsaturated) zone is due to direct recharge from precipitation and indirect recharge under surface water feature. These areas typically support species that do not require access to groundwater to survive.

FIGURE 38: TNC LETTER GRAPHIC, FROM GSP DRAFT PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION

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Figure 13
Borrego Sink Potential GDEs
Borrego Springs Subarea Potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

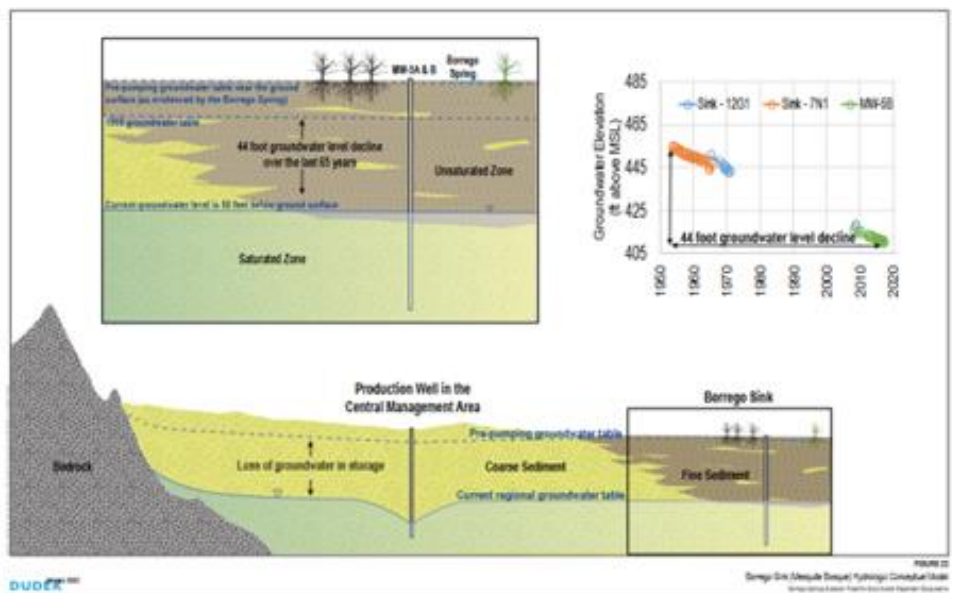
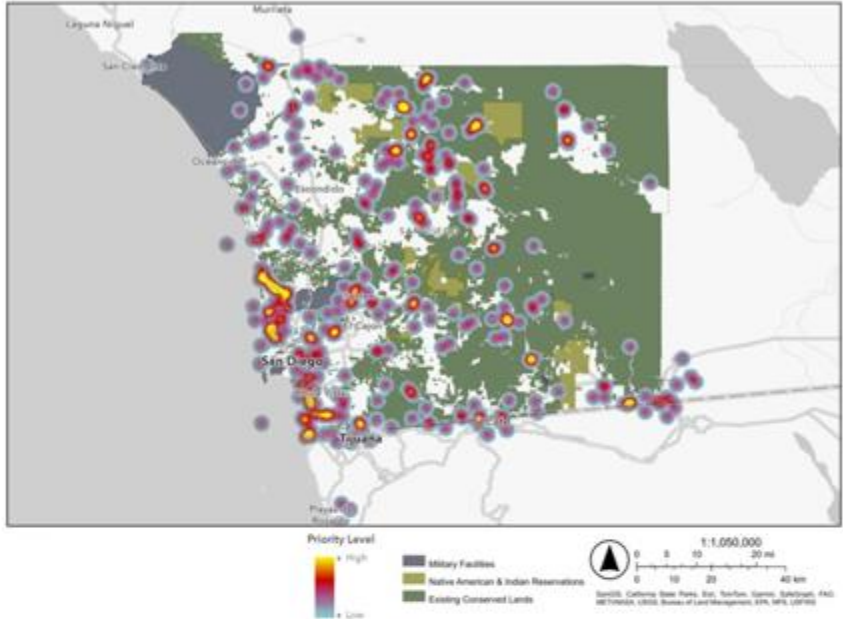


FIGURE 39: SGMA GRANT GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH COMPONENT GRAPHICS

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Heat Map of Priority Areas Identified for Biodiversity Connectivity and Conservation



Desert: Structural and Systemic Needs



- Increase education and community engagement
- Poaching enforcement
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) management
- Flooding infrastructure (changes to landscape with flooding and sediment buildup)
- Enhance specific habitat protections during superblooms
- More funding
- Protect aeolian processes

Desert Habitat / Species

- Invasive species: grasses, plants
- Riparian corridors
- Dunes
- Bighorn sheep
- Birds, crows, windmill bird counts
- Low-abundance sensitive species
- Pollinator plants
- Water conservation
- Cactus shrubs

FIGURE 40: SAN DIEGO'S BIODIVERSITY HEAT MAP AND DESERT SPECIFIC NEEDS

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Source: San Diego Collaboration for Conservation, Sustaining the Region's Legacy of Biodiversity Conservation (SD Nat, June 2024)
San Diego Natural History Museum and SANDAG | San Diego Collaboration for Conservation October 2024



FIGURE 41: MOST EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS TO 30X30 AND 30X30 OBJECTIVES, Source: Pathways To 30x30 California; Accelerating Conservation In California, Final Report April 2022

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GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Green Building Incentive Program is to encourage homeowners and builders to build using environmentally sound practices. This program is in line with the County's Strategic Plan which has established goals of safeguarding our environment and quality of life and encouraging responsible development.

The County of San Diego Green Building Incentive Program is designed to promote energy efficiency, natural resource conservation, and water conservation in new and remodeled residential and commercial buildings. Eligible participants can benefit from program incentives that, along with the potential for long-term savings, make building green a viable alternative to traditional construction.

For more information, please see the [Green Building Incentive Program informational brochure \(PDS #273\)](#).

CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE

The 2019 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code) was adopted by the California Building Standards Commission will be effective for MANDATORY use on January 1, 2020.

The purpose of this code is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts having a positive environmental impact and encouraging sustainable construction practices in the following categories:

- Planning and design
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency and conservation
- Material conservation and resource efficiency
- Environmental air quality.

In advance of the mandatory effective date, the Department strongly encourages everyone to be aware of this new code and familiarize themselves with the upcoming regulations.

For more information, please see the following:

[2019 CALGreen Code](#)

[California Department of Housing and Community Development \(HCD\) CALGreen Information](#)

FIGURE 42: GREEN BUILDING CODE MANDATED FOR USE BY 2020 IN CA (YET COUNTY GUIDELINE # 273 ONLY MENTIONS VOLUNTARY INCENTIVES).

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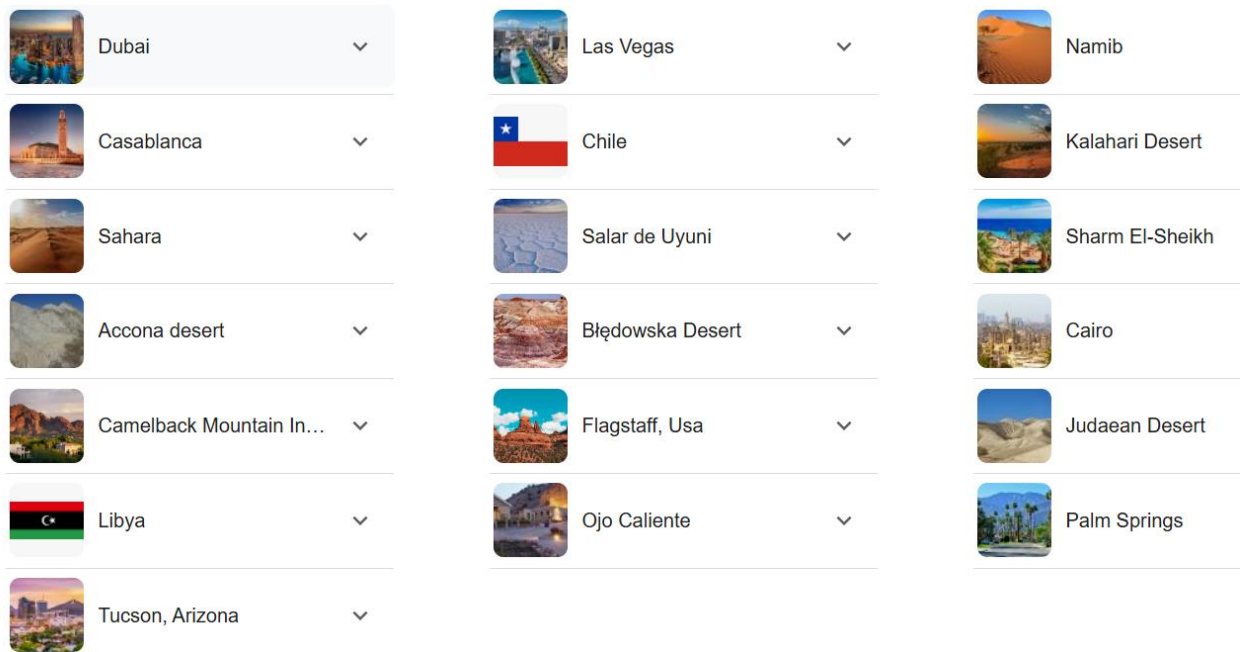


FIGURE 43: INTERNATIONAL (MANY SUSTAINABLE) DESERT COMMUNITIES

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Mid-century modern architecture in Palm Springs, California is characterized by clean lines, open floor plans, and an emphasis on natural light. These homes often have flat roofs, tall windows, and geometric shapes.

Design features

- → **Clean lines:** Simple, basic lines with rectangular windows and doors
- → **Open floor plans:** Create a sense of balance and harmony
- → **Natural light:** Seamless indoor-outdoor living spaces
- → **Organic forms:** Curved contours and flowing lines inspired by nature

Notable examples



- →

Kaufmann Desert House

Designed by Richard Neutra in 1946, this iconic home features large sliding glass doors and open floor plans



- →

Twin Palms

Designed by E. Stewart Williams for Frank Sinatra in 1946, this estate is known for its piano-shaped pool



- →

Frey House II

FIGURE 44: MID-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN IN PALM SPRINGS

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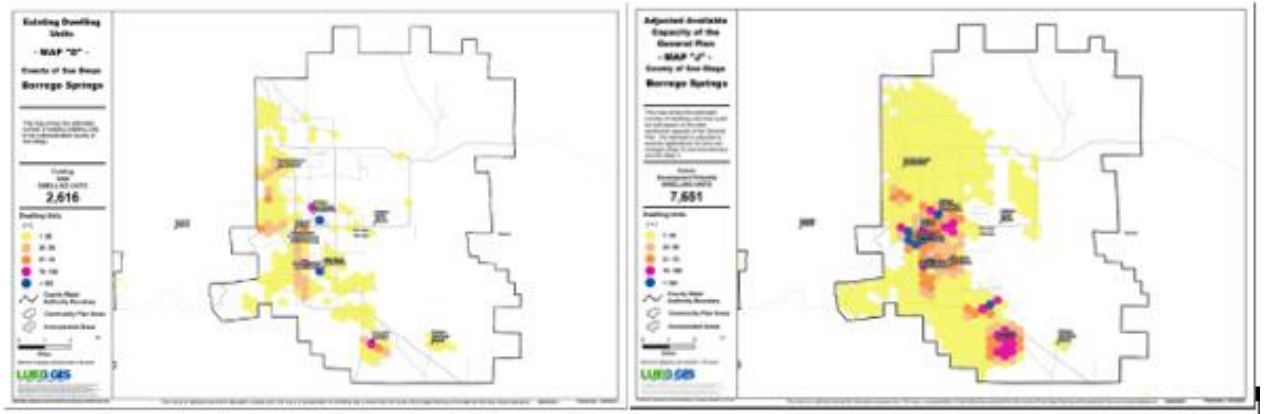


FIGURE 45: ADJUSTED CAPACITY AND FUTURE POTENTIAL DWELLING UNITS Left - Existing Dwelling Units; Right- Adjusted Available Capacity Of The GP Future Potential Dwelling Units

Source:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/advance/DevTracker/BorregoSprings.pdf>

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FIGURE 1 – SCOPING FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSPORTATION STUDIES



FIGURE 3 - DETERMINING LOCAL MOBILITY ANALYSIS TYPE



FIGURE 46: TRANSPORTATION STUDY FLOWCHARTS, Source: County Transportation Study Guidelines (TSG) September 2022

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"The previous TSG was adopted in June 2020 and included the requirement for analysis of vehicle miles traveled -- as mandated by state Senate Bill 743 that was signed into law in 2013. But the 2020 plan only considered vehicle miles traveled within unincorporated areas."

The newly adopted TSG is the first phase of the county's effort to meet the requirements of SB 743. In February, the board narrowly approved measures to speed up new housing development, including aligning projects with state and local air quality and emissions goals."

County planning staff are expected to research a sustainable land-use policy on how development will proceed in the unincorporated areas, and present their findings to supervisors in December."

LED TO THE SLUF



"Planning staff are also expected to return to the board within roughly a year with updated California Environmental Quality Act guidelines for projects in higher wildfire hazard zones, along with an updated fire protection plan."

Based on a suggestion from Supervisor Joel Anderson, the county will also study other transit opportunities in unincorporated areas and allowing an expansion of wineries in communities such as Jamul and Ramona."

Board Chairman Nathan Fletcher said in a statement that the revised TSG "represents a rethinking of our land use patterns to prioritize infill development, connections to transit and addressing climate change -- while at the same time building more homes in the unincorporated area."

Before the vote, Fletcher told his colleagues that the county's transportation guide needed to line up with SB 743, even if the change is hard. Fletcher said SB 743 became law almost 10 years ago, but county supervisors didn't get involved until 2020. Because state laws are explicitly clear on adopting a regional average in calculating vehicle miles, it would be "recklessly irresponsible" for the board to do something else, he said."

Supervisor Jim Desmond, who argued the county should stick with the unincorporated area standard -- despite the guidance from the state -- was the lone no vote on Wednesday."

Desmond described vehicle miles traveled as "a wrench in the ointment" resulting in fewer opportunities to build affordable housing. Desmond said from what he understands, a regional approach is not mandatory."

"This is the time we should be building housing," Desmond said."

Desmond said it's noble to want more housing near public transit, but not everyone wants to live like a 27-year-old, and some would prefer a single-family home and backyard."

Desmond's proposed amendment, also supported by Anderson, to keep original VMT metrics failed on a 3-2 vote."

In a statement, Anderson said the original VMT metric kept housing capacity at 18,000 homes, but the new one reduces the number of potential homes to about 5,870. Anderson said he doesn't oppose VMT rules if they're implemented correctly."

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, who called the new transportation guide a win-win, said if the county doesn't comply with the state, "we'll have ongoing uncertainty, which is fundamentally worse for everyone."

During a public comment period, representatives of environmental groups and others in favor said a uniform VMT policy was needed for better, more ecologically sound development."

"Now is the time to take bold action to create cleaner air, and slash climate emissions," said Cristina Marquez, an official with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 589."

FIGURE 47: COUNTY SLUF IDEA IS BORN (EXCERPTS FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE, POSTED 5:29 PM, SEP 28, 2022)

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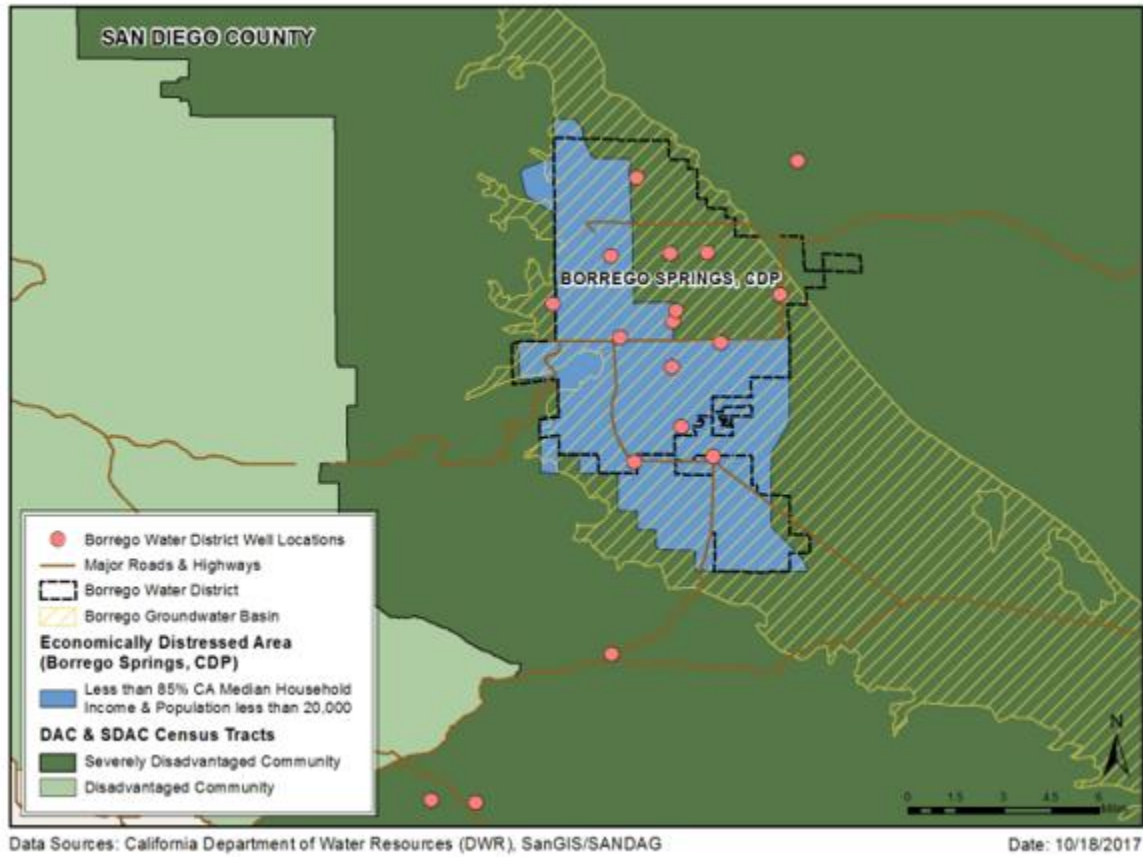
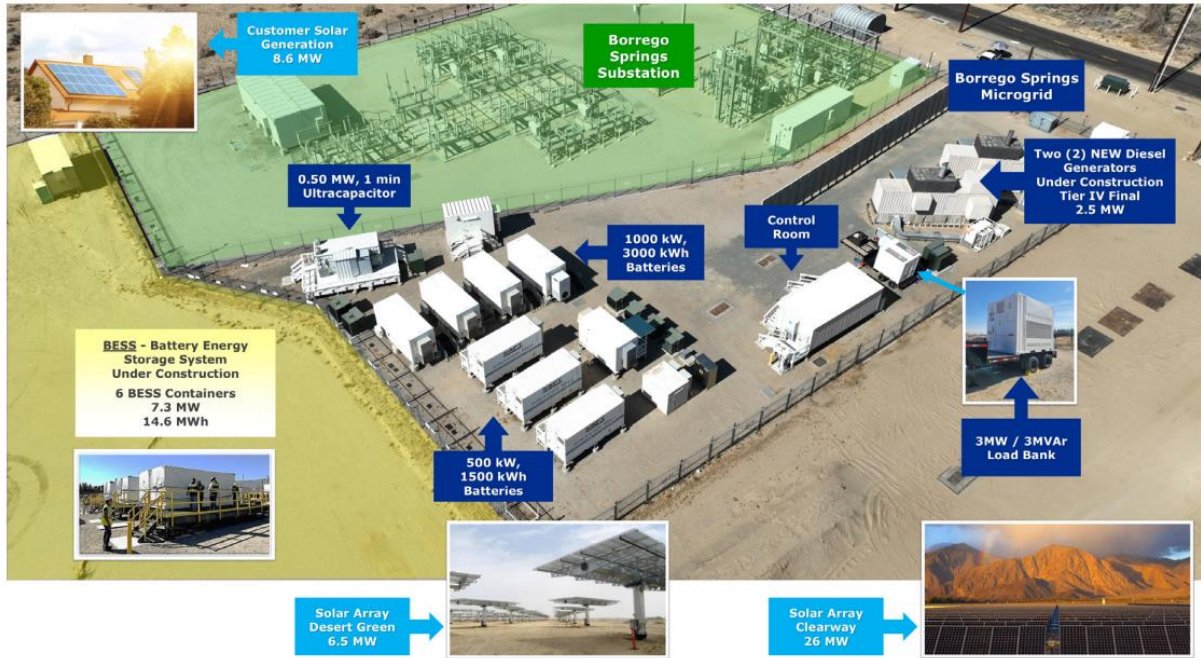


FIGURE 48: BORREGO WATER DISTRICT PROJECT AND SERVICE AREA

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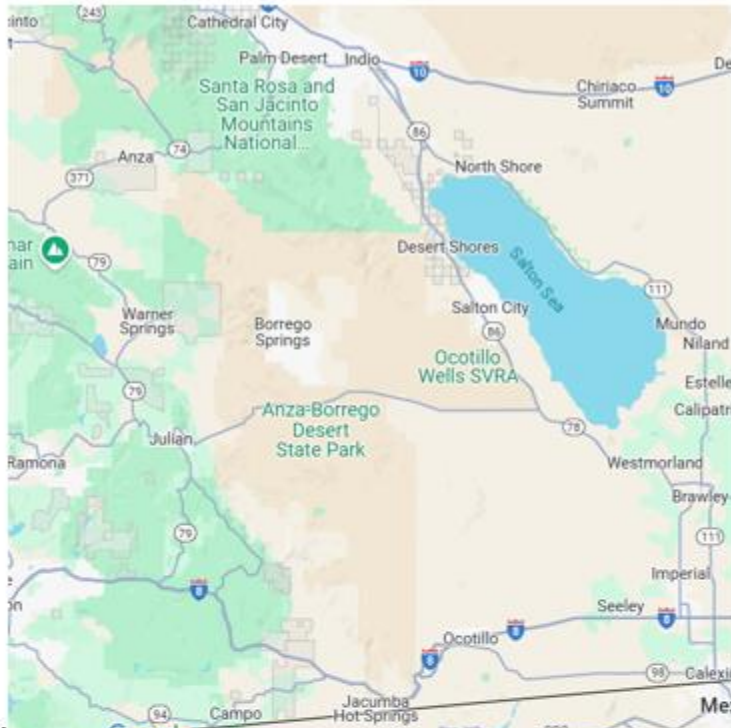
FIGURE 49: BORREGO'S MICROGRID

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<u>BASELINE BMPs FOR EXISTING AND PROPOSED SITE FEATURES</u>	
SD-B	DIRECT RUNOFF TO PERVIOUS AREAS
SD-C	INSTALL GREEN ROOF
SD-E	INSTALL RAIN BARRELS
SD-G	CONSERVE NATURAL FEATURES
SD-H	PROVIDE BUFFERS AROUND WATER BODIES
SD-I	CONSTRUCT SURFACES FROM PERMEABLE MATERIALS
SD-K	SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

FIGURE 50: COUNTY BASELINE BMPS FOR EXISTING AND PROPOSED SITE FEATURES (EXCERPT FROM #040 COUNTY PLOT PLAN (NOT FOR GRADING))

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**FIGURE 2
DRECP LUPA Major Land Allocations**

September 2016

**FIGURE 51: COMPARISON MAP OF BORREGO AREA TO DRECP ENERGY
“DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AREAS IN PINK**

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BIODIVERSITY FRIENDLY ENERGY

Hierarchy (in Order of Preference) - Protocol for Placement and Design:

#1 Use local, dispersed designs on existing development

- Use both Roof Top and Parking Lot Solar and Mini-Wind on both commercial and residential buildings and land at scale

#2 Use existing disturbed lands

- Use brown fields (capped land fills), Use non-native pasture/fallow field that are not adjacent to sensitive biologi

#3 Avoid use of undisturbed habitat

- . Avoid Greenfields, Do not use Pristine deserts, Forested mountains, or Native Habitat of any kind

#4 Incorporate innovative nature based solution (NBS) friendly designs

Build lightly with nature. Use vertical stacking; Use movable, flexible, recyclable design. Incorporate NBS - i.e. horizontal access think floating horizontal axis wind turbines with bird roosts on top.

#5 Build redundancy and resilience within communities, allow off-grid/private/local energy for when Big Power goes down

- Think Lahaina,-and LA, avoid power and communication loss. Protect in place by Increasing fire safe independent power from batteries etc. Protect the vulnerable (young and old from heat stroke and those with limited mobility).

#6 Upgrade and replace in Place

- Reconductor to increase efficiency,add additional circuits by reconfiguring existing industrial transmission towers

#7 Streamline regulations

. Add back government incentives (bring back favorable NEM) Work to restore trust in Solar Companies, Microgrid Utility Providers & CCAs - have them make good on their proposal promises.

. Do not alter CEQA and ESA - do not pit green Energy against 50 years of environmental progress

#8 Consider Energy Miles Traveled (develop EMT scores similar to VMTs for carbon & environmental impact)

source: ASK Environmental San Diego

FIGURE 52: BIODIVERSE CLEAN ENERGY GUIDELINES; Source C3 Energy in the Backcountry June 26. 2024

<https://studio.youtube.com/video/vIF1OWCKsOk/edit>

WHITE PAPER TERMS AND ACRONYMS

30x30 = 2020 a CA state initiative to preserve 30 percent of land and water habitats by 2030 to support biodiversity and climate change resilience that has since been adopted by the federal government and over 190 countries all over the world.

AF or AFY = Acre Feet or Acre Feet per Year are used to measure water volume. It is the amount of water needed to cover one-acre (43,569 square feet) with one-foot of water given as a general number, or per year. One acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons of water, enough to cover a football field with a foot of water.

ABDSP = Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

AQUIFER = a body of permeable rock which can contain or transmit groundwater

BASIN = A water basin is a land area that drains water into a specific body of water, such as a river, lake, stream, or estuary. It's also known as a catchment or watershed.

Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin = aka "Basin" per the "Watermaster" refers to Groundwater Basin 7-024.01 the Borrego Valley-Borrego Springs Basin. This "Basin" is one of two subbasins within the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin and is the focus of this FAQ!. This "Basin"; has a surface area of approximately 98 square miles or 62,776 acres.

BPA = Baseline Pumping Allocation is a keystone of the Borrego Springs Watermaster GMP and is defined as the amount of groundwater each pumper in the Subbasin is allocated prior to SGMA-mandated reduction. Based on 2010-2015 pumping data, BPA serves as a cap from which annual pumping reductions will reach sustainable yield by no later than 2040.

https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Exhibit_4_BPA_20241001.pdf

BSCSG = Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group - serves as an advisory group to County officials and acts as the formal conduit between people, businesses and planning matters.

BVGB = Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin -The total surface area of this basin is 150,000 acres (240 square miles) and is comprised of 2 subbasins (Borrego Springs and Ocotillo Wells) and encompasses three aquifers (upper, middle and lower) throughout the valley.

BVSC = Borrego Valley Stewardship Council, directs Component 5 "Resiliency" of the SGMA Grant.

BWD = Borrego Water District, is a State of CA special district established in 1962 to provide water and sewer services(although many locations remain on septic), flood control powers (flood risk management) and pest control (namely gnat abatement) for areas in the Borrego Springs community

<https://borregowd.org/>

CAP = County Climate Action Plan (final 2024)

CEQA = The California Environmental Quality Act passed in 1970 provides a legal framework to facilitate public review and input on projects which could have a significant effect on the environment.

COD = Critically Overdrafted (Basin), a term used under the SGMA grant program to determine eligibility.

CPA = Community Planning Area

CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission, the state regulator of private investor owned utilities (IOUs) energy companies. Note: public municipal energy companies are self-regulated.

DEI = Diversity, Equity and Inclusion considerations.

DE MINIMIS PUMPER = A non-consequential pumper/extractor (drawer of groundwater) of 2 AF or less per year, for domestic use only.

DWR = California Department of Water Resources

ENERGY = Energy systems can be Municipally Owned or Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) with energy generation occurring either locally (microgrid or roof top dispersed systems) or distantly (long distance transmission line distributed energy from a remote energy generation source).

FALLOWED LAND = Former agricultural land that has been abandoned or retired, permanently or temporarily from an agricultural purpose

GDE = Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem – such as the Mesquite Bosque. These are monitored to ensure Undesirable Results do not occur to them under the GMP.

GMP = Groundwater Management Plan – Borrego Springs adopted alternative to a (State of CA) GSP to monitor and manage both groundwater levels and groundwater quality in the community. The GMP is a living document and can be updated based on current Best Available Science per annual or 5-year plans.

G or GW = Groundwater. “G” is used when part of a longer acronym as in GMP; “GW” is used as a standalone word for groundwater.

GSA = Groundwater Sustainability (a State of CA) Agency

GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan. GSPs have been required since 2014 for identified (COD) overdrafted/at risk water basins and are typically overseen by the State of CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) appointed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies or GSAs (source: <https://water.ca.gov/>). The required state managed GSP for the BVGB to comply with SGMA was contested and morphed instead into an innovative GMP – developed, managed, and approved by the County of San Diego, the BWD, the “Watermaster”, and the State of CA.

What does a GSP do?

It outlines sustainable use and manages groundwater to avoid undesirable results, such as:

- Significant declines in groundwater levels
- Reductions in groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degradation of water quality

What would a GSP for the BVGB include?

Or in Borrego’s case, what is the GMP for the “Basin” intended to do?

- Describes/characterizes the plan area and groundwater basin
- Creates and implements a “water budget” that balances inflows and outflows
- Evokes sustainability goals to avoid undesirable results

INTEGRATED WATERSHED-SCALE MASTER PLAN = A master community planning effort that integrates the natural watershed services, characteristics, and current and desired functioning. planning based on the local watershed including it’s limitations

MSCP = A multiple species conservation program is a habitat based conservation approach to preserve multiple species, as opposed to species by species conservation approach. An MSCP is a combination of a state Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) and a federal Habitat Conservation Plan under state (CESA) and federal (FESA) Endangered Species Act laws.

NON-DE MINIMIS PUMPER = is a consequential (or large) pumper/extractor (drawer of groundwater) of over 2 AF per year, for domestic and commercial use.

RECHARGE AREA = Areas throughout the Borrego Springs Subbasin where the aquifer will be recharged naturally by rainfall and/or by sustainable management of pumping as outlined in the GMP

REHABILITATION or RESTORATION = land that is passively or actively rehabilitated or restored to a partial or full natural habitat state

SDAC = Socially Disadvantaged Communities - SDACs are Census geographies having less than 60% of the statewide annual median household income (GMP 2020). Note: Borrego Springs is currently recognized as a SDAC under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA further defines SDAC's "as areas primarily served by private domestic wells or small community water systems, (meaning communities with limited access to reliable and affordable water supplies, often experiencing disproportionate impacts from groundwater depletion due to their reliance on individual wells); and SGMA specifically instructs Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to consider the interests of these communities when developing groundwater management plans."

SGMA = the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. This California law requires local agencies to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and develop GSPs to manage groundwater sustainably. SGMA is a Program of the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) who typically administer the formation of GSAs and GSPs.

SLUF = The County's Sustainable Land Use Framework is a planning process to be carried out during 2025 to engage the County's unincorporated communities to self determine and advocate for desired sustainability initiatives in their communities.

STAKEHOLDERS = Community members; and local, state, and federal officials charged with governing the Borrego Springs Community such as Borrego Water District, Borrego Springs Watermaster Board; community partnering scientists; community and environmental planning professionals; and interested parties and visitors to Borrego Springs.

SUBBASIN = A "water subbasin" is a smaller geographical area within a larger river basin or watershed, defined by natural drainage patterns, where all water flows towards a specific tributary or smaller river, essentially acting as a distinct section within the broader basin for managing and analyzing water resources; it is a smaller part of a larger water basin with its own unique hydrological characteristics.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT = economic development that is conducted without [depletion](#) of natural resources. See UN 17 Sustainability Goals (2016).

SUSTAINABLE YIELD = Long term sustainable yield (aka SY) is the amount of water in Acre Feet that can be removed sustainably from an aquifer each year. Per the 2020 draft Final GMP, the initial SY was estimated at 5,700 AF but is meant to be reassessed periodically. In 2025 the SY was updated to 7,900 - 7950 AF.

SWOT = Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis carried out on data collected for Borrego Springs, with the results utilized in support of a community resiliency strategy.

PHYSICAL SOLUTION = refers to the court-ordered (adjudicated) plan GMP, ~~essentially a legal judgment coupled with a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP)~~, that dictates how Borrego Springs will manage its water usage to ensure sustainability. The GMP acts as an alternative to a traditional Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); it aims to address overdrafting of the Borrego Springs aquifer by setting specific pumping limits and water conservation measures. The GMP sets parameters to allocate specific amounts of allowable groundwater use (pumping allowance) to non-de minimis (i.e. significant and habitual) pumpers consistent with the finalized BPA and mandated water use drawdowns aimed to achieve sustainability by 2040 (see PMA No. 3 -Pumping Reduction Program).

<https://borregospringswatermaster.com>

RDF = County Regional Decarbonization Framework

RESILIENCY STRATEGY = A set of actions, plans, and measures put in place to enhance the resilience of individuals, organizations, communities, or systems in the face of challenges, disruptions, or adverse events. An example would be Borrego Springs developing such a plan to combat climate change challenges.

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS =SGMA Grant educational deliverable term, meaning how does the social fabric (community make up, lifestyles, and the economy) of the community affect nature (ecological systems) and visa-versa in Borrego Springs.

TEK = Traditional Ecological Knowledge (also known as Indigenous Local Knowledge—ILK) are often used as a model of sustainable and land use practices.

UC Irvine Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center = Local GMP and SGMA grant scientific partner working on fallow land restoration and rehabilitation techniques as part of SGMA Grant “Component 6 - Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands.”

UNDESIRABLE RESULTS = Sustainability in the “Basin” will be determined by the GMP as avoiding undesirable effects which include: Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels, Reduction of Groundwater Storage, Seawater Intrusion, Degraded Water Quality, Land Subsidence, Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water, and effects on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (i.e. Mesquite Bosque, Bighorn Sheep)- <https://borregospringswatermaster.com>

Borrego Valley GMP “projects and management actions” will be implemented to minimize undesirable results. These projects and management actions make up the basin work plan which includes all 8 components of the 2021 Borrego Springs SGMA grant workplan as follows:

Work Plan Summary

The Work Plan includes activities associated with implementation and continued planning, development, and preparation of groundwater sustainability for the Borrego Valley Subbasin (Basin). The resulting work from this grant will incorporate appropriate Best Management Practices as developed by DWR, and will result in a more complete understanding of the groundwater subbasin to support long-term sustainable groundwater management. The Project contains construction and planning projects including updating the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The Work Plan includes eight Components:

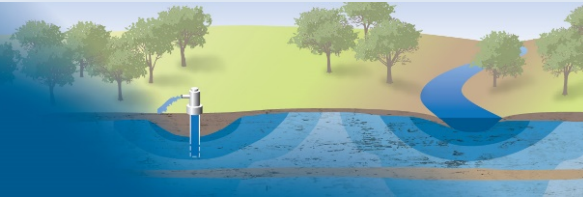
- Component 1: Grant Administration
- Component 2: Advanced Meter Infrastructure
- Component 3: Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring Wells
- Component 4: Education Project
- Component 5: Resiliency Strategy
- Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands
- Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update
- Component 8: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring

VTM = Vehicle Miles Traveled, replaced Level of Service (LOS) transportation impact criteria under CEQA in 2020 to better take into account the environmental impact of climate change induced by vehicle carbon emissions (instead of waits at traffic signals under LOS).

Watermaster = The Borrego Springs Watermaster Board known as the “Watermaster” is a committee/board of five representatives of the parties to the Judgment subject to two advisory committees: a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which must use best available science to avoid Undesirable Result (i.e. draining the aquifer unsustainably, lowering water quality, etc.); and an Environmental Working Group (EWG). The “Watermaster” meets monthly, prepares budgets and monitors GW per the 2020 GMP, provides regular reports (annual and more detailed 5-year reports) and maintains a public data portal: <https://borregospringswatermaster.com/>

WQMP = Water Quality Monitoring Plan – a required component of the Borrego Springs GMP (a requirement to report on water quality in their annual GMP report).

Sustainable Groundwater
Management (SGM)
GRANT PROGRAM



SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package



*CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES
AGENCY'S
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
-
DIVISION OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE*



December 2021

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FOREWORD

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation funding solicitation using funds authorized by the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). This document is the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for activities/tasks related to SGMA implementation, which includes, but are not limited to:

- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications of a Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs);
- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications of an Alternative to a GSP (Alternative); and/or
- Capital improvement activities as listed within a GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

This document is not a standalone document and the applicant will need to refer to the 2021 SGM Grant Program 2021 Guidelines (2021 Guidelines) for additional information. **Potential applicants are highly encouraged to read the 2021 Guidelines, PSP, and Agreement template prior to deciding to submit an application.** The 2021 Guidelines and the Agreement template can be found at the following link: www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

A glossary of terms used throughout this PSP are available in Appendix B (Definitions) of the 2021 Guidelines.

GRANT PROGRAM WEBSITE AND OTHER USEFUL LINKS

This document, as well as other pertinent information about the SGM Grant Program, can be found at the following link: www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

Other useful links are identified below.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA):

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=WAT&division=6.&title=&part=2.74.&chapter=&article=

GSP Regulations:

[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=I74F39D13C76F497DB40E93C75FC716AA&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextD ata=\(sc.Default\)%20](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=I74F39D13C76F497DB40E93C75FC716AA&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextD ata=(sc.Default)%20)

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Portal:

<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#intro>

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and Economically Distressed Area (EDA) Mapping Tools:

<https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Mapping-Tools>

CalEnviroScreen 3.0:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

DWR Grants Review and Tracking System (GRanTS) Application Tool:

<https://grants.water.ca.gov>

E-MAIL LIST

In addition to the website, DWR will distribute information via e-mail. If you are not already on the SGM Grant Program e-mail list, please use the following link to be added to the list:

<https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater> and click the "Subscribe" button on the right side of the webpage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about this document, or other technical issues regarding SGM Grant Program, please contact DWR's Division of Regional Assistance at (916) 902-7131 or by e-mail at: SGWP@water.ca.gov.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE

COD	Critically Overdrafted (Basin)
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EnvDAC	Environmentally Disadvantaged Community
FAB	Financial Assistance Branch
FE-SWRP	Functionally Equivalent Stormwater Resource Plan
GB	Gigabyte
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRanTS	Grants Review and Tracking System
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
MHI	Median Household Income
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
PSP	Proposal Solicitation Package
SB	Senate Bill
SDAC	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SGM	Sustainable Groundwater Management
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SWRP	Stormwater Resource Plan
TA	Technical Assistance

I. INTRODUCTION

DWR is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation grant solicitations using funds authorized by the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) (Budget Act of 2021) and Proposition 68 for projects that encourage sustainable management of groundwater resources that support SGMA and/or invest in groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects. The Budget Act of 2021 can also provide funding for planning activities that support SGMA implementation. The funding will be divided into a minimum of two rounds of grant solicitations. Round 1 will be awarded in 2022 and Round 2 is projected to be awarded in Spring/Summer 2023. Any future grant solicitations will be identified at a later time and is dependent upon future appropriation. This PSP contains specific information regarding the process, eligibility, and required content for grant applications for the grant funds for the grant solicitations. DWR also issued the 2021 Guidelines that will be used to administer the grant solicitation and provide general information regarding program and eligibility requirements.

II. FUNDING

The Budget Act of 2021 appropriates a total of \$180 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022 to DWR for SGMA implementation. After administrative costs, \$171 million is available for grant awards. Of the \$171 million appropriated by the Budget Act of 2021, \$152 million shall be directed to projects that benefit Critically Overdrafted (COD) groundwater basins that support implementation of SGMA.

The Budget Act of 2021 also authorizes the Legislature to appropriate a total of \$60 million in FY 2022/2023 and \$60 million in FY 2023/2024 to DWR for SGMA implementation. After administrative costs, \$114 million will be available for grant awards that will be directed to projects that benefit medium and high priority groundwater basins (including COD basins) that support implementation of SGMA. Priority in future funding grant solicitations will be given to applicants in basins that have not previously been awarded SGMA Implementation funding.

Proposition 68 authorizes the Legislature to appropriate a total of \$120 million to DWR for drought and groundwater investments to achieve regional sustainability. After the administrative cost and previous funding awards, approximately \$71.5 million is available for drought and groundwater investments to achieve regional sustainability through investments in groundwater recharge with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects, and projects to prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water (Public Resources Code § 80146(a)). Of the approximately \$71.5 million, a minimum of \$15 million is reserved for projects located within and solely supporting a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC).

The \$114 million in future General Fund appropriations, the remaining \$17 million in FY 2021/2022 General Fund appropriation, and the remaining \$71.5 million in Proposition 68 grant funds will be combined together in a single funding round for the medium and high priority basins as outlined above. Any future appropriations will be added to this second funding solicitation. If all of the funds are not awarded, subsequent funding rounds will be conducted later using the same PSP and the 2021 Guidelines. A minimum of \$35 million in future appropriations from General Funds, or 30% (whichever is greater), must be used to address the needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities in Underrepresented Communities identified by the SGM Grant Program Underrepresented Community Technical Assistance Program (TA Program). The Project or Component must be consistent with the findings and conclusions identified in the TA Program and be within a community identified by the TA Program heat maps. The maps can be found on the TA Program website: www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants

DWR is reserving \$2 million of the General Funds for a technical assistance provider with a minimum of \$1 million out of the \$2 million for technical assistance. All work completed must address the needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities of Underrepresented Communities as identified by the TA Program and must also be consistent with the TA Program. All work conducted must be reviewed and approved by DWR prior to commencing. Work should be equitably distributed throughout all regions of the State

and will use the TA Program Heat Maps. The technical assistance provider will be encouraged to conduct a minimum of one community meeting in each of the basins that includes a representative of all GSA(s) and/or responsible entity within the basin with community representatives to assist in building strong relationships between community leaders and the entities responsible for implementing SGMA. All findings/conclusions shall be reported to the local GSA(s) and/or responsible entity in a meeting that includes a representative from DWR. The goal of the TA Program is to foster strong working relationships and effective communications between the Underrepresented Communities and their local groundwater sustainability agency responsible for implementing SGMA so that those community's needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities will be properly identified and addressed in the GSP(s) or Alternative(s) to a GSP.

TABLE A – FUNDING BREAKDOWN¹

	Total Appropriation (in Millions)	Total Funding Available ²	Round 1 – COD Basins (Current Solicitation)		Future Solicitations – min of 30% must be for URC's	
			General	Technical Assistance Agreement ³	General	SDAC*/URC
Prop 68	\$120	\$71.5	N/A	N/A	\$56.5	\$15*
2021 Budget Act – General	\$120	\$114	\$112	\$2	N/A	N/A
2021 Budget Act – SJV Projects	\$60	\$57	\$40	N/A	\$17	N/A
Projected FY 2022/23 Appropriation	\$60	\$57	N/A	N/A	\$39.5	\$17.5 (or 30% whichever is greater)
Projected FY 2023/24 Appropriation	\$60	\$57	N/A	N/A	\$39.5	\$17.5 (or 30% whichever is greater)

¹All amounts shown are in Millions of dollars and are approximate and subject to change depending on actual expenditures from previous funding awards.

²Amount available after deducting previous Prop 68 funding awards and 5% DWR administration costs.

³Agreement to a technical assistance provider for Technical Assistance to Underrepresented Communities.

A. COD Basin SGMA Implementation (Round 1)

SGM Grant Program have identified 21 groundwater basins that are listed as COD Basins, according to the most current DWR Bulletin 118. However, not all 21 COD Basins identified in the most current DWR Bulletin 118 meet the eligibility requirements listed in Section III. DWR anticipates 20 of the COD Basins will meet the eligibility requirements at the time of the Round 1 grant solicitation. If you represent a COD Basin and are unsure of your eligibility status, please contact the SGM Grant Program staff at sgwp@water.ca.gov.

DWR intends to make up to \$152 million available for projects in eligible COD basins for tasks and activities that help the basins reach sustainability, whereby the \$152 million will be split evenly to provide \$7.6 million per eligible COD basin. However, DWR must award a minimum of \$40 million of the \$57 million granted by the Budget Act of 2021 by September 15, 2022 to COD basins within the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) basin for tasks and activities that include:

- Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential (e.g., Aerial Electromagnetic Surveys);
- Early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge (e.g., basin recharge using floodwater); or
- Projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat (e.g., basin recharge using peak flows from a river, creek, or stream).

The nine COD basins outside of the SJV basin will have \$7.6 million available to award based upon the submitted Spending Plan. That leaves \$43.6 million in General Funds for the 11 COD basins within the SJV basin. If DWR receives Spending Plans from these 11 basins that request \$40 million or more in SJV projects, then the 11 SJV COD basins will be eligible for the full \$7.6 million per SJV COD basin. If DWR receives Spending Plans from these 11 basins that request less than \$40 million in SJV projects, then DWR will evenly reduce the amount of funding available to each SJV COD basin according to the shortfall. For example, if DWR receives Spending Plans from the 11 basins requesting only \$28 million of the \$40 million for SJV projects, then the 11 basins within the SJV basin will be eligible for a maximum of \$6.5 million per basin. See calculation below:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Non-SJV COD Basins} - \$7.6\text{M per non-SJV COD Basin} \\ &\$7.6\text{M} \times 9 \text{ Basins} = \$68.4\text{M of the } \$112\text{M in Gen Fund} \\ &\text{SJV COD Basins:} \\ &(\$112\text{M} - \$68.4\text{M}) \div 11 = \$3.963\text{M} \end{aligned}$$

Assuming SJV COD basins apply for \$28M in SJV-type funds, the amount per SJV COD Basin equals:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Example:} \\ &(\$43.6\text{M} + \$28\text{M}) \div 11 = \$6.5\text{M per SJV COD Basin} \end{aligned}$$

TABLE B – FUNDING BREAKDOWN FOR ROUND 1 – COD BASINS¹

Basin Type	# of Basins	Total Funding Available	2021 Budget Act – General	2021 Budget Act – SJV Projects	Min Grant Award per basin	Max Grant Award per basin
SJV COD	11	\$83.6	\$43.6	\$40 ²	\$3.963	\$7.6
Non-SJV COD	9	\$68.4	\$68.4	\$0	\$7.6	\$7.6

¹All amounts shown are in Millions of dollars and must be awarded by September 2022 per the 2021 Budget Act.

²Actual amount is dependent on how much SJV COD basins request in their respective Spending Plan.

The Budget Act of 2021 requires all funding agencies to expedite execution of grant agreements in an effort to get the funding out to the eligible applicants as quickly as possible. However, the Budget Act of 2021 also requires funding for the SGMA Implementation to be awarded via a competitive grant process. DWR has determined that \$7.6 million is available per COD Basin and that each COD Basin will be required to conduct a self-evaluation of their project list using the scoring criteria outlined in Table 7 to determine which projects are the most competitive within the basin. These self-evaluations shall be submitted as backup documentation to a Spending Plan. Only one Spending Plan will be accepted per COD Basin and the applicant must meet the eligibility requirements listed within the PSP and the 2021 Guidelines.

A template for the Spending Plan and the scoring criteria will be emailed out to each GSA contact once the final 2021 Guidelines and PSP are released to the public. **The Spending Plan must be in the template that is provided. Any other format will not be reviewed and the funding for that COD Basin will be forfeit.** A workshop for the COD Basins only will be provided to review the scoring criteria and Spending Plan template. Each applicant should provide a Spending Plan for a minimum of \$10 million for the SGM Grant Program staff to review and rank. The COD Basin applicants **have until noon on February 18, 2022** to submit a Spending Plan to sgwp@water.ca.gov or will forfeit the allotted funding.

Once the Spending Plan is received by the SGM Grant Program staff, the applicant will be contacted to set up an appointment to review the Spending Plan, check the eligibility of the Project(s), and to develop a draft Agreement. The draft Agreement will be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and the Financial Assistance Branch (FAB) Manager. The Manager of the SGM Grant Program will review their comments and finalize the Agreement to route for signature.

To expedite the Agreement process, it is highly recommended that the applicants within the COD Basins submit their Spending Plans well in advance of February 18, 2022, if possible. The SGM Grant Program staff will be reviewing the Spending Plans in the order in which they were received.

Any remaining available funds not awarded in the Round 1 grant solicitation will be available in future funding rounds.

B. Medium and High Priority Basin SGMA Implementation Funding (Round 2)

The remaining approximately \$17 million in Budget Act of 2021 funds (including any unawarded funds in Round 1), the remaining approximately \$71.5 million in Proposition 68 funds, and an estimated \$114 million in future General Funds will be combined for a competitive grant solicitation(s). If any additional funds are provided to the SGM Grant Program for awards between the posting of the final PSP to the Round 2 grant solicitation, an additional solicitation(s) will be held for additional grant awards. Applicants must be located within a COD basin, medium, or high priority basins. Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received SGMA Implementation funding. Funds can be used for revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP or Alternative to a GSP and for funding capital improvement projects outlined in those plans. Funding will be awarded in a competitive manner based upon the scoring criteria outlined in Table 7.

A minimum of \$35 million, or 30% (whichever is greater), of the General Funds must be used towards projects that serve Underrepresented Communities (URC); of that a minimum of 10% of the grant funds must be used for projects that serve Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC). In addition, a minimum of \$15 million of the Proposition 68 funds must be used towards Projects or Components that benefit an SDAC.

Any remaining funds not awarded in this grant solicitation will be available in future funding rounds.

Eligible project types and eligible tasks are described further in Section III.B.

At this time, the minimum and maximum grant award amounts for the Round 2 grant solicitation are:

Minimum Grant Amount – \$1 million per basin
Maximum Grant Amount – \$20 million per basin

This is subject to change based upon the future appropriations approved by the Legislature.

C. Eligible Costs and Payment

Eligible reimbursable costs are those that were: incurred by the Grantees after the date the 2021 Guidelines and PSP were approved, meet the conditions of the "Eligible Costs" as outlined in Section III., and defined as "reimbursable costs" in Appendix B of the 2021 Guidelines. DWR's standard method of payment is reimbursement in arrears. Funds are disbursed after DWR approves the submittal of the DWR invoice form and required backup documentation by the Grantee. Grantees shall invoice and report on a quarterly basis only, except for the technical assistance provider. Additionally, DWR reserves the right to withdraw awarded funds due to lack of responsiveness on the part of the Grantee in submitting invoices and reporting and associated deliverables.

The Concurrent Drawdown method, in which the Grantee can request reimbursement, will be the only payment method in this solicitation. See the 2021 Guidelines Appendix B for more information on reimbursement methods. Costs associated with the development or management of the GSA and costs associated with the development and submittal of a grant application are not eligible.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Applications for the Grant Solicitation(s) must meet all applicable eligibility criteria to be considered for grant funding as described in the 2021 Guidelines, Section III. Additional eligibility requirements are described below and identified in Question 5 in Table 3 – Grant Application Checklist, of this PSP. A comprehensive eligibility checklist is provided in Table 2 – SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation Eligibility Checklist, as a reference for applicants.

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the SGMA Implementation are:

- GSAs;
- Member agencies of GSAs;
- An entity that represents a GSA(s) which can include public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s Tribal Consultation list, or mutual water companies; and
- Agencies with an Alternative to a GSP, including those within basins that adjudicated after January 1, 2015 or adjudications that have been filed but the court has not acted on the filing; and
- Entities that have adjudicated with or without a Watermaster or are in the process of adjudicating that do not have a GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

The Round 1 grant solicitation is limited to applicants who meet the criteria listed above and are located within eligible COD basins only.

The Round 2 grant solicitation is limited to the applicants who meet the criteria listed above and are located within medium and high priority basins, including COD basins.

Public utilities and mutual water companies must provide justification that the proposed project has a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors. All applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria outlined in the 2021 Guidelines.

Entities representing a GSA(s) must have a letter of support from each GSA they represent. All applicants must have a GSP that has been submitted to DWR for review and deemed complete by DWR (posted to the SGMA Portal by DWR) or an Alternative to a GSP. An exemption to this requirement can be provided for those basins whose basin prioritization was changed by DWR and whose GSPs are not due to DWR until 2024/2025. Basins that are adjudicated prior to January 1, 2015 **are not** eligible to apply for or receive grant funding. Go to the SGMA website link provided in the Foreword for additional information on Bulletin 118, Basin Prioritization. If you are uncertain of the eligibility requirements, please contact the SGM Grant Program staff at sqwp@water.ca.gov.

Only one application will be accepted per basin. Applicants who apply on behalf of a GSA(s) are required to obtain and submit a letter of support from each GSA they represent.

Applicants are encouraged to work with the interested parties and other non-member agency(-ies) of the GSA(s) in their basin(s) (e.g., resource conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, Tribes, etc.) that have potential activities, tasks, and/or components that are complimentary to the overall grant application and proposed Project. These activities, tasks, and/or components should be included within the proposed application with the GSA, member agency(-ies) of a GSA, or Alternative to a GSP as the applicant and potential Grantee. The interested parties and/or non-member agency(-ies) would be listed as a cooperating entity. Project proponents would access grant funding through their relationship with the grant applicant, at DWR’s discretion. DWR strongly recommends working with all potential interested parties within the basin(s) to ensure successful implementation of the GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

The grant applicant is the agency submitting the application (e.g., GSA) on behalf of the basin(s). The grant applicant is also the same agency that would enter into an agreement with the state should the

application be successful. If there is more than one eligible agency within a basin, an eligible agency may be part of the proposals as a cooperating entity but must identify a single entity that will act as the grant applicant and submit a basin-wide application and receive the grant on behalf of the basin.

Any funds not awarded and still available to DWR to award, and any future funding provided to the SGM Grant Program, will use the 2021 Guidelines and this PSP in a future grant solicitation.

B. Eligible Project Types

Eligible project types for the SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation – Planning and Projects must be consistent with the purpose of the Budget Act of 2021 and Proposition 68, which include:

- Activities and/or tasks that consist of the development of groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects;
- Projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serve as a source of drinking water (Public Resources Code § 80146(a));
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation;
- Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential; early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge; or projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat; and
- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP or Alternative to a GSP. The Project or Component must fill known data gaps and address comments received from DWR after its review of a submitted GSP or Alternative to a GSP, if received. If the applicant has not received comments from DWR on their GSP or Alternative to a GSP, the Project or Component must be consistent with SGMA regulations and GSP requirements.

Eligible projects include those activities associated with the planning and implementation of a GSP or Alternative to a GSP and must also be consistent with the goals within the GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

Projects that are in basins determined to be probationary under SGMA by the State Water Board at or after the time of application submittal **are** eligible for this grant program to allow for those applicants to continue working towards sustainability. The project area and service area must be within the most current DWR Bulletin 118 basin that are designated by DWR as medium or high priority basins, including COD basins, by the latest SGMA Basin Prioritization.

The use of the term “project” refers to the activities and/or tasks related to the planning or implementation of a GSP or Alternative to a GSP and can include multiple components and/or tasks. A proposal, or project for purposes of this PSP, refers to all the supporting documentation submitted that details the actions that are proposed for the funding. The application will describe a single proposal/project; however, each application may contain multiple components and tasks that collectively makeup a single proposal/project. See the 2021 Guidelines, Appendix B for further definitions of components and project.

Examples of eligible project activities, tasks, and/or components can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Filling data gaps in a GSP(s) or Alternative to a GSP
- Project development activities (e.g., feasibility studies, design, permits, environmental documents)
- Long-term planning studies
- Technical and planning assistance for Underrepresented Communities
- Interested party outreach and engagement
- Vulnerability or risk assessments
- Technical assistance for Underrepresented Communities
- Engagement and outreach to Underrepresented Communities
- Evaluation of groundwater management needs

- Impact studies on domestic and de minimis groundwater well users
- Annual reporting for GSPs and Alternative to a GSP
- Identifying and proper destruction of abandoned wells
- Identifying of recharge location(s)
- Soil carbon enhancement and Healthy Soil Initiative activities
- Native Yield studies
- Coordination activities with adjacent GSA(s)
- Instrumentation for monitoring wells (e.g., pressure transducers)
- Pilot or demonstration projects meeting the purpose of SB-170 and Proposition 68
- Installation of meters on groundwater production and agricultural wells
- Installation of monitoring well(s)
- Connection of communities to a municipal water supply (except laterals on private land)
- Groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects
- Groundwater contaminant remediation or prevention projects for groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water
- Construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of conveyance facilities for groundwater recharge projects
- Wastewater treatment and water recycling facility upgrades for groundwater recharge project sources
- Stormwater and runoff capture projects that support groundwater recharge
- Groundwater recharge facility expansion
- Seawater barrier injection wells
- Groundwater recharge projects that address groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation
- Planning, design, and environmental documentation only as a task of a Project or Component of an overall project (not a standalone task).

Please email the SGM Grant Program staff at sgwp@water.ca.gov if you are not sure about a Project, component, or activity that you may be applying for funding. The SGM Grant Program staff will make appointments with you to review your project(s) in relationship to the eligible activities/tasks and competitiveness of the application as a whole.

Examples of ineligible project activities, tasks, and/or components can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Gifts of public funds to a private person or entity (e.g., gift certificates and other incentives to attend public meetings, complete surveys, etc.)
- Purchasing of low-flow and/or high-density appliances
- Water markets and trading programs
- Purchases of water supplies
- Rebate programs
- Travel expenses, except mileage to the project location from a pre-approved starting location
- Food and drink
- Per diem expenses
- Federal and state taxes
- Tuition
- Overhead/Indirect/Markup – for Grantees, consultants/contractors, or their subs.

NOTE: Water Code section 10562(b)(7) requires that all projects that include stormwater and dry weather runoff capture be listed in a SWRP or Functionally Equivalent SWRP (FE-SWRP) and the SWRP or FE-SWRP must be incorporated into an adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) for the region the project is located. The State Water Board defines stormwater as “the temporary surface water runoff and drainage generated by immediately preceding storms” and defines stormwater and dry weather runoff capture as “to intercept, store, manage, and use stormwater and dry weather runoff, thereby reducing the volume of runoff exiting a site”. All proposals using stormwater runoff, dry weather runoff, and potential peak flows should review Water Code section

10562 and the State Water Board's SWRP Guidelines. Applicants should consult their legal counsel regarding this topic.

IV. SOLICITATION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

The solicitation period is listed in the table below. These dates are estimated and are subject to change. Any change or update to the schedule will be posted on the SGM Grant Program website. Updates may also be sent through email announcements. To be placed on the SGM Grant Program email contact list, please use the link listed in the Foreword.

TABLE 1 – SCHEDULE FOR SGM GRANT PROGRAM SGMA IMPLEMENTATION GRANT SOLICITATION

Milestone or Activity	Tentative Date¹
SGMA Implementation - Round 1 Schedule	
Final 2021 Guidelines & PSP posted to public	December 17, 2021
COD Basin – Round 1 Grant Solicitation Opens	December 20, 2021
Application Workshop	January 5, 2021
Round 1 Grant Solicitation Closes	February 18, 2022 ²
Final Awards	March/April 2022
Execute Agreements	May 2022
Initial TA Program Ends – Release of Needs, Risks, and/or Vulnerabilities in Underrepresented Communities to public	July/August 2022
SGMA Implementation - Round 2 Schedule	
Medium & High Priority - Round 2 Grant Solicitations Opens	September 2022
Public Review of Draft Funding List	April/May 2023
Final Awards	June 2023
Execute Agreements	July/August 2023

¹ Dates are subject to change and will be determined based on number of comments received for the draft document, number of applications received, amount of funds requested, and number of grant awards given. Dates for the TA Program is dependent upon the ability to have public meetings due to COVID-19 mandates by State and/or County.

² Applicants are encouraged to submit their Round 1 Spending Plan prior to February 18, 2022 deadline, if possible.

An applicant workshop will be conducted to address questions and to provide general assistance to potential applicants preparing grant applications. Details of the workshop will be provided via the SGM website and email distribution list. In addition to the informational workshop, applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from DWR staff in understanding SGM Grant Program requirements and completing grant applications. Questions can be submitted via the contact information provided in the Foreword on Page 2.

V. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This section provides instructions for preparing and applying and consists of two subsections: A. What to Submit and B. How to Submit. It is important that applicants follow the Application Instructions to ensure that their application will address all the required elements. Applicants are reminded that once the application has been submitted to DWR, any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package, will be waived. Prior to beginning the application, applicants should verify that they meet the Eligibility Criteria outlined in the 2021 Guidelines, Section III.C. and in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2 – SGM GRANT PROGRAM SGMA IMPLEMENTATION ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Criteria Type	Eligibility Criteria	Place to Provide Information	Criteria Met (Yes, No, or NA¹)
Applicant Eligibility	Is the applicant eligible?	Self-Certification Form	
	Agricultural Water Management Compliance Link: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency (2015 and/or 2020 AWMPs are applicable).	Self-Certification Form	
	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Compliance Link: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Elevation-Monitoring--CASGEM . Basin Prioritization information can be found at: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization	Self-Certification Form	
	Climate Change Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Consistency with the Delta Plan	Self-Certification Form	
	Groundwater Management Compliance, SGMA Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Open and Transparent Water Data	Self-Certification Form	
	Public Utilities and Mutual Water Companies Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	SWRP Compliance SB 985 Link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swrp/	Self-Certification Form	
	Surface Water Diverter Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Sustainable Water Use and Demand Reduction Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Urban Water Management Compliance Link: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Management-Plans . (2015 and/or 2020 UWMPs are applicable).	Self-Certification Form	
	Water Metering Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
Proposal Eligibility	Only one application per basin OR Applicant is acting as the sole GSA over multiple basins	NA	
	Does the proposal include design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities?	GRanTS Application	
	Does the proposal include acquisition of water except for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required current applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations?	GRanTS Application	
	Does the proposal include any share of the costs of remediation recovered from parties responsible for the contamination of a groundwater storage aquifer?	GRanTS Application	
Project Type Eligibility	Is the project eligible?	NA	

¹ NA = not applicable

A. What to Submit

Applicants must submit a complete SGM Grant Program Application during the open filing phase as shown in Table 1 – Schedule for SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation – Planning and Projects Grant Solicitation.

B. How to Submit

1. Round 1

Applicants should submit a Spending Plan to SGWP@water.ca.gov by February 18, 2022, to obtain funding. The Spending Plan should be completed using the template provided by the assigned DWR Grant Manager. Any Spending Plans outside of the template format will not be reviewed or awarded any funding. The Spending Plan should have copies of the completed scoring criteria as outlined in Table 7 for each project proposed for funding for the basin. Below are the steps an applicant must take to apply for the Round 1 grant solicitation funds.

1. Depending on the COD Basin, the applicants should develop a project review committee that are responsible for completing a self-evaluation for a project using the scoring criteria outlined in Table 7. The project review committee should include a representative for each entity within a GSA, a representative from each GSA within the basin if there are multiple GSAs, a representative from each entity within an, and/or another method where all interested parties have an equal vote.
2. The project review committee can either develop one consensus scoring self-evaluation for each project; complete an independent scoring criterion and then use the average as the final score; have one entity that is not related to the project to conduct an independent review of another entities project and have that one score as the final; or another un-biased review process predetermined by the review committee. The scoring criteria Excel table will be provided by the assigned DWR Grant Manager. This scoring criteria should be used as it is and cannot be edited in any way. Any applications who have edited the scoring criteria will be thrown out and not awarded any grant funds.
3. Once the final score(s) is obtained for each project, the projects should be ranked based upon the scoring criteria and listed highest to lowest.
4. If the project review committee determine that a lower scoring project(s) should be higher on the ranking list due to available funding, accessibility to the site, already completed environmental/permitting/design, then the project review committee must be responsible for fully documenting and justifying why a lower scoring project was included within the Spending Plan versus a higher scoring project.
5. The applicant must provide an adopted resolution that has been adopted by the applicant's governing body designating an authorized representative to submit the application and execute an agreement with the State of California for the SGMA Implementation grant application. Please see Pages 19 – 20 for the example resolution language and additional instructions.
6. Complete the Eligibility Self-Evaluation form located on the SGM Grant Program website at www.water.ca.gov and submit the Eligibility Self-Evaluation form with the Spending Plan. Please see Page 20 for additional instructions. Table 2 below is an example of the eligibility questions included within the Eligibility Self-Evaluation form.
7. Prepare the Spending Plan and include the scoring criteria sheet(s) per recommended project, review notes, and other justification, along with the resolution(s) and Eligibility Self-Evaluation form, and submit the plan to SGWP@water.ca.gov **prior to noon on February 18, 2022**. Any COD Basin that has not submitted a Spending Plan by this date and time has forfeited the funds and they will be moved into the available funding for Round 2.

2. Round 2

Applicants must submit a complete application online using DWR's GRanTS electronic submittal tool, or another electronic submittal tool, please use the link listed in the Foreword or as directed by SGM Grant Program via email and on the SGM Grant Program website. GRanTS can only be accessed with Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome. The name of these grant solicitations in GRanTS is " SGMA Implementation Round #" depending on the grant solicitation in which you are applying. To access the

application, applicants must register and have an account in GRanTS, or another online submittal tool, if they have not already done so. The online application will be available no later than the date specified on the Program website, according to Table 1. If an applicant has questions as to the content or the information requested in the grant solicitation, or questions or problems with GRanTS, please refer to the phone number or email listed in the Foreword.

When uploading an attachment in GRanTS, the following attachment title naming convention must be used: Att#_SGM_AttachmentName_#ofTotal#, where "#ofTotal#" identifies the number of files that make up an attachment, where "#" is the number of a file and "Total#" is the total number of files submitted in the attachment. This naming convention will be repeated in more detail for each Attachment in the following pages.

File size for each attachment submitted via GRanTS is limited to 2 gigabytes (GB). Breaking documents into sections or chapters so that each are less than 2 GB will aid in uploading files. Acceptable file formats are: PDF, MS Word, MS Excel, or MS Project. However, DWR prefers and highly encourages applicants to use PDF files. All portions of the GRanTS application must be received in the open filing phase. Submittals received outside the open filing phase may not be reviewed or considered for funding. The GRanTS system will allow applicants to resubmit any attachments before the close of the open filing phase.

Note: The GRanTS, or other application tool, instruction is not for Round 1. All of the instructions listed below is not for Round 1; however, applicants for Round 1 will access certain tables in this section following the instructions listed above on Page 15. Please provide answers to only the questions listed in Table 3. Do not answer questions that appear on the screen in GRanTS that are not listed below, unless marked with an asterisk (*). Please note that the application and/or review questions outlined in Tables 3 through 7 may be reworded, combined, or separated as the information is transferred into our online application tool (e.g., GRanTS or other application). SGM Grant Program staff may make clarifying or editorial changes to the application following approval. SGM Grant Program staff may also make changes to Tables 3 through 7 depending upon language outlined in future appropriations and legislative requirements. **Tables 3 through 7 are subject to change depending on the final preparations of the review questionnaire.** No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

TABLE 3 – GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST (NOT FOR ROUND 1)
APPLICANT INFORMATION TAB
<i>The following information is general and applies to the applicant and the overall proposal. Specific project information should be detailed on separate project component tabs provided in the GRanTS application. Applicants must enter all information listed in the Information Tab of this checklist (Table 3) along with any field marked with an asterisk (*).</i>
<u>Organization Name</u> : Provide the name of the Agency/Organization responsible for submitting the application. Should the proposal be successful, this Agency/Organization will be the Grantee.
<u>Point of Contact</u> : Please type the First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Phone Number, Division Name, Address, City, State, and Zip of the Point of Contact person. Should the proposal be successful, this person will be the Point of Contact for the Agreement.
<u>Point of Contact Position Title</u> : Provide the title of the Point of Contact person. (Maximum Character Limit: 50)
<u>Proposal Name</u> : Provide the title of the proposal. This title cannot be changed for the life of the grant and should NOT include the grant solicitation title anywhere. (Maximum Character Limit: 50)
<u>Proposal Objective</u> : Provide the objective of the proposal. The objective should include the project description, purpose, goals, and targets of the proposed project. The reader should be able to understand what is being proposed (project description), where the project will be located, the purpose/why the project is needed, and how (goals and targets) those needs will be met. (Maximum Character Limit: 2,000)
PROPOSAL BUDGET
<i>For the proposal, the following budget items should be taken from Table 5A or 5B – Grant Proposal Summary Budget</i>
<u>Other Contribution</u> : Provide the amount of other funds (such as other State grants, Federal grants, etc.) not included in the categories as listed below. If there is no other contribution, enter zero. Other Contribution costs are not considered part of the total project cost.
<u>Local Contribution (Cost Share)</u> : Provide the local cost share that will be committed to the Project. If none, enter zero.
<u>Federal Contribution</u> : Enter any Federal funds being used. If none, enter zero.
<u>In-Kind Contribution</u> : Leave blank and include all In-Kind Contributions in the Local Contribution above.
<u>Grant Funds Requested</u> : Please provide the amount of total grant funds requested. Amounts must be between \$1,000,000 and \$20,000,000. The amounts may be edited based upon Legislature approval of future appropriations.
<u>Total Proposal Cost</u> : Provide the total proposal cost, in dollars. This amount must agree with the total proposal cost shown in Attachment 3 Budget Table is the sum of the Local Contribution (Cost Share) and Grant Funds Requested.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
<i>GRanTS requests latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds. You may use converters on the web, such as https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/dms-decimal</i>
<u>Latitude</u> : Enter the latitude at the location that best represents the Project area. This should be taken from the center of the Project site.
<u>Longitude</u> : Enter the longitude at the location that best represents the Project area. This should be taken from the center of the Project site.
<u>Longitude/Latitude Clarification</u> : Only use if necessary to explain the location. (Maximum Character Limit: 250)
<u>Location</u> : Identify the approximate location that best represents the center of the Project area. Provide cross-streets or the closest main streets for reference. Provide City and County(-ies) the Project is located in for frame of reference. (Maximum Character Limit: 100)
<u>County(-ies)</u> : Provide the County(ies) in which the Project is located.
<u>Groundwater Basins</u> : Provide the groundwater basin as listed in the current version of DWR Bulletin 118 (https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Boundary-Modifications) in which the Project is located. Only one application per basin is allowed.
<u>Hydrologic Regions</u> : Provide the hydrologic region in which the Project is located. For proposals covering multiple hydrologic regions, hold down the control key and select all that apply.
<u>Watershed(s)</u> : Provide the name of the watershed(s) the groundwater basin underlies (Maximum Character Limit: 250)

TABLE 3 – GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST (NOT FOR ROUND 1)
A map of California watershed can be found at the following link: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed/Documents/CALFED_Watershed_Map[1].pdf . If the groundwater basin covers multiple watersheds, you may only provide one "Unique Watershed Number" as listed on the watershed map and should be the one that the majority of the Project is located.
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION
Enter the State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts in which the groundwater basin is located. For proposals covering multiple State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts, hold the control key down and select all that apply. Maps of these districts are found at: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html .
PROJECTS TAB
<i>This section contains information about the project contained in the Proposal. Applicants must enter all information listed in the Projects Tab of this Checklist (Table 3) along with any field marked with an asterisk (*).</i>
PROJECT INFORMATION
Project Name: Provide the title of the Project (Maximum Character Limit: 150) DO NOT include the solicitation name in the Project name (e.g., SGMA Implementation). The Project name will remain the same for the life of the grant and must match identically with all invoices and timesheets that will be provided in invoicing if the Project is selected for funding.
Implementing Organization: This should be GSAs, member agencies of GSAs, an entity that represents a GSA(s) (which can include public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's Tribal Consultation list, or mutual water companies), and agencies with an Alternative to a GSP.
Secondary Implementing Organization: Not applicable to this solicitation
Proposed Start Date: This date includes local cost share and reimbursement; therefore, the Start Date should be after the date the 2021 Guidelines and PSP were approved (approximately December 24, 2021).
Proposed End Date: This is the last date that funds can be reimbursed for the Project; therefore, the End Date should be before June 30, 2025 (end date could be subject to change based upon legislative approval of future appropriations).
Scope of Work: Describe the type(s) of work proposed and task(s) needed to complete work. (Maximum Character Limit: 450)
Project Description: Provide a generalized description of the proposed Project. Provide the need the Project will meet and how the proposed Project will meet the need(s). (Maximum Character Limit: 1,000)
Project Objective: Provide a description of the proposed Project's objectives, the goals and targets needed to meet those objectives, and how the proposed Project will meet those. (Maximum Character Limit: 500)
PROJECT BENEFITS INFORMATION
Benefit Level: Leave blank.
Benefit Type: Leave blank.
Benefit: Leave blank.
Description: Leave blank.
Measurement: Leave blank.
PROJECT BUDGET
<i>The following budget items should be taken from the Grant Proposal Summary Budget</i>
If only one Project (no components) is being proposed, use the "Copy Budget data from Applicant Info" feature to populate previously entered data. Otherwise, enter individual budget items for each Project component in the same manner as described for the Applicant Information Tab. The sum of the budget items must agree with the total project budget.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Enter the geographical information for each individual Project and Project component location (latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds).
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION (Note: for each Project component; different from Applicant Information)
If only one Project is being proposed, use the "Copy Legislative data from Applicant Info" feature to populate previously entered data. Otherwise, enter legislature information for each Project component in the same manner as described for the Applicant Information Tab. For projects covering more than one district, hold the control key down and select all that apply.

TABLE 3 – GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST (NOT FOR ROUND 1)	
QUESTIONS TAB	
<i>The answers to these questions will be used in processing the application and determining eligibility and completeness.</i>	
Q.1. Project Description:	Provide a brief abstract of the proposal. This abstract must provide an overview of the proposal including the main issues and priorities addressed in the proposal. (25 words or less)
Q.2. Previous Funding:	Has the applicant received prior funding through another grant source? If so, identify the source and amount of funding provided for the Project.
Q.3. Project Representatives:	Provide the name and details of the Project Director who is responsible for signing and executing the Agreement for the applicant. This is the authorized person as outlined within the adopted resolution and the title within the adopted resolution must align with the title provided here. Persons that are contractors/consultants or their subs cannot be listed as the Project Director. Other entities included in the GSA can be listed here.
Q.4. Project Manager:	Provide the name, title, and contact information of the Project Manager from the applicant agency or organization that will be the day-to-day contact on this application. This person must be an employee of the applicant agency and cannot be contactors/consultants or their subs.
Q.5. Eligibility:	Has the applicant met the requirements listed within the 2021 Guidelines and submitted the Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification form?
Q.5.1.	Is the proposed Project consistent with the goals within the GSP or Alternative to a GSP?
Q.6. Eligibility:	To satisfy SB 985 requirements, all stormwater and dry weather capture projects must be listed in a SWRP or approved FE-SWRP that is consistent with the relevant code provisions enacted by SB 985 (Water Code §10562 (b)(7)) as determined by the State Water Board. The SWRP or FE-SWRP must be incorporated within the local Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The definition of a stormwater and dry weather capture project is provided within Appendix B of the 2021 Guidelines.
Q.7. Underrepresented Community Assistance:	Will the Project benefit an Underrepresented Community?
Q.7.1.:	If so, how much of the funds requested will directly benefit the Underrepresented Community?
Q.7.2:	How much of the funds being requested will benefit an SDAC?
Q.8. Certification:	By submitting the application, the applicant and its authorized representative are certifying that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The applicant is an eligible entity; b) He/She/They is/are aware that any attachment exceeding the page limit listed in the attachment templates will NOT be reviewed; c) He/She/They is/are aware that, once the proposal is submitted in GRanTS, any privacy rights and other confidentiality protections offered by law with respect to the application package and project location are waived; d) He/She/They is/are aware that, if the proposed Project is chosen for funding, any privacy rights and other confidentiality protections offered by law with respect to any portion of the grant (including the Agreement, all deliverables, all invoices, and backup documentation supporting the invoices, and all reporting requirements outlined within the agreement) are waived; e) He/She/They agrees/agree to the Start and End Dates provided in this application and will complete the project within the dates provided; and f) He/She/They, and their attorney, has/have read and agrees to all the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement template.
CLIMATE RISK IN INVESTMENTS TAB	
<i>The answers to these questions will be used in surveying Program applicants.</i>	
Q.9. Climate:	Does the organization have a primary point of contact for climate change? (Yes/No. If yes, who is it and to what position in the organization does that person report?)
Q.10. Climate:	Does the organization have a strategic business plan that considers climate change? (Yes/No. If yes, please submit a copy.)
Q.11. Climate:	Has the organization adopted any policies or made any formal public statements about climate change? (Yes/No. If yes, please submit a copy.)
Q.12. Climate:	Has the organization conducted a climate change vulnerability assessment? (Yes/No. If yes, please submit a copy.)
Q.13. Climate:	How would you describe your organization’s capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change? (Open ended; one to three paragraphs.)

ATTACHMENTS TAB	<i>Provide the attachments listed below by attaching files to the GRanTS application. When attaching files, please use the naming convention found in Section V.B of this PSP. Requirements for information to be included in these attachments are found in Section V.B.2 of this PSP or in the supplied templates.</i>
ATTACHMENT #	ATTACHMENT TITLE
Attachment 1	Authorizing Documentation (e.g., adopted resolution using example provided on Page 18)
Attachment 2	Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification Form
Attachment 3	Work Plan (Applicant <u>MUST</u> use supplied template)
Attachment 4	Maps, supporting letters, figures, tables, or budget backup documentation (Optional)

ATTACHMENTS TAB INSTRUCTIONS (not for Round 1)

Within the Attachments Tab, applicants are required to submit up to three attachments, as applicable, to complete the SGMA Implementation grant solicitation application. A discussion of each attachment is provided below. Attachments 1 and 2 (Authorizing Documentation and Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification Form) are mandatory and provide backup documentation for the eligibility of an applicant. Attachment 3 (Work Plan) is also mandatory and will be scored during the application review based upon the applicant using the templates provided on the Program website.

ATTACHMENT 1. AUTHORIZING DOCUMENTATION

For the "AttachmentName" in the naming convention of GRanTS, use the following for this attachment:

Att1_SGM_AuthDoc_#of#".

The applicant must provide an adopted resolution that has been adopted by the applicant’s governing body designating an authorized representative to submit the application and execute an agreement with the State of California for the SGMA Implementation grant application. An adopted resolution must be provided before DWR can enter into an agreement with the Grantee. If a resolution cannot be adopted prior to the application submittal, a draft can be submitted with a note of when an adopted resolution is expected.

If an entity is acting on behalf of a GSA, then an adopted resolution from the GSA is required authorizing the applicant entity to act in such a role. Furthermore, a resolution is required by the entity acting as applicant stating authorization to work on behalf of the GSA. Therefore, no less than two adopted resolutions are required for the application and grant execution.

The following text box provides an example of the resolution that must be submitted to fulfill this requirement.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolved by the <Insert Name of Applicant Governing Body>, that an application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round <insert funding round> Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) (Pub. Resource Code, § 80000 et seq.) and the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) and to enter into an agreement to receive a grant for the: <Insert Project Name>. The <Insert title of Authorized Applicant Official> of the <Insert Name of Applicant>, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a grant agreement and any future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the California Department of Water Resources. Passed and adopted at a meeting of the <Insert Name of Applicant> on <Insert date>.

Authorized Original Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Clerk/Secretary: _____

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the <Insert Name of Applicant> held on <Insert date>.

Clerk/Secretary: _____

DWR highly recommends you follow this language verbatim to ensure that the resolution is sufficient to execute an agreement, execute future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit all reporting requirements. **Any deviation from this template may result in a delay in executing the Agreement and beginning the Project.**

ATTACHMENT 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SELF-CERTIFICATION FORM

For the "AttachmentName" in the naming convention of GRanTS, use the following for this attachment:

"Att2_SGM_EligDoc_#of#".

The applicant must use the form located on the Program website (www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants) and upload the completed form as Attachment 2. Details for the eligibility criteria can be found in Section III.C. of the 2021 Guidelines.

ATTACHMENT 3. WORK PLAN (not for Round 1)

For the "AttachmentName" in the naming convention of GRanTS, use the following for this attachment:

"Att3_SGM_WrkPlan_#of#".

Attachment 3 must contain the Project description, a Scope of Work, one budget summary table, and one schedule table. The budget categories, schedule tasks, and scope of work must align with one another. The Work Plan template should be downloaded from the Program webpage at www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

The Work Plan **MUST NOT EXCEED** the page limits as detailed in Table 4 below. Pages must use a minimum Arial, 10-point type font. Anything greater than the maximum allowed page will not be

reviewed or used in our scoring of the application. Maps, supporting letters, or figures should NOT be included within the Work Plan document and should be uploaded separately. There is no limit to the maps, supporting letters, figures, or tables. Please refer to the template for specific details that should be included. An outline and general description are provided in the table below. **Any changes made to the Word template will not be reviewed or scored by DWR technical staff.**

TABLE 4 – WORK PLAN TEMPLATE OUTLINE

Section Title	Section Description	Maximum Page Limit
GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Provide a narrative description of the proposed Project (or component), a brief description of the groundwater basin from the GSP, and a description of communities served by the Project. Describe how the Project (or component) will help to meet or meet the sustainability goal(s) outlined in the GSP or Alternative to a GSP. Provide the goal(s) and target(s) using quantifiable benefits only (e.g., acre-feet per year (AFY) captured, AFY recharged, etc.). Other benefits can be discussed but will not increase your score.	4 PAGES PER COMPONENT
SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES	Descriptions of the anticipated tasks necessary to complete the proposal. Tasks should be organized by the budget categories, as indicated in the template. Each task identified in the proposal must have a minimum of one deliverable. Deliverables should be actual work products that can be submitted to DWR.	2 PAGES PER COMPONENT
BUDGET	In the table provided in the template, provide the estimated costs for each budget category. If the Project has components, the budget summary is an estimate per component only. This is a summary budget only. If desired, backup documentation for the cost estimates can be provided in a separate document along with the maps, figures, or tables. Local Cost Share (aka. Matching Funds) are not required. However, additional points will be provided for those who provide Local Cost Share at a minimum of 5% of the total project cost.	2
SCHEDULE	In the table provided in the template, provide a schedule for each budget category showing the sequence and timing of each of the tasks and subtasks, depending on how the tasks and subtasks are outlined in the Work Plan’s Scope of Work and Deliverables and Budget table.	2

Use Table 5: Proposal Summary Budget Table (Table 5A, No Components) or Component Summary Budget (Table 5B, Multiple Components). Costs must be broken down consistent with how tasks are presented in the Scope of Work section of the Work Plan. For example, if the Scope of Work describes projects at the task and subtask level, the budget must also present costs at the task and subtask level.

NOTE: the maximum grant administration budget cannot exceed 10% and the maximum construction administration budget cannot exceed 15% of the requested grant funds. Grantees shall invoice and report on a quarterly basis only. The technical assistance provider may invoice and report on a monthly basis.

Grant Proposal Summary Budget

If there are no components to the proposal, Table 5A should be used.

TABLE 5A – GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY BUDGET (NO COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

Budget Categories ¹	(a) Requested Grant Amount	(b) Local Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source ²	(c) Total Cost	(d) % Local Cost Share (Col (b))/(Col (c))
(a) Grant Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(c) Construction / Implementation	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(e) Interested Parties Outreach / Public Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Grand Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<i>Sum rows (a) through (e) for each column</i>				

¹ Only these Budget Categories shall be used. Tasks can be added for more detail. If any Budget Category is edited, the budget will not be scored.

² List sources of funding: Use as much space as required here. If reporting Local Cost Share, Local Cost Share is calculated based on the total project cost (grant amount plus match), **not** the grant amount. Local Cost Share will not be included in the Agreement, if awarded, and will only be used as a tool for scoring the grant application.

If there are components, Table 5B should be used.

TABLE 5B – GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY BUDGET (MULTIPLE COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

Budget Categories ¹	(a) Requested Grant Amount	(b) Local Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source ²	(c) Total Cost	(d) % Local Cost Share (Col (b)/ Col (c))
Component 1 Grant Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Component 2: Title	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Component 3: Title	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Component n: Title	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Grand Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	%
<i>Sum rows (1) through (n) for each column</i>				

¹ These components are shown here for example purpose only. Actual number of components may vary.

² List sources of funding: Use as much space as required. Local Cost Share is calculated based on the total project cost (grant amount plus match), **not** the grant amount. Local Cost Share will not be included in the Agreement, if awarded, and will only be used as a tool for scoring the grant application.

Grant Proposal Summary Schedule

The schedule should show the sequence and timing of each of the tasks and subtasks, depending on how the tasks and subtasks are outlined in the Scope of Work and Budget table. Please use Table 6A for applications without components and Table 6B for applications with multiple components.

The proposal dates within the proposal must start and end at the following dates:

Start Date – Reimbursable grant funds begin after the date the 2021 Guidelines and PSP are approved (anticipated for December 17, 2021).

Work Completion Date – All work, including final invoicing and reporting and retention invoice, must be completed on or before June 30, 2025. Actual end date may be edited based upon future appropriations and legislature approvals.

The dates within the Schedule cannot be before the Start Date listed above or after the Work Completion Date. The Work Completion Date is the date that all deliverables and invoices are submitted to DWR and approved by the DWR Grant Manager. The Work Completion Date IS NOT the construction end date. Absolutely no work will be reimbursed or reported as local cost share after the Work Completion Date.

TABLE 6A – GRANT PROPOSAL SCHEDULE (NO COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

Categories	Start Date (Earliest Start Date)	End Date (Latest End Date)
(a) Grant Agreement Administration		
Task n. xx		
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental		
Task n. xx		
(c) Construction / Implementation		
Task n. xx		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		
Task n. xx		
(e) Interested parties Outreach / Public Education		
Task n. xx		

TABLE 6B – GRANT PROPOSAL SCHEDULE (MULTIPLE COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

COMPONENT TITLE: _____

Categories	Start Date	End Date
Component 1: Grant Agreement Administration	Earliest Start Date	Latest End Date
(a) Grant Agreement Administration		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
Component 2: Title	Earliest Start Date	Latest End Date
(a) Component Administration		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(c) Construction / Implementation		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		

Categories	Start Date	End Date
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(e) Stakeholder Outreach / Public Education		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
Component n: Title	Earliest Start Date	Latest End Date
(a) Component Administration		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(c) Construction / Implementation		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(e) Interested parties Outreach / Public Education		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW

All applications will first be screened for eligibility and completeness in accordance with Section VI of the 2021 Guidelines and Section III of this PSP. The information provided by applicants in GRanTS, as well as Attachments 1 through 3 of the application, will be used in determining eligibility and completeness. The final dates for all proposals for both Round 1 and Round 2 will be provided in the grant solicitation announcement and posted on the SGM Grant Program website (www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants).

A. Round 1

All complete and eligible applications will require a self-evaluation be submitted with the application package. Applicants will self-evaluate their application based on the evaluation questions presented below in Table 7 – Application Evaluation Criteria. Eligible applicants should submit their self-evaluation form and spending plan to sgwp@water.ca.gov no later than **noon on February 18, 2022**. SGM Grant Program staff will meet with each eligible applicant to review their spending plan and self-evaluation forms to determine the final project list for award.

B. Round 2

All complete and eligible applications will be evaluated, scored, and ranked based on the evaluation questions presented below in Table 7 – Application Evaluation Criteria. Please note that the application and/or review questions outlined in Table 7 – Application Evaluation Criteria may be reworded, combined, or separated as the information is transferred into our online application tool (e.g., GRanTS or other application). SGM Grant Program staff may make clarifying or editorial changes to the application following PSP approval. Table 7 is subject to change depending on the final preparations of the review questionnaire and various application templates. No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

For proposals with multiple components, the evaluation will be repeated for each component. The score for a proposal with multiple components will be determined by summing each individual component's total score, dividing that summation by the number of components for the Component Average Score, and then rounding up or down to the nearest whole number (Final Score). See Table 7 for an example of the scoring criteria.

DWR staff may recommend reducing individual grant amounts from the requested amount. However, such reductions will be considered only if technical reviewers have indicated that the budget is too high for the task(s)/component(s) described or some tasks/components are determined to be ineligible for the grant program or are not necessary for project completion. A reduction would also be weighed against whether the reduced funding would impede project implementation or if the proposed budget is determined inconsistent with similar projects. A reduction in requested grant funds can also occur when a greater number of well-qualified projects are requesting grant funds greater than the funding available.

If multiple applications are received within a single basin, DWR will contact the applicants and request that a consolidated application for the basin be submitted before the close of the open filing period, if feasible. If identified after the close of the solicitation, DWR will work with the multiple applicants to consolidate, if awarded.

VII. AWARD PROCESS

Funding will be allocated to proposals consistent with minimum and maximum award amounts, using the proposal score, professional judgement, and available funding. DWR's funding recommendation may vary from grant funding requests.

Following funding awards DWR will execute an Agreement with the Grantee. Agreements are not executed until signed by both the authorized representative of the Grantee and DWR. The Grantees

have approximately six months to obtain an executed Agreement after the grant award notification letter is sent by DWR. The exact date for Agreement execution will be outlined in the grant award notification letter. DWR reserves the right to withdraw an award due to lack of responsiveness on the part of the applicant.

Please note that the review questions outlined in Table 7 may be reworded, combined, or separated. SGM Grant Program staff may make clarifying or editorial changes to the scoring criteria following approval. SGM Grant Program staff may also make changes to Table 7 depending upon language outlined in future appropriations and legislative requirements. **Table 7 is subject to change depending on the final preparations of the review questionnaire.** No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

TABLE 7 – APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA				
Section Name	Q#	Questions	Possible Points	Scoring Guidance
General	1	<p>Was a description of the proposed Project or Component provided? Did it explain why this Project or Component was chosen over all others identified in the Plan in terms of benefits provided, communities served, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, plan implementation timeline, and feasibility? If you feel a question component does not apply to your proposed project, please explain why it is not applicable. (Example "Measurable objective not applicable because project is planning only".)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No funds will be awarded without clear justification for the proposed tasks/subtasks.</i> 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
General Implementation Only	2- Imp	<p>Does the Project or Component provide a description of quantifiable benefits? Was an explanation of the benefits that are expected to be realized from the Project or Component provided, along with how those benefits will be evaluated and quantified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To obtain full points, 3 or more quantifiable benefits must be identified and fully supported with backup documentation.</i> 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4- At least three quantifiable benefits with explanations and supporting documents. 3 – Two quantifiable benefits with explanations and supporting documents. 2 - Two quantifiable benefits lacking explanations and supporting documents. 1 - One quantifiable benefit with explanations and supporting documents. 0 – Benefits provided but are not explained or quantified.
General Planning Only	2- Plan	<p>Does the Project Description describe a well-coordinated proposal including a GSP(s) that encompasses the entire basin or describes why a portion of the basin is not covered in the proposal? Does it describe how well the multiple GSA(s) surrounding and within the basin are working together?</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
General	3	<p>Does the Project or Component fully describe their plan for outreaching and engaging interested parties (e.g., residents, local leaders, non-profit representing Underrepresented Communities, etc.) located within Underrepresented Communities? Does the outreach and engagement include interested parties during all phases of the Project or Component (e.g., planning, design, and implementation)? Can interested parties provide input and be involved in the decision-making processes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To obtain full points, a minimum of three comment letters are required from the Underrepresented Communities.</i> 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 – Interested parties included on decision-making committees and fully engaged/involved in all aspects of the Project or Component 2 – Interested parties engaged/involved, but not included on decision-making committees 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
General	4	<p>Was there a regional and Project map(s) depicting the site location, current conditions, and benefitting areas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The information should be clear and easy to read. If not, the point will not be given.</i> 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 – Provided and all necessary information provided 1 – Provided but missing some information 0 – Not provided

General	5	Does the project benefit an Underrepresented Community (-ies)? Was there a map(s) depicting the Underrepresented Community (-ies) that the project will benefit? Does the project benefit an SDAC? Was there a map(s) depicting the SDAC(s) that the project will benefit? Please provide the amount of funding that will benefit both the Underrepresented Community and SDAC. • <i>No points will be given if a map(s) is not provided.</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3- Project benefits an SDAC(s) • 2- Project benefits Underrepresented Community • 1 – Project partially benefits either • 0 – Project does not benefit either
General	6	Will the Project or Component positively impact issues associated with small water systems or private shallow domestic wells (e.g., groundwater contamination vulnerability, drawdown, etc.)? Was justification such as domestic well census results, water system maps, service area maps, etc. provided? Does the Project or Component help address the needs of the State Water Board’s SAFER Program?	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – Fully addressed • 2 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear • 1 – Marginally addressed • 0 – Not addressed
General	7	How does the proposed Project or Component address the Human Right to Water (AB 685 Section 106.3)? How will the Project or Component support the established policy of the State that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes?	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 – Fully addressed • 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear • 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear • 1 – Marginally addressed • 0 – Not addressed
Scope of Work	8	Did the proposal provide a description of the tasks/subtasks that will be completed as part of this grant Project? • <i>No funds will be awarded without clear justification for the proposed tasks/subtasks.</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – Fully addressed • 2 – Mostly addressed • 1 – Marginally addressed • 0 – Not addressed
Budget	9	Is a budget summary table provided? Is the budget reasonable for the project? Is the budget table tasks/subtasks provided in the scope of work coincide with the tasks/subtasks in the budget and schedule tables? Is local cost share included (minimum of 5%)? Local cost share may include costs expended on projects before grant agreement date. • <i>Local cost share is not required but necessary to obtain full points.</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – Local cost share is provided, and budget is consistent and feasible • 2 – Budget is consistent and feasible • 1 – Budget is consistent but not feasible • 0 – Not consistent and feasible
Schedule	10	Is the tasks/subtask in the schedule table consistent with those listed in the budget table and within the description in the application? Is the schedule feasible?	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – Consistent and feasible • 0 – Not consistent and feasible
Total Range of Possible Points			0-30	
(a) Average of Questions 1 – 8 for Multiple Component Applications				
(b) Total Score for Questions 9 and 10				
Total Points Overall Project:				
TOTAL FUNDING RECOMMENDED:				\$

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*CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY'S
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES -
DIVISION OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE*



**GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
(DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES) AND
BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
AGREEMENT NUMBER 4600014652**

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, herein referred to as the "State" or "DWR" and the Borrego Water District, a public agency in the State of California, duly organized, existing, and acting pursuant to the laws thereof, herein referred to as the "Grantee," which parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. **PURPOSE.** The State shall provide funding from the Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) to the Grantee to assist in financing the Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Sub Basin (Project). By executing this Agreement, the Grantee certifies that the purpose of the Project is to implement SGMA as outlined in the Grantee's Alternative to a GSP (Alternative). The provision of State funds pursuant to this Agreement shall not be construed or interpreted to mean that the Alternative, or any components of the Alternative, implemented in accordance with the Work Plan as set forth in Exhibit A will obtain the necessary desirable results of Sustainable Management Criteria.
2. **TERM OF GRANT AGREEMENT.** The term of this Grant Agreement begins the date of execution and ends three (3) years following the final payment unless otherwise terminated or amended as provided in this Agreement. However, all work shall be completed by APRIL 30, 2025, and no funds may be requested after JUNE 30, 2025.
3. **GRANT AMOUNT.** The maximum amount payable by the State under this Agreement shall not exceed \$6,115,833.
4. **GRANTEE COST SHARE.** Not applicable.
5. **BASIC CONDITIONS.** The State shall have no obligation to disburse money for the Project under this Grant Agreement until the Grantee has satisfied the following conditions:
 - A. The Grantee must demonstrate compliance with all eligibility criteria set forth on Pages 7 through 13 of the *SGM Grant Program 2021 Guidelines* (2021 Guidelines).
 - B. For the term of this Grant Agreement, the Grantee submits Quarterly Progress Reports, associated quarterly invoices, and all invoice backup documentation no later than sixty (60) days following the end of the calendar quarter (e.g., submitted by May 30th, August 29th, November 29th, and February 28th) and all other deliverables as required by Paragraph 12, "Submission of Reports" and Exhibit A, "Work Plan".
 - C. Prior to the commencement of construction or implementation activities, if applicable, the Grantee shall submit the following to the State:
 - i. Final plans and specifications certified by a California Registered Civil Engineer (or equivalent registered professional as appropriate) to certify compliance for each approved project as listed in Exhibit A, "Work Plan" of this Grant Agreement.
 - ii. Work that is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and/or environmental permitting shall not proceed under this Grant Agreement until the following actions are performed:
 - a. The Grantee submits to the State all applicable environmental permits as indicated on the Environmental Information Form (EIF) to the State,
 - b. Documents that satisfy the CEQA process are received by the State,
 - c. The State has completed its CEQA compliance review as a Responsible Agency, and
 - d. The Grantee receives written concurrence from the State of Lead Agency's CEQA document(s) and State notice of verification of environmental permit submittal.

The State's concurrence of Lead Agency's CEQA documents is fully discretionary and shall constitute a condition precedent to any work (i.e., construction or implementation activities) for which it is required. Once CEQA documentation has been completed, the State will consider the environmental documents and decide whether to continue to fund the project or to require changes, alterations or other mitigation. The Grantee must also demonstrate that it has complied with all applicable requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by submitting copies of any environmental documents, including environmental impact statements, Finding of No Significant Impact, mitigation monitoring programs, and environmental permits as may be required prior to beginning construction/implementation.

iii. A monitoring plan as required by Paragraph 14, "Project Monitoring Plan Requirements."

6. **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.** The State will disburse to the Grantee the amount approved, subject to the availability of funds through normal State processes. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Grant Agreement, no disbursement shall be required at any time or in any manner which is in violation of, or in conflict with, federal or state laws, rules, or regulations, or which may require any rebates to the federal government, or any loss of tax-free status on state bonds, pursuant to any federal statute or regulation. Any and all money disbursed to the Grantee under this Grant Agreement shall be deposited in a non-interest bearing account and shall be used solely to pay Eligible Project Costs.
7. **ELIGIBLE PROJECT COST.** The Grantee shall apply State funds received only to Eligible Project Costs in accordance with applicable provisions of the law and Exhibit B, "Budget". Eligible Project Costs include the reasonable costs of studies, engineering, design, land and easement acquisition and associated legal fees, preparation of environmental documentation, environmental mitigations, monitoring, and project construction. Reimbursable administrative expenses are the necessary costs incidental but directly related to the Project included in this Agreement. Work performed on the Project after DECEMBER 17, 2021, shall be eligible for reimbursement.

Costs that are not eligible for reimbursement include, but are not limited to the following items:

- A. Costs for preparing and filing a grant application and/or Spending Plan.
- B. Costs associated with the formation of a GSA(s) or other board formation that is responsible for implementing SGMA.
- C. Operation and maintenance costs, including post construction performance and monitoring costs.
- D. Purchase of equipment not an integral part of a project.
- E. Establishing a reserve fund.
- F. Purchase of water supplies.
- G. Replacement of existing funding sources for ongoing programs.
- H. Travel and per diem costs, except for mileage.
- I. Support of existing agency requirements and mandates.
- J. Purchase of land in excess of the minimum required acreage necessary to operate as an integral part of a project, as set forth and detailed by engineering and feasibility studies, or acquisition of land by eminent domain.
- K. Meals, food items, or refreshments.
- L. Costs incurred as part of any necessary response and cleanup activities required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Hazardous Substances Account Act; or other applicable law.
- M. Overhead and indirect costs: "Indirect Costs" means those costs that are incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective and are not readily assignable to the funded project (i.e., costs that are not directly related to the funded project). Examples of Indirect Costs include, but

are not limited to: central service costs; general administration of the Grantee; non-project-specific accounting and personnel services performed within the Grantee's organization; depreciation or use allowances on buildings and equipment; the costs of operating and maintaining non-project-specific facilities; tuition and conference fees; forums, trainings, and seminars; and, generic overhead or markup. This prohibition applies to the Grantee and any subcontract or sub-agreement for work on the Project that will be reimbursed pursuant to this Agreement.

8. **METHOD OF PAYMENT.** After the disbursement requirements in Paragraph 5, "Basic Conditions" are met, the State will disburse the whole or portions of State funding to the Grantee, following receipt from the Grantee via US mail or Express mail delivery of a "wet signature" invoice or an electronic invoice certified and transmitted via DocuSign for costs incurred and timely Quarterly Progress Reports as required by Paragraph 12, "Submission of Reports." Payment will be made no more frequently than quarterly, in arrears, upon receipt of an invoice bearing the Grant Agreement number. Invoices must accompany a Quarterly Progress Report and shall be submitted within no later than sixty (60) days following the end of the calendar quarter (e.g., submitted by May 30th, August 29th, November 29th, and February 28th). The State will notify the Grantee, in a timely manner, whenever, upon review of an Invoice, the State determines that any portion or portions of the costs claimed are not eligible costs or is not supported by documentation or receipts acceptable to the State. The Grantee may, within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of receipt of such notice, submit additional documentation to the State to cure such deficiency(ies). If the Grantee fails to submit adequate documentation curing the deficiency(ies), the State will adjust the pending invoice by the amount of ineligible or unapproved costs.

Invoices submitted by the Grantee shall include the following information:

- A. Costs incurred for work performed in implementing the Project during the period identified in the particular invoice. If backup documentation provided is outside of the period identified in the particular invoice, the Grantee must provide justification within the associated Quarterly Progress Report and note the discrepancy on the Invoice Submittal Summary Sheet.
- B. Costs incurred for any interests in real property (land or easements) that have been necessarily acquired for a project during the period identified in the particular invoice for the implementation of a project.
- C. Invoices shall be submitted on forms provided by the State and shall meet the following format requirements:
 - i. Invoices must contain the date of the invoice, either the time period covered by the invoice or the invoice date received within the time period covered, and the total amount due.
 - ii. Invoices must be itemized based on the categories (i.e., tasks) specified in Exhibit B, "Budget". The amount claimed for salaries/wages/consultant fees must include a calculation formula (i.e., hours or days worked times the hourly or daily rate = the total amount claimed).
 - iii. One set of sufficient evidence (i.e., receipts, copies of checks, time sheets) must be provided for all costs included in the invoice.
 - iv. Each invoice shall clearly delineate those costs claimed for reimbursement from the State's funding amount, as depicted in Paragraph 3, "Grant Amount".

Original signature and date (in ink) of the Grantee's Project Representative. Submit the original "wet signature" copy of the invoice form to the following address: Christopher Martinez at P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001 or an electronic signature certified and transmitted via DocuSign from authorized representative to Christopher Martinez; christopher.martinez@water.ca.gov.

All invoices submitted shall be accurate and signed under penalty of law. Any and all costs submitted pursuant to this Agreement shall only be for the tasks set forth herein. The Grantee shall not submit any invoice containing costs that are ineligible or have been reimbursed from other funding sources unless required and specifically noted as such (i.e., match costs/cost share). Any eligible costs for which the Grantee is seeking reimbursement shall not be reimbursed from any other source. Double or multiple billing

for time, services, or any other eligible cost is illegal and constitutes fraud. Any suspected occurrences of fraud, forgery, embezzlement, theft, or any other misuse of public funds may result in suspension of disbursements of grant funds and/or termination of this Agreement requiring the repayment of all funds. Additionally, the State may request an audit pursuant to Paragraph D.5 and refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office or the appropriate district attorney's office for criminal prosecution or the imposition of civil liability. (Civ. Code, §§ 1572-1573; Pen. Code, §§ 470, 487-489.)

9. WITHHOLDING OF DISBURSEMENTS BY THE STATE. If the State determines that a project is not being implemented in accordance with the provisions of this Grant Agreement, or that the Grantee has failed in any other respect to comply with the provisions of this Grant Agreement, and if the Grantee does not remedy any such failure to the State's satisfaction, the State may withhold from the Grantee all or any portion of the State funding and take any other action that it deems necessary to protect its interests. Where a portion of the State funding has been disbursed to the Grantee and the State notifies the Grantee of its decision not to release funds that have been withheld pursuant to Paragraph 10, "Default Provisions," the portion that has been disbursed shall thereafter be repaid immediately at the time the State notifies the Grantee, as directed by the State. The State may consider the Grantee's refusal to repay the requested disbursed amount a contract breach subject to the default provisions in Paragraph 10. If the State notifies the Grantee of its decision to withhold the entire funding amount from the Grantee pursuant to this Paragraph, this Grant Agreement shall terminate upon receipt of such notice by the Grantee and the State shall no longer be required to provide funds under this Grant Agreement and the Grant Agreement shall no longer be binding on either party.

10. DEFAULT PROVISIONS. The Grantee will be in default under this Grant Agreement if any of the following occur:

- A. Substantial breaches of this Grant Agreement, or any supplement or amendment to it, or any other agreement between the Grantee and the State evidencing or securing the Grantee's obligations;
- B. Making any false warranty, representation, or statement with respect to this Grant Agreement or the application filed to obtain this Grant Agreement;
- C. Failure to operate or maintain the Project in accordance with this Grant Agreement.
- D. Failure to make any remittance required by this Grant Agreement, including any remittance recommended as the result of an audit conducted pursuant to Paragraph D.5.
- E. Failure to submit quarterly progress reports pursuant to Paragraph 5.
- F. Failure to routinely invoice the State pursuant to Paragraph 8.
- G. Failure to meet any of the requirements set forth in Paragraph 11, "Continuing Eligibility."

Should an event of default occur, the State shall provide a notice of default to the Grantee and shall give the Grantee at least ten (10) calendar days to cure the default from the date the notice is sent via first-class mail to the Grantee. If the Grantee fails to cure the default within the time prescribed by the State, the State may do any of the following:

- A. Declare the funding be immediately repaid.
- B. Terminate any obligation to make future payments to the Grantee.
- C. Terminate the Grant Agreement.
- D. Take any other action that it deems necessary to protect its interests.

In the event the State finds it necessary to enforce this provision of this Grant Agreement in the manner provided by law, the Grantee agrees to pay all costs incurred by the State including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, legal expenses, and costs.

11. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY. The Grantee must meet the following ongoing requirement(s) and all eligibility criteria outlined in the 2021 Guidelines to remain eligible to receive State funds:

- A. The Grantee must continue to demonstrate eligibility and the groundwater basin must continue to be an eligible basin as outlined in the 2021 Guidelines and 2021 PSP.
 - B. Grantee must adhere to the protocols developed pursuant to The Open and Transparent Water Data Act (Wat. Code, § 12406) for data sharing, transparency, documentation, and quality control.
 - C. If the Grantee diverting surface water, the Grantee must maintain compliance with diversion reporting requirements as outlined in Water Code section 5100 et seq.
 - D. If applicable, maintain compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Wat. Code, § 10610 et seq.).
 - E. If applicable, maintain compliance with Sustainable Water Use and Demand Reduction requirements outlined in Water Code Section 10608, et seq.
 - F. On March 4, 2022, the Governor issued Executive Order N-6-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. The EO may be found at: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf>. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under State law. The EO directs DWR to terminate funding agreements with, and to refrain from entering any new agreements with, individuals or entities that are determined to be a target of Economic Sanctions. Accordingly, should the State determine that the Grantee is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement. The State shall provide the Grantee advance written notice of such termination, allowing the Grantee at least 30 calendar days to provide a written response. Termination shall be at the sole discretion of the State.
12. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS. The submittal and approval of all reports is a requirement for the successful completion of this Grant Agreement. Reports shall meet generally accepted professional standards for technical reporting and shall be proofread for content, numerical accuracy, spelling, and grammar prior to submittal to the State. All reports shall be submitted to the State’s Grant Manager, and shall be submitted via DWR’s “Grant Review and Tracking System” (GRanTS), or an equivalent online submittal tool. If requested, the Grantee shall promptly provide any additional information deemed necessary by the State for the approval of reports. Reports shall be presented in the formats described in the applicable portion of Exhibit F, “Report Formats and Requirements.” The timely submittal of reports is a requirement for initial and continued disbursement of State funds. Submittal and subsequent approval by the State, of a Project Completion Report is a requirement for the release of any funds retained for such project.
- A. Quarterly Progress Reports: The Grantee shall submit Quarterly Progress Reports to meet the State’s requirement for disbursement of funds. Quarterly Progress Reports shall be uploaded via GRanTS, or an equivalent online submittal tool, and the State’s Grant Manager notified of upload. Quarterly Progress Reports shall, in part, provide a brief description of the work performed, the Grantees activities, milestones achieved, any accomplishments and any problems encountered in the performance of the work under this Grant Agreement during the reporting period. The first Quarterly Progress Report and associated quarterly invoice should be submitted to the State no later than NOVEMBER 30, 2022, with future reports then due on successive three-month increments based on the invoicing schedule and this date. The DWR Grant Manager will provide a Quarterly Progress Report template that shall be used for the duration of the Agreement.
 - B. Groundwater Sustainability Plan: Not applicable to this Agreement.
 - C. Component Completion Report(s): The Grantee shall prepare and submit to the State a separate Component Completion Report for each component included in Exhibit A, “Work Plan”. The Grantee shall submit a Component Completion Report within ninety (90) calendar days of component completion or before the work completion date in Paragraph 2, whichever is earliest. Each Component Completion Report shall include, in part, a description of actual work done, any changes or amendments to each component, and a final schedule showing actual progress versus planned

progress, copies of any final documents or reports generated or utilized during a project. The Component Completion Report shall also include, if applicable, certification of final component by a California Registered Civil Engineer (or equivalent registered professional as appropriate), consistent with Standard Condition D.18, "Final Inspections and Certification of Registered Civil Engineer". A DWR "Certification of Project Completion" form will be provided by the State.

- D. Grant Completion Report: Upon completion of the Project included in Exhibit A, "Work Plan" the Grantee shall submit to the State a Grant Completion Report. The Grant Completion Report shall be submitted within ninety (90) calendar days of submitting the Completion Report for the final project to be completed under this Grant Agreement, as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements". Retention for the last project to be completed as part of this Grant Agreement will not be disbursed until the Grant Completion Report is submitted to be approved by the State. The Grantee must submit the draft Grant Completion Report to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the work completion date listed in Paragraph 2. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Grant Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30-days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments prior to the work completion date listed in Paragraph 2. The Grantee must obtain the DWR Grant Manager's approval of the report within 30 days after the work completion date.
- E. Post Performance Reports (PPRs): The Grantee shall submit PPRs to the State within ninety (90) calendar days after the first operational year of a project has elapsed. This record keeping and reporting process shall be repeated annually for a total of three (3) years after the completed project begins operation.
- F. Deliverable Due Date Schedule: The Grantee shall submit a Deliverable Due Date Schedule within 30 days of the execution date of the Grant Agreement. No invoices will be reviewed or processed until the Deliverable Due Date Schedule has been received by the DWR Grant Manager. Any edits to the schedule must be approved by the DWR Grant Manager and the revised schedule saved in the appropriate project files.
- G. Environmental Information Form (EIF): Prepare and submit the EIF within 30 days of the execution date of the Grant Agreement. No invoices will be reviewed or processed until the EIF has been received by the DWR Grant Manager.
13. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT. For the useful life of construction and implementation projects and in consideration of the funding made by the State, the Grantee agrees to ensure or cause to be performed the commencement and continued operation of the project, and shall ensure or cause the project to be operated in an efficient and economical manner; shall ensure all repairs, renewals, and replacements necessary to the efficient operation of the same are provided; and shall ensure or cause the same to be maintained in as good and efficient condition as upon its construction, ordinary and reasonable wear and depreciation excepted. The State shall not be liable for any cost of such maintenance, management, or operation. The Grantee or their successors may, with the written approval of the State, transfer this responsibility to use, manage, and maintain the property. For purposes of this Grant Agreement, "useful life" means period during which an asset, property, or activity is expected to be usable for the purpose it was acquired or implemented; "operation costs" include direct costs incurred for material and labor needed for operations, utilities, insurance, and similar expenses, and "maintenance costs" include ordinary repairs and replacements of a recurring nature necessary for capital assets and basic structures and the expenditure of funds necessary to replace or reconstruct capital assets or basic structures. Refusal of the Grantee to ensure operation and maintenance of the projects in accordance with this provision may, at the option of the State, be considered a breach of this Grant Agreement and may be treated as default under Paragraph 10, "Default Provisions."
14. PROJECT MONITORING PLAN REQUIREMENTS. As required in Exhibit A, "Work Plan", a Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the State prior to disbursement of State funds for construction or monitoring activities. The Monitoring Plan should incorporate Post Performance Monitoring Report requirements as defined and listed in Exhibit J, "Monitoring and Maintenance Plan Components". The SGM Grant Program

has developed post construction monitoring methodologies that shall be used for the Post Performance Reporting.

15. STATEWIDE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS. The Grantee shall ensure that all groundwater projects and projects that include groundwater monitoring requirements are consistent with the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (Wat. Code, § 10780 et seq.) and, where applicable, that projects that affect water quality shall include a monitoring component that allows the integration of data into statewide monitoring efforts, including where applicable, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program carried out by the State Water Resources Control Board. See Exhibit G, "Requirements for Data Submittal" for web links and information regarding other State monitoring and data reporting requirements.
16. NOTIFICATION OF STATE. The Grantee shall promptly notify the State, in writing, of the following items:
 - A. Events or proposed changes that could affect the scope, budget, or work performed under this Grant Agreement. The Grantee agrees that no substantial change in the scope of a project will be undertaken until written notice of the proposed change has been provided to the State and the State has given written approval for such change. Substantial changes generally include changes to the scope of work, schedule or term, and budget.
 - B. Any public or media event publicizing the accomplishments and/or results of this Grant Agreement and provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by the State's representatives. The Grantee shall make such notification at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the event.
 - C. Discovery of any potential archaeological or historical resource. Should a potential archaeological or historical resource be discovered during construction, the Grantee agrees that all work in the area of the find will cease until a qualified archaeologist has evaluated the situation and made recommendations regarding preservation of the resource, and the State has determined what actions should be taken to protect and preserve the resource. The Grantee agrees to implement appropriate actions as directed by the State.
 - D. The initiation of any litigation or the threat of litigation against the Grantee regarding the Project or that may affect the Project in any way.
 - E. For implementation/construction Projects, final inspection of the completed work on a project by a Registered Civil Engineer, in accordance with Standard Condition D.18, "Final Inspections and Certification of Registered Civil Engineer." The Grantee shall notify the State's Grant Manager of the inspection date at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the inspection in order to provide the State the opportunity to participate in the inspection.
17. NOTICES. Any notice, demand, request, consent, or approval that either party desires or is required to give to the other party under this Grant Agreement shall be in writing. Notices may be transmitted by any of the following means:
 - A. By delivery in person.
 - B. By certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid.
 - C. By "overnight" delivery service; provided that next-business-day delivery is requested by the sender.
 - D. By electronic means.
 - E. Notices delivered in person will be deemed effective immediately on receipt (or refusal of delivery or receipt). Notices sent by certified mail will be deemed effective given ten (10) calendar days after the date deposited with the U. S. Postal Service. Notices sent by overnight delivery service will be deemed effective one business day after the date deposited with the delivery service. Notices sent electronically will be effective on the date of transmission, which is documented in writing. Notices shall be sent to the below addresses. Either party may, by written notice to the other, designate a different address that shall be substituted for the one below.

18. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. Upon completion of this Grant Agreement, the Grantee's performance will be evaluated by the State and a copy of the evaluation will be placed in the State file and a copy sent to the Grantee.

19. PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES. The Project Representatives during the term of this Grant Agreement are as follows:

Department of Water Resources
Arthur Hinojosa
Manager, Division of Regional Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Phone: (916) 902-6713
Email: Arthur.Hinojosa@water.ca.gov

Borrego Springs Water District
Geoff Poole
General Manager
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
Phone: (760) 767-5806
Email: geoff@borregowd.com

Direct all inquiries to the Grant Manager:

Department of Water Resources
Christopher Martinez
Engineering Geologist
Division of Regional Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-001
Phone: (916) 902-7015
Email: christopher.martinez@water.ca.gov

Borrego Springs Water District
Geoff Poole
General Manager
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
Phone: (760) 767-5806
Email: geoff@borregowd.com

Either party may change its Grant Manager, Project Representative, or Project Manager upon written notice to the other party.

20. STANDARD PROVISIONS AND INTEGRATION. This Grant Agreement is complete and is the final Agreement between the parties. The following Exhibits are attached and made a part of this Grant Agreement by this reference:

Exhibit A– Work Plan

Exhibit B– Budget

Exhibit C– Schedule

Exhibit D– Standard Conditions

Exhibit E– Authorizing Resolution Accepting Funds

Exhibit F– Report Formats and Requirements

Exhibit G– Requirements for Data Submittal

Exhibit H– State Audit Document Requirements and Funding Match Guidelines for Grantees

Exhibit I– Project Location

Exhibit J– Monitoring and Maintenance Plan Components

Exhibit K– Local Project Sponsors

Exhibit L– Appraisal Specifications

Exhibit M– Information Needed for Escrow Process and Closure

Exhibit N– Project Monitoring Plan Guidance

Exhibit O– Invoice Guidance for Administrative and Overhead Charges

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Grant Agreement.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Borrego Water District

Arthur Hinojosa
Manager, Division of Regional Assistance

Geoff Poole
General Manager

Date_____

Date_____

Approved as to Legal Form and Sufficiency

Robin Brewer
Assistant General Counsel,
Office of the General Counsel

Date_____

Exhibit A

WORK PLAN

Project Title: Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Sub Basin (Project)

Project Description: The Work Plan includes activities associated with implementation and continued planning, development, and preparation of groundwater sustainability for the Borrego Valley Subbasin (Basin). The resulting work from this grant will incorporate appropriate Best Management Practices as developed by DWR, and will result in a more complete understanding of the groundwater subbasin to support long-term sustainable groundwater management. The Project contains construction and planning projects including updating the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The Work Plan includes eight Components:

- Component 1: Grant Administration
- Component 2: Advanced Meter Infrastructure
- Component 3: Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring Wells
- Component 4: Education Project
- Component 5: Resiliency Strategy
- Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands
- Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting and Groundwater Management Plan Update
- Component 8: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring

COMPONENT 1: GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Category (a): Grant Agreement Administration

Prepare reports detailing work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement. Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports and should be submitted to the DWR Grant Manager for review to receive reimbursement of Eligible Project Costs. Collect and organize backup documentation by component, budget category, and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by component, budget category, and task.

Prepare and submit the Environmental Information Form (EIF) within 30 days of the execution date of the Grant Agreement. No invoices will be reviewed or processed until the EIF has been received by the DWR Grant Manager. Submit a deliverable due date schedule within 30 days of the execution date of the Grant Agreement to be reviewed and approved by the DWR Grant Manager. Any edits to the schedule must be approved by the DWR Grant Manager and the revised schedule saved in the appropriate project files.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for each component as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before each Component end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with each Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Prepare the Draft Grant Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the work completion date listed in Paragraph 2. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Grant Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final

Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments prior to the work completion date. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the work completion report. However, all charges accrued after the work completion date in Paragraph 2 will not be reimbursed. The retention invoice must be received, processed, and through DWRs accounting office by the final payment date outlined in Paragraph 2. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- EIF
- Deliverable due date schedule
- Quarterly Progress Reports, Quarterly Invoices, and all required backup documentation
- Draft and Final Grant Completion Reports

COMPONENT 2: ADVANCED METER INFRASTRUCTURE

Implementing Agency: Grantee

Component 2 consists of the replacement of all the Grantee's manual water meters with an advanced system. Component 2 will replace over 2,000 manual water meters to address demand-side reductions to basin pumping. Development in the Grantee's service area is geographically dispersed on relatively large lots in sandy soil. This scenario creates situations where water leaks in the customers plumbing or irrigation system can run for extended periods of time unrecognized. The new infrastructure will increase water use efficiency and improve leak detection and create an immediate response in the Basin's commercial and residential sectors. Based on historic trends, Component 2 will save approximately 20 acre-feet annually.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 2 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 2 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 2 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 2 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design**Task 1: Planning**

Prepare and advertise bid documents for Component 2. Prepare the advertisement and contract documents for construction contract bidding. Conduct a pre-bid meeting, bid opening and evaluation, selection of the contractor, award of contract, and issuance of notice to proceed. Oversee procurement and construction management.

Deliverables:

- Bid documents
- Proof of advertisement
- Executed contract
- Notice to Proceed

Task 2: Design Plans and Specifications

Submit all required permits and CEQA document(s) to the DWR Grant Manager for review and concurrence prior to beginning construction activities. Submit all design plans and specifications of the Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) hardware and software to the DWR Grant Manager for review and concurrence prior to advertising Component 2 for bids.

Construction may not begin and no costs for Category (c), Task 3 may be incurred until the State has reviewed the CEQA document(s), completed its CEQA responsible agency obligations and given its environmental clearance in accordance with Paragraphs 5 and D.8 of this Agreement. Any costs incurred for Category (c), Task 3 prior to DWR completing its responsible agency obligations shall not be reimbursed and any such amounts shall be deducted from the total Grant Amount in Paragraph 3.

Deliverables:

- All required permits
- CEQA Documentation, if applicable
- Design plans and specifications

Category (c): Implementation / Construction**Task 3: Pilot Study**

Install new AMI equipped water meters and shut-off valves for a minimum of 100 customers. Evaluate whether automatic shutoff valves should be offered for customers. Install, test, and evaluate electronic automated systems or other similar technology to communicate with the AMI meters and automated valves. Make a recommendation to proceed with the evaluated technology or potentially reevaluate technology options. Monitor and assess the pilot study to determine if adjustments are necessary to the full-scale implementation program.

Deliverables:

- Pilot Study Report
- Meter Inspection Report
- Pilot study monitoring and assessment report
- Full scale project monitoring and assessment report

Task 4: AMI Implementation for Remaining Connections

Install new AMI equipped water meters for the remaining 1,959 customers that were not included in the pilot study. Replace a minimum of 300 meters owned and operated by the Grantee. Install automated valves, if necessary.

Deliverables:

- Full Scale Project Implementation Report
- Meter Installation Inspection Report

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment

Not applicable to this Component.

Category (e): Engagement / Outreach**Task 5: AMI Outreach and Education**

Conduct bilingual outreach to ratepayers to explain the benefits of Component 2 and educate them how to use online tools to shut-off water service when leaks are detected. Advertise the project to the ratepayers through the Grantee's website and through information material provided in monthly billing statements.

Deliverables:

- AMI Customer Informational Flyer
- Vendor Provided User Video

COMPONENT 3: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT MONITORINGImplementing Agency: Grantee

Historically, elevated levels of nitrates have occurred in the one existing monitoring well located adjacent to the Rams Hill Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Percolation Ponds. Three clusters of two monitoring wells, six total, will be installed around the WWTP Percolation Ponds to study the fate and transport of nitrate and Total Dissolved Solids contamination originating from the discharge of effluent. The new monitoring wells will be detecting potential water quality issues by evaluating the point source discharges to the aquifer. Each of the 3 proposed monitoring well clusters will consist of a deeper (~100 foot) and shallower (~40 foot) monitoring well pair spaced approximately 15 feet apart. The wells will be located on parcels adjacent to the existing WWTP. These wells along with an existing well will be sampled quarterly to generate the data to determine if the WWTP effluent is adversely impacting the groundwater.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 3 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 3 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 3 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 3 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices

- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design

Task 1: Environmental Documentation/Permitting

Prepare the appropriate CEQA documentation for Component 3 and file the document(s) with the County Clerk's Office and State Clearinghouse as required. Prepare and submit an Initial Study for Component 3, if necessary. Complete the required CEQA documentation. Submit the CEQA document(s) to the DWR Grant Manager for review and concurrence prior to beginning construction activities. Prepare application(s) for and obtain required permit(s) to construct Component 3. Obtain all required permits for Component 3 and submit copies to the DWR Grant Manager.

Construction may not begin and no costs for Category (c), Task 4 may be incurred until the State has reviewed the CEQA document(s), completed its CEQA responsible agency obligations and given its environmental clearance in accordance with Paragraphs 5 and D.8 of this Agreement. Any costs incurred for Category (c), Task 4 prior to DWR completing its responsible agency obligations shall not be reimbursed and any such amounts shall be deducted from the total Grant Amount in Paragraph 3.

Deliverables:

- CEQA documentation
- Copies of required permits

Task 2: Design Plans and Specifications

Complete the preliminary design plans and specifications for Component 3 along with the topographic survey, if needed. Develop the 50% design plans for Component 3 and submit them for review and concurrence prior to completing the final design plans and specifications. Prepare the 100% design plans and specifications in accordance with requirements for public bidding for construction, after review of the 50% design plans. Submit the 100% design plans and specifications for review and concurrence prior to advertising Component 3 for bids.

Deliverables:

- 50% design plans and specifications
- 100% design plans and specifications

Category (c): Implementation / Construction

Task 3: Construction Management

Develop all necessary documents to secure a contractor(s) and submit to the DWR Grant Manager prior to advertising. Award the contract, submit the Notice of Award, and submit the Notice to Proceed to the DWR Grant Manager. Photo-document pre-construction conditions and monthly construction activities. Prepare any change orders, address contractor's onsite questions, review/update construction schedule, review contractor submittals and pay requests, and notify contractor if work is not acceptable. Finalize record drawings and submit the as-built drawings to DWR's Grant Manager. Construct Component 3 per the final design plans and specifications and outlined in the awarded contract(s). Conduct an inspection of the completed Component 3 by a licensed professional and submit a Certification of Completion letter from the licensed professional to ensure Component 3 was constructed per the 100% design plans and specifications and that Component 3 will provide the benefits claimed.

Deliverables:

- Notice of Award
- Notice to Proceed
- Bid document(s)

- Photo-documentation of pre-, during, and post-construction activities included within the appropriate quarterly Progress Reports
- Notice of Completion
- As-built drawings
- Site inspection letter or report

Task 4: Monitoring Well Installation

Conduct drilling, construction, and development of six (6) monitoring wells within the Rams Hill WWTP to a maximum depth of 100 feet in accordance with the Final Contract Documents and Specifications.

Deliverables:

- Drillers Well installation report(s)

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment**Task 5: Water Quality Sampling**

Collect groundwater samples from each well using a submersible pump to be analyzed for nitrate contamination and other constituents, if necessary. Compose monitoring plan detailing what is being collected and analyzed.

Deliverables:

- One-round water quality sample results
- Monitoring Plan
- Copies of Water Quality Reports

Task 6: Well Completion Report

Prepare and submit a comprehensive well completion report that documents all drilling operations, including a description of the lithology encountered at each borehole, the type and quantity of well construction materials used, and well development forms.

Deliverables:

- Well Completion Report

Task 7: Fate and Transport Investigation and Effluent Limit Feasibility Study

Perform a study to discover the fate and transport of contaminants at the WWTP, including data collection and analysis to determine current plant performance and nitrogen removal. Prepare nitrogen control strategy technical report to determine if wastewater discharged to evaporation/percolation ponds is contributing to nitrogen impairment in the groundwater.

Deliverables:

- Nitrogen Control Strategy Work Plan

Category (e): Engagement / Outreach**Task 8: Outreach and Education**

Perform education and outreach to ratepayers through Town Hall meetings and presentations. Highlight the project through an informational flyer that will be posted to the Grantee's website.

Deliverables:

- WWTF Informational Flyer
- Meeting agenda and presentation materials

COMPONENT 4: EDUCATION PROJECT**Implementing Agency: Borrego Springs Unified School District**

Component 4 will create and implement a Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathway in Energy, Environment, and Utilities for Borrego Springs Middle and High Schools. The goal is to educate young people around the water issues and challenges pertinent to the basin from historical times to the present Stipulated Agreement. Borrego Springs Unified School District will hire a CTE instructor certified in Energy, Environment, and Utilities who will be ready to teach in 2023. In addition, this CTE Pathway will introduce students to vital skills and post high school job opportunities. Currently, there is little understanding among students and their families about water sustainability challenges in their Basin and the required ramp down of water usage over the next 18 years.

Component 4 will address this lack of awareness by exposing students to a curriculum that will teach all aspects of water as a natural resource to be understood, regulated, and conserved in order to achieve sustainability. The curriculum of 330 hours will be integrated into science classes in middle school and in high school. The curriculum will become part of the Energy, Environment, and Utilities Pathway. The goal of Component 4 is to lead to internships, partnerships, career investigations, certifications, and/or post high school vocational programs.

Component 4 also includes outreach to parents and independent gardeners in the community by students serving as the presenters to their parents and to local gardeners, the majority of whom have children in the school district.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 4 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 4 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 4 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 4 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design**Task 1: Educational Material Design**

Create an Energy, Environment and Utilities CTE Pathway curriculum of 330 hours for grades 6-12 that meets the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) statewide standards. Submit the curriculum to the DWR Grant Manager for review and approval through DWR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) to add to DWR's Underrepresented Community Technical Assistance Program's website.

Deliverables:

- Copy of Curriculum

Task 2: Lesson Design & Translation

Recruit and hire an Energy, Environment, and Utilities CTE Teacher(s). Plan, design, and publish ADA compliant lessons for students to present to parents and gardeners. Provide school lessons translated into Spanish to parents and gardeners. Conduct a one-time purchase of the required instructional materials to get the program started. Create video and printed material for Watershed Interpretation in Spanish and English.

Deliverables:

- Two sets of lessons: 1 for parents and 1 for gardeners
- Two sets of Spanish lessons: 1 for parents and 1 for gardeners
- List of needed materials
- Video and printed materials

Task 3: Water Wise Design

Design and produce a minimum of 50 Water Wise certificates and a minimum of 50 vehicle magnets designed by the high school Graphic Design Class to be given to local gardeners after participating in an environmentally responsive landscaping class. Submit the certificate and magnet mock up to the DWR Grant Manager for review prior to printing. Provide a sign in sheet for the class(es) along with photo documentation of the class(es) in the associated quarterly Progress Report(s).

Deliverables:

- Copy of certificates and magnets
- Photo-documentation in associated quarterly Progress Report(s)

Category (c): Implementation / Construction**Task 4: Outdoor Learning Labs & Desert Garden Signs**

Purchase materials for a minimum of four (4) outdoor learning labs at the ArtPark Community Garden for CTE students and the general public for hands-on learning in aquaponics, xeriscape gardening, best water conservation practices in irrigation, and soil studies for watershed and absorption. Create and install a minimum of one (1) educational sign at each outdoor laboratory highlighting best water practices in desert gardening. Submit the mockup of the signage to the DWR Grant Manager for review prior to ordering the sign(s). Submit photo documentation of the laboratories and signage in the associated quarterly Progress Report(s).

Deliverables:

- Materials for Learning Labs
- Mockup of educational signage
- Photo-documentation in associated quarterly Progress Report(s)

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment**Task 5: Education Project Assessment**

Create, administer, and score pre and post assessments of all students and adults in the Education Project to assess their growth in understanding SGMA and its impact on sustainability of water in the Basin.

Deliverables:

- Scoring Results for Year 1 and 2.

Category (e): Engagement / Outreach

Task 6: Outreach

Coordinate partnerships with community wide entities, businesses, and public works to enrich the learning experience of studies regarding SGMA and create opportunities for internships, field trips, job shadowing, and work experience.

Deliverables:

- Documentation of participation

Task 6: Groundwater Training & Leadership Development Program

Recruit a minimum of 5 community members to participate in community capacity development via resilience training and a leadership development program. Develop curriculum for groundwater training and a leadership development program in coordination with the Borrego Springs Unified School District. Develop and market a Water Academy Program to support a constituency of informed local leaders. Launch pilot program and evaluate areas of improvement, and adapt program structure and content for future iterations.

Deliverables:

- Copy of Curriculum outline
- List of indicators of success

- Report on participant survey and recommendations for moving forward.

COMPONENT 5: RESILIENCY STRATEGY

Implementing Agency: Civic Well under the direction of the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council (BVSC)

Component 5 will improve community understanding of socio-ecological systems, increase the community's ability to engage in basin-wide planning and decision-making, and ensure disadvantaged community member concerns are addressed by attending meetings, submitting public comments, and providing recommendations during the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) implementation process.

In Partnership with Civic Well, the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council will help identify, prioritize, and implement initiatives supporting the Borrego Valley GMP "projects and management actions" to minimize undesirable results. Component 5 will "help reverse chronic lowering of groundwater levels" by educating stakeholders on the facts of the basin, the timeline for water reduction and anticipated water quality issues; promote water use efficiency and identify potential land-use policy changes to protect recharge areas. We will propose land-use designations for County Sustainable Land Use Framework. The BVSC will identify priorities based on identified strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities shown by the data collected in support of resiliency.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 5 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 5 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 5 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 5 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design**Task 1: Planning**

Recruit and hire a limited-term contract employee to serve as basin coordinator for the BVSC for 18 months. Perform research and design a voluntary community visioning process, consisting of an engagement arc and plan, that maximizes diverse community participation during the implementation of the GMP. Establish a network of a minimum of 20 local and regional partners across the basin to participate in basin and basin-wide coordination efforts. Conduct background data gathering of various data types including demographic, population, health, socioeconomic and environmental. Perform preliminary activities to develop and prepare for implementing the community visioning process.

Deliverables:

- Contract for limited-term contract employee with position description and scope of work
- Community visioning process schedule and engagement arc
- Engagement plan
- Local & regional partner contact information, roles, and levels of engagement

Task 2: Basin Characterization

Compile and summarize research in collaboration with the region's experts (including, but not limited to, UC Irvine Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center researchers, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park environmental scientists, and Borrego Water District (BWD) in natural resources / environmental characteristics, planning, and governance to inform the community visioning process and the development of community priorities for the basin under Task 5. Identify and prioritize basin issues and opportunities, which will include potential basin restoration or management projects. Obtain feedback on summary white paper from a minimum of 5 water network partners and/or cooperators. Perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the natural resources within the basin.

Deliverables:

- White paper of basin characterization
- Factsheet summary of white paper and FAQ on website
- SWOT analysis of natural resources,
- Documentation of basin monitoring and evaluation roles, responsibilities, and decision-making protocols from authorities such as BWD, the GMP, technical consultants to parties in the basin, and other key federal, state and San Diego County entities

Category (c): Implementation / Construction

Not applicable to this Component

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment

Not applicable to this Component

Category (e): Engagement / Outreach**Task 3: Watermaster Board Coordination**

Engage with the Watermaster Board to foster the alignment of community values and ecological priorities with GMP implementation. Gather criteria for evaluating the impacts to the basin from implementation of the GMP. Conduct GMP analysis for alignment with community basin vision and for potential impacts to the basin. Develop recommendations for implementing community basin vision, priorities, and basin protections.

Deliverables:

- Document of criteria for analyzing GMP for basin impacts.
- Memorandum outlining potential impacts from GMP implementation.
- Memorandum of recommendations to the Watermaster Board for GMP implementation.
- Presentation of recommendations to Watermaster Board during at minimum of 1 public meeting; Feedback on presentation from attendees.

Task 4: Sponsor Group Coordination

Attend a minimum of 2 Sponsor Group meetings to provide information and updates for input and feedback on development of the community vision. Coordinate with the Sponsor Group on community engagement efforts to ensure adequate community input on basin priorities and impacts. Develop recommendations for environmental and natural resources components to be included in community and County plans. Share recommendations (or supplemental plan) with Sponsor Group to be submitted to the County.

Deliverables:

- Presentation of basin characterization white paper and/or outreach efforts
- Presentation of draft and final community visioning white paper (developed under Task 5 below)
- Documented feedback and revisions to white paper

Task 5: Coordination with Land Use Planning

Support broad education and engagement with County land use planning processes. Establish relevant basin education, engagement, and outreach providers. Compile a database of local outreach channels across the basin. Create a community engagement plan for basin coordination and education. Coordinate and promote local groundwater and basin-related education efforts between providers and venues across the region. Develop and distribute a survey in electronic and paper formats to a representative spectrum of all interested parties (homeowners and renters, business owners, property owners, utilities, visitors, etc.) to inform on a community vision data set and narrative to share with all interested decision makers connected to the basin. Develop white paper of a summary of input and results from the survey, Town Halls and other outreach activities, an overview of existing conditions based on the Task 2 white paper and other research and documentation, a community vision statement with goals and objectives, and recommendations and actions to support groundwater and community resiliency and sustainability. Distribute White Paper via the BVSC website. Host a minimum of 3 Town Halls in person and/or virtually with a series of interactive visioning activities. Develop and implement a community engagement plan including defined schedule, facilitators, translators, information gathering platforms and success support protocols. Develop and implement the education plan including: at least 4 education webinars/instruction open to the public, create and print at least 5,000 Basin FAQ brochures to be mailed out to stakeholders in the basin in both English and Spanish.

Deliverables:

- Copy of Survey
- Copies of Town Hall Presentation Materials
- Draft and Final White Paper
- Copy of Basin FAQ Brochure

COMPONENT 6: BIOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF FALLOWED LANDS

Implementing Agency: Borrego Springs Watermaster

The Borrego Springs GMP defines a Sustainability Goal of operating the Basin within its sustainable yield by 2040. Achieving this goal requires implementation of an aggressive pumping ramp down of approximately 75 percent over the next twenty years. The GMP recognizes that fallowing of agricultural lands will be key to achieving the Sustainability Goal, but also recognizes the potential adverse environmental effects of fallowing, including airborne emissions through wind-blown dust, the introduction or spreading of invasive plant species, and changes to the landscape that could adversely affect visual quality, among others. The standard farmland fallowing practices identified in the GMP and used statewide (e.g., mulching orchard trees on site) provide temporary dust mitigation, but do not lead to long term recovery of the fragile native arid plant communities that

are unique to the Sonoran Desert ecosystem, and protected on adjacent Anza-Borrego Desert State Park lands. New farmland following guidelines that address the unique needs of the desert ecosystem and Borrego Springs are required to facilitate the reduction in groundwater pumping that is necessary to achieve the sustainable use of the Basin.

Component 6 will develop guidance on techniques to mitigate the potential adverse impacts associated with the fallowing of lands that is expected to occur within the Basin. Component 6 will analyze existing data and information, conduct field reconnaissance, and test cases of biological restoration techniques at existing fallowed lands within the Basin. A final technical report will describe and document the results, conclusions, and recommendations; the biological restoration strategies that are expected to be most effective within the Basin; and a prioritization of land parcels for biological restoration.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 6 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 6 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 6 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 6 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design

Not applicable to this Component

Category (c): Implementation / Construction

Not applicable to this Component

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment**Task 1: Review and Analysis of Existing Data**

Perform a kick-off meeting with the key team members. Review literature and data mine existing reports for a written summary of relevant information to be included in the final technical report. Conduct interviews with local and subject-matter experts. Create project geodatabase for relevant land use and environmental thematic layers, including but not limited to topography, flow accumulation, soil characteristics, and wind patterns. Collect water consumption data from the Grantee; update parcel level Geographic Information System (GIS) data, as necessary; calculate water consumption by parcel; and digitize new data layers, as necessary.

Review historical maps and available records. Synthesize information to describe site specific historical ecology and include comparison of historical current vegetation cover densities. Provide guidance on feasible restoration targets. Develop a technical memo summarizing the existing data and a final prioritization map of the Basin identifying good locations within the Basin for land following.

Deliverables:

- Technical Memo Summarizing Existing Data
- Initial Fallowed Farmland Rehabilitation Opportunities and Prioritization Map

Task 2: Existing Fallowed Farmland and Reference Natural Habitat Field Study

Perform field observations of existing fallowed farmland. Interview past and current Grantee staff about experience with fallowed lands, field visits, and data collection of existing conditions. Use GIS layers to stratify landscape in the Basin, including the agricultural land into similar geomorphic features for sampling. Determine a sampling design to collect more detailed information on plant cover and “greenness” utilizing drones and multispectral imagery over hundreds of acres. Sample cover data to analyze and interpret reference conditions to identify a range of reasonable habitat restoration targets for fallowed farmland. Summarize activities in a technical report.

Deliverables:

- Technical Report of Field Study Results

Task 3: Brush Pile Wildlife Sand Fence Case Study

Identify manipulative sites for sand fences. Identify one or more site(s), based on feasibility, for construction of sample sand fences. Identify the most economical method of construction for sand fences and build variations on the design, as appropriate. Take baseline observation data of sand fences for comparison to future datasets and to characterize the habitat and dust control value of the sand fences. Establish an initial study with promising plant species to help understand plant response to sand fences. Summarize results of the study in a technical report.

Deliverables:

- Construction sample of sand fences
- Design Plans
- Construction Permits, if applicable
- Technical Report

Task 4: Farmland Fallowing Rehabilitation Strategies

Develop conceptual models of key processes involved in dust, native recruitment, and habitat restoration of fallowed farmland based on literature review, geodatabase indices and analysis, field study results and expert interviews. Develop rehabilitation strategies for fallowed farmland based on conceptual models, the range of potential for rehabilitation based on site level measurements across the study area, and project goals. Recommend best practice language for fallowing of farmland to be incorporated into the GMP. Identify gaps in knowledge for future monitoring and study to improve best practice adaptively as land begins to be fallowed for water conservation.

Deliverables:

- Draft Rehabilitation Strategies and Best Practice for Fallowing
- Final Rehabilitation Strategies and Best Practice for Fallowing

Task 5: Farmland Fallowing Prioritization

Develop a model for prioritizing farmland for fallowing based on the reduction of water consumption, and likelihood of success of the rehabilitation strategies.

Deliverables:

- Prioritization of Farmland Fallowing Report
- Prioritization of Farmland Fallowing Map

Category (e): Interested Parties Outreach/Education**Task 6: Conduct Environmental Working Group (EWG) Meetings**

Perform a minimum of two (2) EWG meetings per year for the EWG to: receive updates on project progress; receive input from the public and interested parties; provide guidance and input to the Watermaster Technical Consultant and subcontractors; review draft and final project deliverables and make recommendations to the Watermaster Board.

Deliverables:

- Meeting agendas/packets
- PowerPoint presentations
- Summary meeting notes
- Memorandums with recommendations to the Watermaster Board.

COMPONENT 7: MONITORING, REPORTING, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**Implementing Agency: Borrego Springs Watermaster**

Component 7 will provide comprehensive, updated datasets for groundwater pumping, groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and surface-water flow through Water Year 2024; provide maintenance of these datasets in a data management system that will be used to report these data to the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM), California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), and Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) platforms on a semi-annual basis; construct two new surface-water monitoring stations on Coyote Creek; construct two new multi-completion monitoring wells; properly abandon a minimum of two (2) inactive production wells; convert a minimum of one (1) inactive production wells to monitoring wells; develop and submit annual reports to the DWR pursuant to SGMA for 2023, 2024, and 2025; progress towards the redetermination of the Sustainable Yield of the Basin which is due by 2025; and conduct a minimum of 20 interested party engagement and outreach meetings.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 7 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 7 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 7 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 7 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design**Task 1: Environmental Documentation/Permitting**

Prepare the appropriate CEQA documentation for Component 7 and file the document(s) with the County Clerk's Office and State Clearinghouse, as required. Prepare and submit an Initial Study for Component 7. Submit the CEQA document(s) to the DWR Grant Manager for review and concurrence prior to beginning construction activities. Prepare application(s) for and obtain required permit(s) to construct Component 7. Obtain all required permits for the Component and submit copies to the DWR Grant Manager.

Construction may not begin and no costs for Category (c), Task 4 may be incurred until the State has reviewed the CEQA document(s), completed its CEQA responsible agency obligations and given its environmental clearance in accordance with Paragraphs 5 and D.8 of this Agreement. Any costs incurred for Category (c), Task 4 prior to DWR completing its responsible agency obligations shall not be reimbursed and any such amounts shall be deducted from the total Grant Amount in Paragraph 3.

Deliverables:

- Easements and other necessary document(s), if necessary
- Initial Study
- CEQA documentation
- Copies of all required permits

Task 2: Design Plans and Specifications

Complete the preliminary design plans and specifications for Component 7 along with the topographic survey, if needed. Develop the 50% design plans for the Component and submit them for review and concurrence prior to completing the final design plans and specifications. Prepare the 100% design plans and specifications in accordance with requirements for public bidding for construction, after review of the 50% design plans. Submit the 100% design plans and specifications for review and concurrence prior to advertising the Component for bids.

Deliverables:

- 50% design plans and specifications
- 100% design plans and specifications

Category (c): Implementation / Construction**Task 3: Construction Management**

Develop all necessary documents to secure a contractor(s) and submit to the DWR Grant Manager prior to advertising. Award the contract, submit the Notice of Award, and submit the Notice to Proceed to the DWR Grant Manager. Photo-document pre-construction conditions and weekly construction activities. Prepare any change orders, address contractor's onsite questions, review/update construction schedule, review contractor submittals and pay requests, and notify contractor if work is not acceptable. Finalize record drawings and submit the as-built drawings to DWR's Grant Manager. Construct the Component per the final design plans and specifications and outlined in the awarded contract(s). Conduct an inspection of the completed Component by a licensed professional and submit a Certification of Completion letter from the licensed professional to ensure the Component was constructed per the 100% design plans and specifications and that the Component will provide the benefits claimed.

Deliverables:

- Proof of bid advertisement
- Notice of Award
- Notice to Proceed
- Bid document(s)
- Photo-documentation of pre-, during, and post-construction activities included within the appropriate quarterly Progress Reports
- Notice of Completion
- As-built drawings
- Site inspection letter or report

Task 4: Construction of New Monitoring Facilities

Construct and equip a surface-water discharge monitoring station in Coyote Creek. Install a camera staff gauge, perform surveys, establish rating curves, and perform repairs/maintenance of the facility in the event of disturbances during or after high-discharge events.

Deliverables:

- Technical Specifications
- Notice of Completion

Task 5: Identify and Address Improperly Abandoned Wells

Develop outreach tools to identify improperly abandoned wells and perform outreach to determine access. Identify three (3) improperly abandoned wells, and if accessible through an easement or other access agreement, the wells will be properly abandoned or convert to a monitoring well. Convert two (2) inactive production wells to monitoring wells.

Deliverables:

- Documentation of proper abandonment
- Documentation of conversion to monitoring wells
- Easements and other necessary document(s), if necessary

Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment**Task 6: Groundwater Pumping Monitoring**

Collect, compile, and manage all basin pumping data to ensure successful compliance with the pumping ramp down. Perform monthly meter reading and pumping calculations, annual meter accuracy testing, and collecting annual meter data from all new de-minimus pumping wells in accordance with Watermaster policy.

Deliverables:

- Annual monitoring summary reports
- Annual water rights accounting report

Task 7: Groundwater Level Monitoring

Implement a comprehensive groundwater-level monitoring program to track changes in Basin conditions (e.g., groundwater levels, storage, and flow directions) and the effectiveness of the Physical Solution. Perform semi-annual monitoring events to collect manual water level measurements and download pressure transducers with continuously-recording data-loggers; QA/QC and upload of data to Watermaster's Data Management System (DMS). Expand the monitoring program by: performing outreach efforts to the DWR, the Parties, and others to obtain cooperation from well owners in expanding the groundwater-level monitoring network; visiting wells in the field to assess suitability for monitoring, executing access agreements; and purchase and installation of up to fifteen new pressure transducers with continuously-recording data loggers.

Deliverables:

- Annual monitoring summary reports
- Data delivered to California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program (GAMA), and other platforms requested by DWR

Task 8: Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Implement a comprehensive groundwater-quality monitoring program to track changes in Basin conditions and evaluate the need for water quality optimization programs to achieve sustainability. Perform semi-annual monitoring events to collect water quality grab samples at wells. Analyze groundwater samples for constituents identified in the GMP, including arsenic, fluoride, nitrate, sulfate, TDS, and all other major anions and cations. Process data, following each field event, perform QA/QC, and load data to the Watermaster DMS. Prepare a Water-Quality Monitoring Plan (WQMP) to enhance the monitoring network and program.

Deliverables:

- Groundwater Quality Data delivered to CEDEN, GAMA, and other platforms requested by DWR
- Annual monitoring summary reports
- Draft and Final WQMP

Task 9: Surface Water Flow Monitoring

Implement a surface water monitoring program to collect data that can be used in the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) to assess Basin recharge and the Sustainable Yield. Perform the surface-water discharge monitoring on Coyote Creek, as described in the GMP, and expand the surface-water discharge station, as described in Task 4.

Deliverables:

- Surface Water Flow Data delivered to CEDEN

Task 10: Maintain and enhance the Data Management System

Maintain and improve the Watermaster's Data Management System for efficient reporting in compliance with the Judgment and Grant requirements. Develop specific reporting tools to efficiently report data to CASGEM, CEDEN, GAMA, or other required platforms.

Deliverables:

- Technical Memo
- Data delivered to CASGEM, CEDEN, GAMA, and other platforms requested by DWR

Task 11: Annual Reporting to DWR and the Court

Prepare the combined annual report of Basin conditions and the Physical Solution implementation progress. Review a draft report, each year, at a public hearing to receive comments and the final report will be completed and submitted to the Court and DWR.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final Annual Reports for Water Year 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

Task 12: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield by 2025

Perform a comprehensive update to Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) to support the redetermination of Sustainable Yield by 2025. Collaborate with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on redetermining Sustainable Yield. Collect additional data, refine the BVHM, and use model runs to update the Sustainable Yield.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final technical memorandum: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield (Water Year [WY] 2022).
- Draft and Final technical memorandum: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield (WY 2023).
- Draft and Final technical memorandum: Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield (WY 2024).

Task 13: Prepare the 2025 GMP Update

Prepare the 2025 GMP to include updates to current groundwater conditions, implementation progress on the pumping ramp down and other PMA's, evaluation and update of plan elements such as undesirable results, minimum thresholds, management areas, etc.; water budget review; sustainable yield update, description of the monitoring network and data gaps; new information; enforcement actions, interested party outreach and coordination efforts; and GMP amendments. Present the GMP update in a series of workshops for interested party input as part of the Watermaster's regular meeting process.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final 2025 GMP

Category (e): Interested Parties Outreach/Education

Task 14: Interested Party Outreach

Facilitate public outreach and communications of Watermaster planned actions and provide a venue to receive public input prior to making Watermaster decisions. Conduct Board Meetings, TAC Meetings, Interested Party Workshops and Open Houses, and maintain website. Conduct a minimum of 3 Board Meetings, 3 TAC Meetings, 2 Interested Party Workshops and Open Houses on grant-related projects, and maintain a website to disseminate this information.

Deliverables:

- Meeting Agendas and packets
- Meeting presentations
- Meeting summaries

- Interested Party outreach materials.

COMPONENT 8: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEM (GDE) IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT, AND MONITORING

Implementing Agency: University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Component 8 will provide essential data to UCI water management planners and affected citizens of the region during implementation of the GMP for the Basin. Component 8 will focus on determining if those ecosystems that were once indisputably groundwater dependent, but at the present time may no longer be accessing groundwater due to declines in the water table over the past several decades. Component 8 will also analyze if the groundwater that supports the GDEs will be impacted by changes in the groundwater elevations. Impacts upon GDEs is a sustainability indicator identified in the Basin's Groundwater Management Plan.

The reduction of the Mesquite Bosque near the Borrego sink is occurred in response to the lowering of the water table in the area. Component 8 will use the established method of comparing the isotopic signature of the groundwater the predominant isotopes found in the local plant. Several data sets will be captured to enable a calculation to determine if the plant assemblage and supported fauna at the proposed GDE could survive only with access to surface water. These data sets are: 1) a complete inventory of the plants and fauna in the potential GDE, 2) a water needs assessment of that plant assemblage found at the potential GDE, and 3) determining the availability of surface water at the potential GDE. If data from existing monitoring wells is found to be insufficient, a dual-nested monitoring well will be constructed near or within the Borrego Sink.

Category (a): Component Administration

Prepare reports detailing Component 8 work completed during reporting period as outlined in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" of this Agreement, for inclusion in Component 1 Quarterly Progress Reports. Quarterly Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the DWR Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports. Collect and organize backup documentation by Component 8 budget category and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by task.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for Component 8 as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before the Component 8 end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Deliverables:

- Component reporting to be included in Quarterly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports

Category (b): Environmental / Engineering / Design

Task 1: Prepare the GDE Monitoring Program Workplan

Prepare a GDE Evaluation and Monitoring Program Workplan with the GDE Scientific Implementation Subcommittee, the EWG, and the UCI Board. Review the technical work that supported the opinions/assertions regarding Subbasin GDE's in the GMP and noting the data gaps in the GMP.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final versions of the GDE Evaluation and Monitoring Program Workplan

Task 2: Environmental Documentation/Permitting

Prepare the appropriate CEQA documentation for the Component and file the document(s) with the County Clerk's Office and State Clearinghouse as required. Prepare and submit an Initial Study for the Component. Complete the required CEQA documentation. Submit the CEQA document(s) to the DWR Grant Manager for review and concurrence prior to beginning construction activities. Prepare application(s) for and obtain required permit(s) to construct the Component. Obtain all required permits for the Component and submit copies to the DWR Grant Manager.

Construction may not begin and no costs for Category (c), Task 5 may be incurred until the State has reviewed the CEQA document(s), completed its CEQA responsible agency obligations and given its environmental clearance in accordance with Paragraphs 5 and D.8 of this Agreement. Any costs incurred for Category (c), Task 5 prior to DWR completing its responsible agency obligations shall not be reimbursed and any such amounts shall be deducted from the total Grant Amount in Paragraph 3.

Deliverables:

- Easements and other necessary document(s), if necessary
- Initial Study
- CEQA documentation, if necessary
- Copies of all required permits, if necessary

Task 3: Design Plans and Specifications

Complete the preliminary design plans and specifications for the Component along with the topographic survey, if needed. Develop the 50% design plans for the Component and submit them for review and concurrence prior to completing the final design plans and specifications. Prepare the 100% design plans and specifications in accordance with requirements for public bidding for construction, after review of the 50% design plans. Submit the 100% design plans and specifications for review and concurrence prior to advertising the Component for bids.

Deliverables:

- 50% design plans and specifications
- 100% design plans and specifications

Category (c): Implementation / Construction**Task 4: Construction Management**

Develop all necessary documents to secure a contractor(s) and submit to the DWR Grant Manager prior to advertising. Award the contract, submit the Notice of Award, and submit the Notice to Proceed to the DWR Grant Manager. Photo-document pre-construction conditions and weekly construction activities. Prepare any change orders, address contractor's onsite questions, review/update construction schedule, review contractor submittals and pay requests, and notify contractor if work is not acceptable. Finalize record drawings and submit the as-built drawings to DWR's Grant Manager. Construct the Component per the final design plans and specifications and outlined in the awarded contract(s). Conduct an inspection of the completed Component by a licensed professional and submit a Certification of Completion letter from the licensed professional to ensure the Component was constructed per the 100% design plans and specifications and that the Component will provide the benefits claimed.

Deliverables:

- Proof of bid advertisement
- Notice of Award

- Notice to Proceed
- Bid document(s)
- Photo-documentation of pre-, during, and post-construction activities included within the appropriate quarterly Progress Reports
- Notice of Completion
- As-built drawings
- Site inspection letter or report

Task 5: Drill Monitoring Well

Analyze and identify data gaps identified in the GMP and the GDE Evaluation and Monitoring Program Workplan to fill. Construct and equip one (1) dual-nested monitoring well near or within the Borrego sink, if necessary.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final technical specifications for a monitoring well
- Contractor bid documents
- Monitoring Well completion report.

Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment

Task 6: Update the mapping and characterization of the historical GDE's

Update Maps of the extent and health of the potential GDE's in the Subbasin and in Clark Dry Lake using ground-based assessment/mapping techniques.

Deliverables:

- Technical Memorandum/Public Report to document results and conclusions

Task 7: Fill Data Gaps

Measure plant use from different water sources by analyzing the stable isotope abundance in water held within plant tissues. Create an inventory of the plant species in and around the Mesquite Bosque by performing database searches of the San Diego Herbarium and iNaturalists (iNat). Perform iNat training for volunteer botanists to help identify plants in the Mesquite Bosque. Create a water needs assessment of the plant assemblage identified and cataloged. Analyze existing climate monitoring data, including soil moisture, to create an understanding of the surface water available to the extant plant assemblage at the mesquite bosque.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final Technical Memo to document investigations and technical work

Task 8: Prepare GDE Monitoring Program Report and Recommendations

Provide recommendations to the UCI Board for revisions to the GMP to protect the environmental beneficial uses of groundwater pursuant to the requirements of SGMA, if the monitoring program indicates that GDE(s) are dependent on the regional aquifer within the Subbasin.

Deliverables:

- Draft and Final GDE Monitoring Program Report and Recommendations

Category (e): Interested Parties Outreach / Education

Task 9: Interested Party Meetings and Outreach

Facilitate public outreach and communications of the EWG and Scientific Implementation Subcommittee planned actions and provide a venue to receive public input prior to making decisions and recommendations to the UCI Board. Recruit and/or employ local interns and volunteers to assist in implementation of the monitoring program.

Deliverables:

- Meeting agendas/packets
- PowerPoint presentations
- Summary meeting notes and memorandums with recommendations to the UCI Board

Exhibit B
BUDGET**Grant Title: Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Subbasin****Grantee: Borrego Water District**

Components	Grant Amount
Component 1: Grant Administration	\$250,000
Component 2: Advanced Meter Infrastructure	\$1,300,000
Component 3: Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring Wells	\$206,500
Component 4: Education Project	\$384,000
Component 5: Resiliency Strategy	\$200,000
Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	\$755,340
Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting, and GMP Update	\$1,983,250
Component 8: GDE Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring	\$1,036,743
Total:	\$6,115,833

Component 1: Grant Administration

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	\$250,000
Total:	\$250,000

Component 2: Advanced Meter Infrastructure

Component 2 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$50,000
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$75,000
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$1,145,000
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$30,000
Total:	\$1,300,000

Component 3: Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring Wells

Component 3 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$10,000
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$19,000
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$141,000
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$33,500
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$3,000
Total:	\$206,500

Component 4: Education Project

Component 4 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$38,400
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$286,600
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$50,000
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$1,000
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$8,000
Total:	\$384,000

Component 5: Resiliency Strategy

Component 5 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$20,000
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$55,000
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$0
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$125,000
Total:	\$200,000

Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

Component 6 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$50,000
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$0
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$0
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$655,340
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$50,000
Total:	\$755,340

Component 7: Monitoring Reporting, and GMP Update

Component 7 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$137,000
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$50,000
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$379,000
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$1,167,250
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$250,000
Total:	\$1,983,250

Component 8: GDE Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring

Component 8 serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community?

(check all that apply): DAC, SDAC, Tribe, and/or Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$25,286
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$116,007
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$55,354
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$684,618
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$155,477
Total:	\$1,036,741

Exhibit C
SCHEDULE

Grant Title: Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Subbasin

Categories	Start Date ¹	End Date ¹
Component 1: Grant Agreement Administration		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	1/1/2022	3/31/2025
Component 2: Advanced Meter Infrastructure		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	1/1/2022	12/31/2024
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	7/30/2022	3/29/2023
(c) Implementation / Construction	3/30/2023	3/30/2025
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	N/A	N/A
(e) Education / Outreach	N/A	N/A
Component 3: Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring Well		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	1/1/2022	6/1/2023
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	1/1/2022	10/30/2022
(c) Implementation / Construction	11/1/2022	11/1/2024
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	12/1/2024	12/01/2025
(e) Education / Outreach	N/A	N/A
Component 4: Education Project		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	7/1/2022	3/31/2025
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	7/30/2022	12/31/2022
(c) Implementation / Construction	1/1/2023	6/30/2024
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	7/1/2025	12/1/2025
(e) Education / Outreach	7/30/2022	6/30/2024
Component 5: Resiliency Strategy		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	4/1/2022	6/30/2024
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	7/30/2022	7/30/2023
(c) Implementation / Construction	8/1/2023	6/30/2025
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	7/30/2025	12/1/2025
(e) Education / Outreach	7/30/2022	6/30/2025

Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	7/1/2022	3/31/2025
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	N/A	N/A
(c) Implementation / Construction	N/A	N/A
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	7/1/2022	3/31/2025
(e) Education / Outreach	7/1/2022	3/31/2025
Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting, and GMP Update		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	1/1/2022	3/31/2025
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	8/1/2022	3/31/2025
(c) Implementation / Construction	4/1/2023	3/31/2025
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	6/30/2025	3/31/2025
(e) Education / Outreach	6/1/2022	3/31/2025
Component 8: GDE Identification, Assessment, & Monitoring		
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	1/1/2022	03/31/2025
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	8/1/2022	12/1/2022
(c) Implementation / Construction	12/1/2022	2/1/2024
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	2/1/2024	3/31/2025
(e) Education / Outreach	8/1/2022	3/31/2025

NOTES:

¹Exhibit C Schedule only dictates the work start date and the work end date for the Budget Category listed. The Grantee must adhere to the Deliverable Due Date Schedule that has been approved by the DWR Grant Manager. The dates listed in Exhibit C Schedule are date ranges that correlates to the Deliverable Due Date Schedule. Eligible costs for each line item will only be approved if the work completed falls within the date ranges listed in Exhibit C.

Exhibit D**STANDARD CONDITIONS****D.1. ACCOUNTING AND DEPOSIT OF FUNDING DISBURSEMENT:**

- A. **Separate Accounting of Funding Disbursements:** the Grantee shall account for the money disbursed pursuant to this Grant Agreement separately from all other Grantee funds. The Grantee shall maintain audit and accounting procedures that are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices, consistently applied. The Grantee shall keep complete and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements on expenditures of such funds. The Grantee shall require its contractors or subcontractors to maintain books, records, and other documents pertinent to their work in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices. Records are subject to inspection by the State at any and all reasonable times.
- B. **Disposition of Money Disbursed:** All money disbursed pursuant to this Grant Agreement shall be deposited in a non-interest bearing account, administered, and accounted for pursuant to the provisions of applicable law.
- C. **Remittance of Unexpended Funds:** The Grantee shall remit to the State any unexpended funds that were disbursed to the Grantee under this Grant Agreement and were not used to pay Eligible Project Costs within a period of sixty (60) calendar days from the final disbursement from the State to the Grantee of funds or, within thirty (30) calendar days of the expiration of the Grant Agreement, whichever comes first.

D.2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CREDIT AND SIGNAGE: The Grantee shall include appropriate acknowledgement of credit to the State for its support when promoting the Project or using any data and/or information developed under this Grant Agreement. Signage shall be posted in a prominent location at Project site(s) (if applicable) or at the Grantee's headquarters and shall include the Department of Water Resources color logo and the following disclosure statement: "Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part from the Budget Act of 2021 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources." The Grantee shall also include in each of its contracts for work under this Agreement a provision that incorporates the requirements stated within this paragraph.

D.3. AMENDMENT: This Grant Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties, except insofar as any proposed amendments are in any way contrary to applicable law. Requests by the Grantee for amendments must be in writing stating the amendment request and the reason for the request. Requests solely for a time extension must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the work completion date set forth in Paragraph 2, "Term of Grant Agreement." Any other request for an amendment must be submitted at least 180 days prior to the work completion date set forth in Paragraph 2, "Term of Grant Agreement." The State shall have no obligation to agree to an amendment.

D.4. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: By signing this Grant Agreement, the Grantee assures the State that it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as all applicable regulations and guidelines issued pursuant to the ADA.

D.5. AUDITS: The State reserves the right to conduct an audit at any time between the execution of this Grant Agreement and the completion of the Project, with the costs of such audit borne by the State. After completion of the Project, the State may require the Grantee to conduct a final audit to the State's specifications, at the Grantee's expense, such audit to be conducted by and a report prepared by an independent Certified Public Accountant. Failure or refusal by the Grantee to comply with this provision shall be considered a breach of this Grant Agreement, and the State may elect to pursue any remedies provided in Paragraph 10, "Default Provisions" or take any other action it deems necessary to protect its interests. The Grantee agrees it shall return any audit disallowances to the State.

Pursuant to Government Code section 8546.7, the Grantee shall be subject to the examination and audit by the State for a period of three (3) years after final payment under this Grant Agreement with respect of all matters connected with this Grant Agreement, including but not limited to, the cost of administering this Grant Agreement. All records of the Grantee or its contractor or subcontractors shall be preserved for this purpose for at least three (3) years after receipt of the final disbursement under this Agreement. If an audit reveals any impropriety, the Bureau of State Audits or the State Controller's Office may conduct a full audit of any or all of the Grantee's activities. (Pub. Resources Code, § 80012, subd. (b).)

- D.6. **BUDGET CONTINGENCY:** If the Budget Act of the current year covered under this Grant Agreement does not appropriate sufficient funds for this program, this Grant Agreement shall be of no force and effect. This provision shall be construed as a condition precedent to the obligation of the State to make any payments under this Grant Agreement. In this event, the State shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to the Grantee or to furnish any other considerations under this Grant Agreement and the Grantee shall not be obligated to perform any provisions of this Grant Agreement. Nothing in this Grant Agreement shall be construed to provide the Grantee with a right of priority for payment over any other Grantee. If funding for any fiscal year after the current year covered by this Grant Agreement is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act, by Executive Order, or by order of the Department of Finance, the State shall have the option to either cancel this Grant Agreement with no liability occurring to the State, or offer a Grant Agreement amendment to the Grantee to reflect the reduced amount.
- D.7. **CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS:** The Grantee may use the services of the California Conservation Corps or other community conservation corps as defined in Public Resources Code section 14507.5.
- D.8. **CEQA:** Activities funded under this Grant Agreement, regardless of funding source, must be in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) Any work that is subject to CEQA and funded under this Agreement shall not proceed until documents that satisfy the CEQA process are received by the DWR Grant Manager and the State has completed its CEQA compliance. Work funded under this Agreement that is subject to a CEQA document shall not proceed until and unless approved by the Department of Water Resources. Such approval is fully discretionary and shall constitute a condition precedent to any work for which it is required. If CEQA compliance by the Grantee is not complete at the time the State signs this Agreement, once the State has considered the environmental documents, it may decide to require changes, alterations, or other mitigation to the Project; or to not fund the Project. Should the State decide to not fund the Project, this Agreement shall be terminated in accordance with Paragraph 10, "Default Provisions."
- D.9. **CHILD SUPPORT COMPLIANCE ACT:** The Grantee acknowledges in accordance with Public Contract Code section 7110, that:
- A. The Grantee recognizes the importance of child and family support obligations and shall fully comply with all applicable state and federal laws relating to child and family support enforcement, including, but not limited to, disclosure of information and compliance with earnings assignment orders, as provided in Family Code section 5200 et seq.; and
 - B. The Grantee, to the best of its knowledge is fully complying with the earnings assignment orders of all employees and is providing the names of all new employees to the New Hire Registry maintained by the California Employment Development Department.
- D.10. **CLAIMS DISPUTE:** Any claim that the Grantee may have regarding performance of this Agreement including, but not limited to, claims for additional compensation or extension of time, shall be submitted to the DWR Project Representative, within thirty (30) days of the Grantee's knowledge of the claim. The State and the Grantee shall then attempt to negotiate a resolution of such claim and process an amendment to this Agreement to implement the terms of any such resolution.

- D.11. **COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND PROCUREMENTS:** The Grantee's contracts with other entities for the acquisition of goods and services and construction of public works with funds provided by the State under this Grant Agreement must be in writing and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the securing of competitive bids and undertaking competitive negotiations. If the Grantee does not have a written policy to award contracts through a competitive bidding or sole source process, the Department of General Services' *State Contracting Manual* rules must be followed and are available at: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources/Page-Content/Office-of-Legal-Services-Resources-List-Folder/State-Contracting>.
- D.12. **COMPUTER SOFTWARE:** The Grantee certifies that it has appropriate systems and controls in place to ensure that state funds will not be used in the performance of this Grant Agreement for the acquisition, operation, or maintenance of computer software in violation of copyright laws.
- D.13. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** All participants are subject to State and Federal conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the application being rejected and any subsequent contract being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code section 1090 and Public Contract Code sections 10410 and 10411, for State conflict of interest requirements.
- A. **Current State Employees:** No State officer or employee shall engage in any employment, activity, or enterprise from which the officer or employee receives compensation or has a financial interest and which is sponsored or funded by any State agency, unless the employment, activity, or enterprise is required as a condition of regular State employment. No State officer or employee shall contract on his or her own behalf as an independent contractor with any State agency to provide goods or services.
- B. **Former State Employees:** For the two-year period from the date he or she left State employment, no former State officer or employee may enter into a contract in which he or she engaged in any of the negotiations, transactions, planning, arrangements, or any part of the decision-making process relevant to the contract while employed in any capacity by any State agency. For the twelve-month period from the date he or she left State employment, no former State officer or employee may enter into a contract with any State agency if he or she was employed by that State agency in a policy-making position in the same general subject area as the proposed contract within the twelve-month period prior to his or her leaving State service.
- C. **Employees of the Grantee shall comply with all applicable provisions of law pertaining to conflicts of interest, including but not limited to any applicable conflict of interest provisions of the California Political Reform Act. (Gov. Code, § 87100 et seq.)**
- D. **Employees and Consultants to the Grantee:** Individuals working on behalf of a Grantee may be required by the Department to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700) if it is determined that an individual is a consultant for Political Reform Act purposes.
- D.14. **DELIVERY OF INFORMATION, REPORTS, AND DATA:** The Grantee agrees to expeditiously provide throughout the term of this Grant Agreement, such reports, data, information, and certifications as may be reasonably required by the State.
- D.15. **DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT:** The Grantee shall provide to the State, not less than 30 calendar days prior to submission of the final invoice, an itemized inventory of equipment purchased with funds provided by the State. The inventory shall include all items with a current estimated fair market value of more than \$5,000.00 per item. Within 60 calendar days of receipt of such inventory the State shall provide the Grantee with a list of the items on the inventory that the State will take title to. All other items shall become the property of the Grantee. The State shall arrange for delivery from the Grantee of items that it takes title to. Cost of transportation, if any, shall be borne by the State.
- D.16. **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION:** Certification of Compliance: By signing this Grant Agreement, the Grantee, its contractors or subcontractors hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under

the laws of the State of California, compliance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 (Gov. Code, § 8350 et seq.) and have or will provide a drug-free workplace by taking the following actions:

- A. Publish a statement notifying employees, contractors, and subcontractors that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited and specifying actions to be taken against employees, contractors, or subcontractors for violations, as required by Government Code section 8355.
 - B. Establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program, as required by Government Code section 8355 to inform employees, contractors, or subcontractors about all of the following:
 - i. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace,
 - ii. The Grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace,
 - iii. Any available counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and
 - iv. Penalties that may be imposed upon employees, contractors, and subcontractors for drug abuse violations.
 - C. Provide, as required by Government Code section 8355, that every employee, contractor, and/or subcontractor who works under this Grant Agreement:
 - i. Will receive a copy of the Grantee's drug-free policy statement, and
 - ii. Will agree to abide by terms of the Grantee's condition of employment, contract or subcontract.
- D.17. **EASEMENTS:** Where the Grantee acquires property in fee title or funds improvements to real property already owned in fee by the Grantee using State funds provided through this Grant Agreement, an appropriate easement or other title restriction shall be provided and approved by the State. The easement or other title restriction must be in first position ahead of any recorded mortgage or lien on the property unless this requirement is waived by the State.
- Where the Grantee acquires an easement under this Agreement, the Grantee agrees to monitor and enforce the terms of the easement, unless the easement is subsequently transferred to another land management or conservation organization or entity with State permission, at which time monitoring and enforcement responsibilities will transfer to the new easement owner.
- Failure to provide an easement acceptable to the State may result in termination of this Agreement.
- D.18. **FINAL INSPECTIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER:** Upon completion of the Project, the Grantee shall provide for a final inspection and certification by a California Registered Civil Engineer that the Project has been completed in accordance with submitted final plans and specifications and any modifications thereto and in accordance with this Grant Agreement.
- D.19. **GRANTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Grantee and its representatives shall:
- A. Faithfully and expeditiously perform or cause to be performed all project work as described in Exhibit A, "Work Plan" and in accordance with Project Exhibit B, "Budget" and Exhibit C, "Schedule".
 - B. Must maintain eligibility requirements as outlined in the 2021 Guidelines and 2021 PSP and pursuant to Paragraph 11.
 - C. Accept and agree to comply with all terms, provisions, conditions, and written commitments of this Grant Agreement, including all incorporated documents, and to fulfill all assurances, declarations, representations, and statements made by the Grantee in the application, documents, amendments, and communications filed in support of its request for funding.
 - D. Comply with all applicable California, federal, and local laws and regulations.
 - E. Implement the Project in accordance with applicable provisions of the law.

- F. Fulfill its obligations under the Grant Agreement and be responsible for the performance of the Project.
- G. Obtain any and all permits, licenses, and approvals required for performing any work under this Grant Agreement, including those necessary to perform design, construction, or operation and maintenance of the Project. The Grantee shall provide copies of permits and approvals to the State.
- H. Be solely responsible for design, construction, and operation and maintenance of projects within the work plan. Review or approval of plans, specifications, bid documents, or other construction documents by the State is solely for the purpose of proper administration of funds by the State and shall not be deemed to relieve or restrict responsibilities of the Grantee under this Agreement.
- I. Be solely responsible for all work and for persons or entities engaged in work performed pursuant to this Agreement, including, but not limited to, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and providers of services. The Grantee shall be responsible for any and all disputes arising out of its contracts for work on the Project, including but not limited to payment disputes with contractors and subcontractors. The State will not mediate disputes between the Grantee and any other entity concerning responsibility for performance of work.
- D.20. GOVERNING LAW: This Grant Agreement is governed by and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California.
- D.21. INCOME RESTRICTIONS: The Grantee agrees that any refunds, rebates, credits, or other amounts (including any interest thereon) accruing to or received by the Grantee under this Agreement shall be paid by the Grantee to the State, to the extent that they are properly allocable to costs for which the Grantee has been reimbursed by the State under this Agreement. The Grantee shall also include in each of its contracts for work under this Agreement a provision that incorporates the requirements stated within this paragraph.
- D.22. INDEMNIFICATION: The Grantee shall indemnify and hold and save the State, its officers, agents, and employees, free and harmless from any and all liabilities for any claims and damages (including inverse condemnation) that may arise out of the Project and this Agreement, and any breach of this Agreement. The Grantee shall require its contractors or subcontractors to name the State, its officers, agents and employees as additional insureds on their liability insurance for activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement.
- D.23. INDEPENDENT CAPACITY: The Grantee, and the agents and employees of the Grantees, in the performance of the Grant Agreement, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers, employees, or agents of the State.
- D.24. INSPECTION OF BOOKS, RECORDS, AND REPORTS: During regular office hours, each of the parties hereto and their duly authorized representatives shall have the right to inspect and to make copies of any books, records, or reports of either party pertaining to this Grant Agreement or matters related hereto. Each of the parties hereto shall maintain and shall make available at all times for such inspection accurate records of all its costs, disbursements, and receipts with respect to its activities under this Grant Agreement. Failure or refusal by the Grantee to comply with this provision shall be considered a breach of this Grant Agreement, and the State may withhold disbursements to the Grantee or take any other action it deems necessary to protect its interests.
- D.25. INSPECTIONS OF PROJECT BY STATE: The State shall have the right to inspect the work being performed at any and all reasonable times during the term of the Grant Agreement. This right shall extend to any subcontracts, and the Grantee shall include provisions ensuring such access in all its contracts or subcontracts entered into pursuant to its Grant Agreement with the State.
- D.26. LABOR CODE COMPLIANCE: The Grantee agrees to be bound by all the provisions of the Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and shall monitor all contracts subject to reimbursement from this Agreement to assure that the prevailing wage provisions of the Labor Code are being met. Current Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) requirements may be found at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/lcp.asp>.

For more information, please refer to DIR's *Public Works Manual* at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/PWManualCombined.pdf>. The Grantee affirms that it is aware of the provisions of section 3700 of the Labor Code, which requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance, and the Grantee affirms that it will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work under this Agreement and will make its contractors and subcontractors aware of this provision.

- D.27. **MODIFICATION OF OVERALL WORK PLAN:** At the request of the Funding Recipient, the State may at its sole discretion approve non-material changes to the portions of Exhibits A, B, and C which concern the budget and schedule without formally amending this Funding Agreement (Level I – Informal). Non-material changes with respect to work plan are changes that help clarify the original language, addition of task without deleting others, and minor edits that will not result in change to the original scope. Non-material changes with respect to the budget are changes that only result in reallocation of the budget and will not result in an increase in the amount of the State Funding Agreement. Non-material changes with respect to the Project schedule are changes that will not extend the term of this Funding Agreement. Requests for non-material changes to the budget and schedule must be submitted by the Funding Recipient to the State in writing and are not effective unless and until specifically approved by the State's Program Manager in writing.
- D.28. **NONDISCRIMINATION:** During the performance of this Grant Agreement, the Grantee and its contractors or subcontractors shall not unlawfully discriminate, harass, or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex (gender), sexual orientation, race, color, ancestry, religion, creed, national origin (including language use restriction), pregnancy, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition (cancer/genetic characteristics), age (over 40), marital status, and denial of medial and family care leave or pregnancy disability leave. The Grantee and its contractors or subcontractors shall ensure that the evaluation and treatment of their employees and applicants for employment are free from such discrimination and harassment. The Grantee and its contractors or subcontractors shall comply with the provisions of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code, § 12990.) and the applicable regulations promulgated there under (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11000 et seq.). The applicable regulations of the Fair Employment and Housing are incorporated into this Agreement by reference. The Grantee and its contractors or subcontractors shall give written notice of their obligations under this clause to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement.
- The Grantee shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this clause in all subcontracts to perform work under the Grant Agreement.
- D.29. **OPINIONS AND DETERMINATIONS:** Where the terms of this Grant Agreement provide for action to be based upon, judgment, approval, review, or determination of either party hereto, such terms are not intended to be and shall never be construed as permitting such opinion, judgment, approval, review, or determination to be arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable.
- D.30. **PERFORMANCE BOND:** Where contractors are used, the Grantee shall not authorize construction to begin until each contractor has furnished a performance bond in favor of the Grantee in the following amounts: faithful performance (100%) of contract value, and labor and materials (100%) of contract value. This requirement shall not apply to any contract for less than \$25,000.00. Any bond issued pursuant to this paragraph must be issued by a California-admitted surety. (Pub. Contract Code, § 7103; Code Civ. Proc., § 995.311.)
- D.31. **PRIORITY HIRING CONSIDERATIONS:** If this Grant Agreement includes services in excess of \$200,000, the Grantee shall give priority consideration in filling vacancies in positions funded by the Grant Agreement to qualified recipients of aid under Welfare and Institutions Code section 11200 in accordance with Public Contract Code section 10353.
- D.32. **PROHIBITION AGAINST DISPOSAL OF PROJECT WITHOUT STATE PERMISSION:** The Grantee shall not sell, abandon, lease, transfer, exchange, mortgage, hypothecate, or encumber in any manner

whatsoever all or any portion of any real or other property necessarily connected or used in conjunction with the Project, or with the Grantee's service of water, without prior permission of the State. The Grantee shall not take any action, including but not limited to actions relating to user fees, charges, and assessments that could adversely affect the ability of the Grantee meet its obligations under this Grant Agreement, without prior written permission of the State. The State may require that the proceeds from the disposition of any real or personal property be remitted to the State.

- D.33. PROJECT ACCESS: The Grantee shall ensure that the State, the Governor of the State, or any authorized representative of the foregoing, will have safe and suitable access to the Project site at all reasonable times during Project construction and thereafter for the term of this Agreement.
- D.34. REMAINING BALANCE: In the event the Grantee does not submit invoices requesting all of the funds encumbered under this Grant Agreement, any remaining funds revert to the State. The State will notify the Grantee stating that the Project file is closed and any remaining balance will be disencumbered and unavailable for further use under this Grant Agreement.
- D.35. REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE: The use by either party of any remedy specified herein for the enforcement of this Grant Agreement is not exclusive and shall not deprive the party using such remedy of, or limit the application of, any other remedy provided by law.
- D.36. RETENTION: The State shall withhold ten percent (10%) of the funds requested by the Grantee for reimbursement of Eligible Project Costs until the Project is completed and Final Report is approved. Any retained amounts due to the Grantee will be promptly disbursed to the Grantee, without interest, upon completion of the Project.
- D.37. RIGHTS IN DATA: The Grantee agrees that all data, plans, drawings, specifications, reports, computer programs, operating manuals, notes and other written or graphic work produced in the performance of this Grant Agreement shall be made available to the State and shall be in the public domain to the extent to which release of such materials is required under the California Public Records Act. (Gov. Code, § 6250 et seq.) The Grantee may disclose, disseminate and use in whole or in part, any final form data and information received, collected and developed under this Grant Agreement, subject to appropriate acknowledgement of credit to the State for financial support. The Grantee shall not utilize the materials for any profit-making venture or sell or grant rights to a third party who intends to do so. The State shall have the right to use any data described in this paragraph for any public purpose.
- D.38. SEVERABILITY: Should any portion of this Grant Agreement be determined to be void or unenforceable, such shall be severed from the whole and the Grant Agreement shall continue as modified.
- D.39. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS: This Grant Agreement may be subject to suspension of payments or termination, or both if the State determines that:
- A. The Grantee, its contractors, or subcontractors have made a false certification, or
 - B. The Grantee, its contractors, or subcontractors violates the certification by failing to carry out the requirements noted in this Grant Agreement.
- D.40. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS: This Grant Agreement and all of its provisions shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties. No assignment or transfer of this Grant Agreement or any part thereof, rights hereunder, or interest herein by the Grantee shall be valid unless and until it is approved by the State and made subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as the State may impose.
- D.41. TERMINATION BY THE GRANTEE: Subject to State approval which may be reasonably withheld, the Grantee may terminate this Agreement and be relieved of contractual obligations. In doing so, the Grantee must provide a reason(s) for termination. The Grantee must submit all progress reports summarizing accomplishments up until termination date.

- D.42. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE: Subject to the right to cure under Paragraph 10, "Default Provisions," the State may terminate this Grant Agreement and be relieved of any payments should the Grantee fail to perform the requirements of this Grant Agreement at the time and in the manner herein, provided including but not limited to reasons of default under Paragraph 10, "Default Provisions."
- D.43. TERMINATION WITHOUT CAUSE: The State may terminate this Agreement without cause on 30 days' advance written notice. The Grantee shall be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred up to the date of termination.
- D.44. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES: The parties to this Agreement do not intend to create rights in, or grant remedies to, any third party as a beneficiary of this Agreement, or any duty, covenant, obligation or understanding established herein.
- D.45. TIMELINESS: Time is of the essence in this Grant Agreement.
- D.46. UNION ORGANIZING: The Grantee, by signing this Grant Agreement, hereby acknowledges the applicability of Government Code sections 16645 through 16649 to this Grant Agreement. Furthermore, the Grantee, by signing this Grant Agreement, hereby certifies that:
- A. No State funds disbursed by this Grant Agreement will be used to assist, promote, or deter union organizing.
 - B. The Grantee shall account for State funds disbursed for a specific expenditure by this Grant Agreement to show those funds were allocated to that expenditure.
 - C. The Grantee shall, where State funds are not designated as described in (b) above, allocate, on a pro rata basis, all disbursements that support the program.
 - D. If the Grantee makes expenditures to assist, promote, or deter union organizing, the Grantee will maintain records sufficient to show that no State funds were used for those expenditures and that the Grantee shall provide those records to the Attorney General upon request.
- D.47. VENUE: The State and the Grantee hereby agree that any action arising out of this Agreement shall be filed and maintained in the Superior Court in and for the County of Sacramento, California, or in the United States District Court in and for the Eastern District of California. The Grantee hereby waives any existing sovereign immunity for the purposes of this Agreement.
- D.48. WAIVER OF RIGHTS: None of the provisions of this Grant Agreement shall be deemed waived unless expressly waived in writing. It is the intention of the parties here to that from time to time either party may waive any of its rights under this Grant Agreement unless contrary to law. Any waiver by either party of rights arising in connection with the Grant Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver with respect to any other rights or matters, and such provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Exhibit E
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FUNDS

RESOLUTION 2022-01-02
AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Resolved by the Borrego Water District Board of Directors, that an application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) (Pub. Resource Code, § 80000 et seq.) and the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) and to enter into an agreement to receive a grant for the Implementation Project for the Borrego Springs Sub Basin. The General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a grant agreement and any future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the California Department of Water Resources.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 18th day of January, 2022.



Kathy Dice
President Of The Board of Directors
Of Borrego Water District

ATTEST:



Dave Duncan
Secretary of the Board Of Directors
Of Borrego Water District

PASSED AND ADOPTED by said Board on this 18th day of January, 2022 by the following vote:

- AYES: Dice, Baker, Rosenboom, Johnson, and Duncan
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO)

I, Dave Duncan, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Borrego Water District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Borrego Water District at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of January 2022.



Dave Duncan
Secretary Of The Board Of Directors
Of The Borrego Water District



Exhibit F**REPORT FORMATS AND REQUIREMENTS**

The following reporting formats should be utilized. Please obtain State approval prior to submitting a report in an alternative format.

1. QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS

A Quarterly Progress Report template will be provided by the DWR Grant Manager. Grantees must use the template provided for all Quarterly Progress Reports to obtain reimbursement reported. The Quarterly Progress Report must accompany an Invoice and be numbered the same for ease of reference for auditing purposes. In addition, the reporting period for the Quarterly Progress Report must also align with the corresponding quarterly Invoice.

2. COMPONENT COMPLETION REPORT

Component Completion Reports shall generally use the following format. This report should summarize all work completed as part of this grant.. This is standalone document and should not reference other documents or websites. Web links are edited or removed over time. These grants can be audited several years after they are closed. Therefore, links are not appropriate to include in the close out reports.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Should include a brief summary of project information and include the following items:

- Brief description of work proposed to be done in the original application
- Description of actual work completed and any deviations from the work plan identified in the Grant Agreement

REPORTS AND/OR PRODUCTS – The following items should be provided

- Final Evaluation report
- Electronic copies of any data collected, not previously submitted
- As-built drawings
- Final geodetic survey information
- Self-Certification that the Project meets the stated goal of the Grant Agreement (e.g. 100-year level of flood protection, HMP standard, PI-84-99, etc.)
- Project photos
- Discussion of problems that occurred during the work and how those problems were resolved
- A final project schedule showing actual progress versus planned progress

COSTS AND DISPOSITION OF FUNDS – A list of showing:

- The date each invoice was submitted to the State
- The amount of the invoice
- The date the check was received
- The amount of the check (If a check has not been received for the final invoice, then state this in this section.)
- A summary of the payments made by the Grantee for meeting its cost sharing obligations under this Grant Agreement.
- A summary of final funds disbursement including:
 - Labor cost of personnel of agency/ major consultant /sub-consultants. Indicate personnel, hours, rates, type of profession and reason for consultant, i.e., design, CEQA work, etc.
 - Evaluation cost information, shown by material, equipment, labor costs, and any change orders
 - Any other incurred cost detail
 - A statement verifying separate accounting of funding disbursements
- Summary of project cost including the following items:
 - Accounting of the cost of project expenditure;
 - Include all internal and external costs not previously disclosed; and

- A discussion of factors that positively or negatively affected the project cost and any deviation from the original project cost estimate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Any relevant additional Information should be included.

3. GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

The Grant Completion Report shall generally use the following format. This report should summarize all work completed as part of this grant.. This is standalone document and should not reference other documents or websites. Web links are edited or removed over time. These grants can be audited several years after they are closed. Therefore, links are not appropriate to include in the close out reports.

- Executive Summary: consisting of a maximum of ten (10) pages summarizing information for the grant as well as the individual projects.
- Brief discussion whether the level, type, or magnitude of benefits of each project are comparable to the original project proposal; any remaining work to be completed and mechanism for their implementation; and a summary of final funds disbursement for each project.

Additional Information: Summary of the submittal schedule for the Post Performance Reports applicable for the projects in this Grant Agreement.

4. POST-PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Post Performance Report (PPR) should be concise and focus on how each project is performing compared to its expected performance. The PPR should be following the Methodology Report for the specific project type(s) provided by the DWR Grant Manager. The PPR should identify whether the project is being operated and maintained. DWR requirements is for all funded projects should be maintained and operated for a minimum of 15 years. If the project is not being maintained and operated, justification must be provided. A PPR template may be provided by the assigned DWR Grant Manager upon request. The PPR should follow the general format of the template and provide requested information as applicable. The following information, at a minimum, shall be provided:

Reports and/or products

- Header including the following:
 - Grantee Name
 - Implementing Agency (if different from Grantee)
 - Grant Agreement Number
 - Project Name
 - Funding grant source
 - Report number
- Post Performance Report schedule
- Time period of the annual report (e.g., January 2018 through December 2018)
- Project Description Summary
- Discussion of the project benefits
- An assessment of any differences between the expected versus actual project benefits as stated in the original application. Where applicable, the reporting should include quantitative metrics (e.g., new acre-feet of water produced that year, etc.).
- Summary of any additional costs and/or benefits deriving from the project since its completion, if applicable.
- Any additional information relevant to or generated by the continued operation of the project.

Exhibit G**REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA SUBMITTAL****Surface and Groundwater Quality Data:**

Groundwater quality and ambient surface water quality monitoring data that include chemical, physical, or biological data shall be submitted to the State as described below, with a narrative description of data submittal activities included in project reports, as described in Exhibit G, "Requirements for Data Submittal."

Surface water quality monitoring data shall be prepared for submission to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). The CEDEN data templates are available on the CEDEN website. Inclusion of additional data elements described on the data templates is desirable. Data ready for submission should be uploaded to your CEDEN Regional Data Center via the CEDEN website. CEDEN website: <http://www.ceden.org>.

If a project's Work Plan contains a groundwater ambient monitoring element, groundwater quality monitoring data shall be submitted to the State for inclusion in the State Water Resources Control Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program. Information on the GAMA Program can be obtained at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/. If further information is required, the Grantee can contact the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GAMA Program. A listing of SWRCB staff involved in the GAMA program can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/contact.shtml.

Groundwater Level Data

For each project that collects groundwater level data, the Grantee will need to submit this data to DWR's Water Data Library (WDL), with a narrative description of data submittal activities included in project reports, as described in Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements." Information regarding the WDL and in what format to submit data in can be found at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/>.

Exhibit H**STATE AUDIT DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The following provides a list of documents typically required by State Auditors and general guidelines for Grantees. List of documents pertains to both State funding and the Grantee's Local Cost Share and details the documents/records that State Auditors would need to review in the event of this Grant Agreement is audited. Grantees should ensure that such records are maintained for each funded project.

State Audit Document RequirementsInternal Controls

1. Organization chart (e.g., Agency's overall organization chart and organization chart for the State funded Program/Project).
2. Written internal procedures and flowcharts for the following:
 - a) Receipts and deposits
 - b) Disbursements
 - c) State reimbursement requests
 - d) Expenditure tracking of State funds
 - e) Guidelines, policy, and procedures on State funded Program/Project
3. Audit reports of the Agency internal control structure and/or financial statements within the last two years.
4. Prior audit reports on the State funded Program/Project.

State Funding:

1. Original Grant Agreement, any amendment(s) and budget modification documents.
2. A listing of all bond-funded grants, loans, or subventions received from the State.
3. A listing of all other funding sources for each Program/Project.

Contracts:

1. All subcontractor and consultant contracts and related or partners' documents, if applicable.
2. Contracts between the Agency and member agencies as related to the State funded Program/Project.

Invoices:

1. Invoices from vendors and subcontractors for expenditures submitted to the State for payments under the Grant Agreement.
2. Documentation linking subcontractor invoices to State reimbursement, requests and related Grant Agreement budget line items.
3. Reimbursement requests submitted to the State for the Grant Agreement.

Cash Documents:

1. Receipts (copies of warrants) showing payments received from the State.
2. Deposit slips (or bank statements) showing deposit of the payments received from the State.
3. Cancelled checks or disbursement documents showing payments made to vendors, subcontractors, consultants, and/or agents under the grants or loans.
4. Bank statements showing the deposit of the receipts.

Accounting Records:

1. Ledgers showing entries for funding receipts and cash disbursements.
2. Ledgers showing receipts and cash disbursement entries of other funding sources.
3. Bridging documents that tie the general ledger to requests for Grant Agreement reimbursement.

Administration Costs:

1. Supporting documents showing the calculation of administration costs.

Personnel:

1. List of all contractors and Agency staff that worked on the State funded Program/Project.
2. Payroll records including timesheets for contractor staff and the Agency personnel who provided services charged to the program

Project Files:

1. All supporting documentation maintained in the project files.
2. All Grant Agreement related correspondence.

Exhibit I PROJECT LOCATION

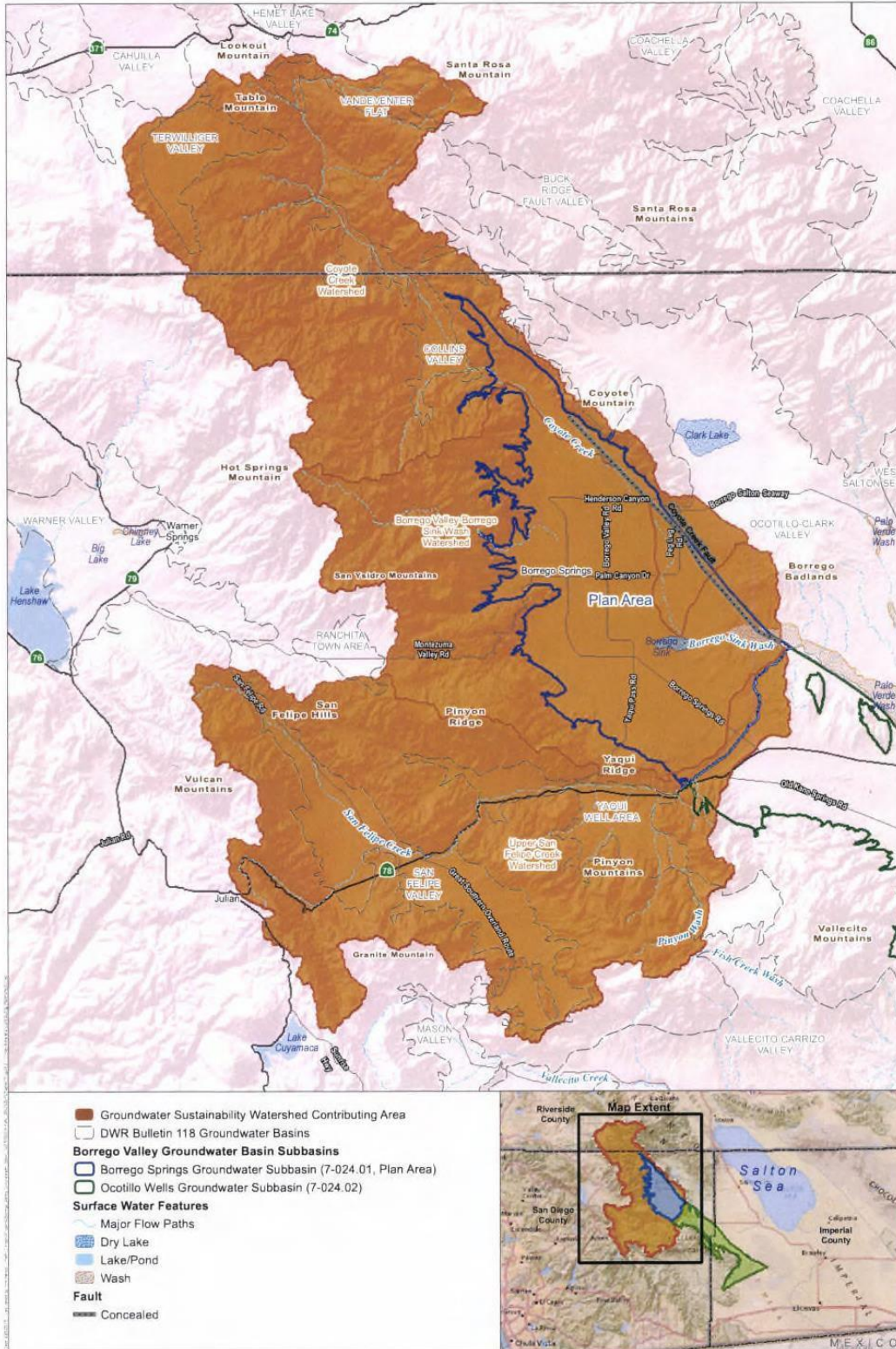


Figure 2.1-1

Plan Area and Contributing Watersheds

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin

Exhibit J

MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE PLAN COMPONENTS

Introduction

- Goals and objectives of project
- Site location and history
- Improvements implemented

Monitoring and Maintenance Plan

Detailed monitoring methods and protocols specific to the projects listed in Exhibit A will be provided by the Grant Manager at a later date.

Exhibit K

LOCAL PROJECT SPONSORS

NOT APPLICABLE

Exhibit L**APPRAISAL SPECIFICATIONS**

For property acquisitions funded this Grant Agreement, the Grantee must submit an appraisal for review and approval by the Department of General Services or DWR's Real Estate Branch prior to reimbursement or depositing State funds into an escrow account. All appraisal reports, regardless of report format, must include all applicable Appraisal Specifications below. Appraisals for a total compensation of \$150,000 or more shall be reported as a Self-Contained Appraisal Report. Appraisals for a total compensation of less than \$150,000 may be reported as a Summary Appraisal Report, which includes all information necessary to arrive at the appraiser's conclusion. Appraisal Specifications 14, 16, 21, 23-25, and 28 shall be narrative analysis regardless of the reporting format.

1. Title page with sufficient identification of appraisal assignment.
2. Letter of transmittal summarizing important assumptions and conclusions, value estimate, date of value and date of report.
3. Table of contents.
4. Assumptions and Limiting Conditions, Extraordinary Assumptions, and Hypothetical Conditions as needed.
5. Description of the scope of work, including the extent of data collection and limitations, if any, in obtaining relevant data.
6. Definition of Fair Market Value, as defined by Code of Civil Procedure, section 1263.320.
7. Photographs of subject property and comparable data, including significant physical features and the interior of structural improvements, if applicable.
8. Copies of Tax Assessor's plat map with the subject marked along with all contiguous assessor's parcels that depict the ownership.
9. A legal description of the subject property, if available.
10. For large, remote or inaccessible parcels, provide aerial photographs or topographical maps depicting the subject boundaries.
11. Three-year subject property history, including sales, listings, leases, options, zoning, applications for permits, or other documents or facts that might indicate or affect use or value.
12. Discussion of any current Agreement of Sale, option, or listing of subject property. This issue required increased diligence since state agencies often utilize non-profit organizations to quickly acquire sensitive-habitat parcels using Option Agreements. However, due to confidentiality clauses, the terms of the Option are often not disclosed to the State. If the appraiser discovers evidence of an Option or the possible existence of an Option, and the terms cannot be disclosed due to a confidentiality clause, then the appraiser is to cease work and contact the client.
13. Regional, area, and neighborhood analyses. This information may be presented in a summary format.
14. Market conditions and trends including identification of the relevant market area, a discussion of supply and demand within the relevant market area, and a discussion of the relevant market factors impacting demand for site acquisition and leasing within the relevant market area. This information may be presented in a summary format.
15. Discussion of subject land/site characteristics (size, topography, current use, elevations, zoning and land use issues, development entitlements, General Plan designation, utilities, offsite improvements, access, land features such as levees and creeks, offsite improvements, easements and encumbrances, covenants, conditions and restrictions, flood and earthquake information, toxic hazards, water rights, mineral rights, toxic hazards, taxes and assessments, etc.).

16. Description of subject improvements including all structures, square footage, physical age, type of construction, quality of construction, condition of improvements and/or identification of any permanent plantings. Discussion of construction cost methodology, costs included and excluded, accrued depreciation from all causes, remaining economic life, items of deferred maintenance and cost to cure, and incurable items. Construction cost data must include cost data source, date of estimate or date of publication of cost manual, section and page reference of cost manual, copies of cost estimate if provided from another source, replacement or reproduction cost method used, and supporting calculations including worksheets or spreadsheets.
17. Subject property leasing and operating cost history, including all items of income and expense.
18. Analysis and conclusion of the larger parcel for partial taking appraisals. For partial taking appraisals, Appraisal Specifications generally apply to the larger parcel rather than an ownership where the larger parcel is not the entire ownership.
19. Include a copy of a recent preliminary title report (within the past year) as an appraisal exhibit. Discuss the title exceptions and analyze the effect of title exceptions on fair market value.
20. For appraisals of partial takings or easements, a detailed description of the taking or easement area including surface features and topography, easements, encumbrances or improvements including levees within the subject partial take or easement, and whether the take area is characteristic of the larger parcel. Any characteristics of the taking area, including existing pre-project levees that render the take area different from the larger parcel must be addressed in the valuation.
21. Opinion of highest and best use for the subject property, based on an in depth analysis supporting the concluded use which includes the detail required by the complexity of the analysis. Such support typically requires a discussion of the four criteria of tests utilized to determine the highest and best use of a property. If alternative feasible uses exist, explain and support market, development, cash flow, and risk factors leading to an ultimate highest and best use decision.
22. All approaches to market value applicable to the property type and in the subject market. Explain and support the exclusion of any usual approaches to value.
23. Map(s) showing all comparable properties in relation to the subject property.
24. Photographs and plat maps of comparable properties.
25. In depth discussion of comparable properties, similarities and differences compared to the subject, adjustments to the comparable data, and discussion of the reliability and credibility of the data as it relates to the indicated subject property value. Improved comparable sales which are used to compare to vacant land subject properties must include an allocation between land and improvements, using methodology similar to methodology used in item 16 above to estimate improvement value when possible, with an explanation of the methodology used.
26. Comparable data sheets.
 - a) For sales, include information on grantor/Grantee, sale/recordation dates, listed or asking price as of the date of sale, highest and best use, financing, conditions of sale, buyer motivation, sufficient location information (street address, post mile, and/or distance from local landmarks such as bridges, road intersections, structures, etc.), land/site characteristics, improvements, source of any allocation of sale price between land and improvements, and confirming source.
 - b) For listings, also include marketing time from list date to effective date of the appraisal, original list price, changes in list price, broker feedback, if available.
 - c) For leases, include significant information such as lessor/lessee, lease date and term, type of lease, rent and escalation, expenses, size of space leased, tenant improvement allowance, concessions, use restrictions, options, and confirming source. When comparing improved sales to a vacant land subject, the contributory value of the improvements must be segregated from the land value.

27. For appraisals of easements, a before and after analysis of the burden of the easement on the fee, with attention to how the easement affects highest and best use in the after condition. An Easement Valuation Matrix or generalized easement valuation references may be used ONLY as a reference for a secondary basis of value.
28. For partial taking and easement appraisals, valuation of the remainder in the after condition and analysis and identification of any change in highest and best use or other characteristics in the after condition, to establish severance damages to the remainder in the after condition, and a discussion of special and general benefits, and cost to cure damages or construction contract work.
29. There are occasions where properties involve water rights, minerals, or salable timber that require separate valuations. If an appraisal assignment includes water rights, minerals, or merchantable timber that requires separate valuation, the valuation of the water rights, minerals, or merchantable timber must be completed by a credentialed subject matter specialist.
30. For partial taking and easement appraisals, presentation of the valuation in California partial taking acquisition required format.
31. Implied dedication statement.
32. Reconciliation and final value estimate. Include analysis and comparison of the comparable sales to the subject, and explain and support conclusions reached.
33. Discussion of any departures taken in the development of the appraisal.
34. Signed Certification consistent with the language found in Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.
35. If applicable, in addition to the above, appraisals of telecommunication sites must also provide:
 - a) A discussion of market conditions and trends including identification of the relevant market, a discussion of supply and demand within the relevant market area and a discussion of the relevant market factors impacting demand for site acquisition and leasing within the relevant market area.
 - b) Analysis of other (ground and vault) leases comparable to subject property. Factors to be discussed in the analysis include the latitude, longitude, type of tower, tower height, number of rack spaces, number of racks occupied, placement of racks, power source and adequacy, back-up power, vault and site improvements description and location on site, other utilities; access, and road maintenance costs.

Exhibit M

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR ESCROW PROCESSING AND CLOSURE

The Grantee must provide the following documents to the State Project Representative during the escrow process. Property acquisition escrow documents must be submitted within the term of this Grant Agreement and after a qualified appraisal has been approved.

- Name and Address of Title Company Handling the Escrow
- Escrow Number
- Name of Escrow Officer
- Escrow Officer's Phone Number
- Dollar Amount Needed to Close Escrow
- Legal Description of Property Being Acquired
- Assessor's Parcel Number(s) of Property Being Acquired
- Copy of Title Insurance Report
- Entity Taking Title as Named Insured on Title Insurance Policy
- Copy of Escrow Instructions in Draft Form Prior to Recording for Review Purposes
- Copy of Final Escrow Instructions
- Verification that all Encumbrances (Liens, Back Taxes, and Similar Obligations) have been Cleared Prior to Recording the Deed to Transfer Title
- Copy of Deed for Review Purposes Prior to Recording
- Copy of Deed as Recorded in County Recorder's Office
- Copy of Escrow Closure Notice

EXHIBIT N

Introduction

For each project contained in Exhibit A, please include a brief description of the project (maximum ~150 words) including project location, implementation elements, need for the project (what problem will the project address) and responds to the requirements listed below.

Project Monitoring Plan Requirements

Detailed monitoring methods and protocols specific to the projects listed in Exhibit A will be provided by the Grant Manager at a later date.

EXHIBIT O

INVOICE GUIDANCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OVERHEAD CHARGES

The funds provided pursuant to this Agreement may only be used for costs that are directly related to the funded Project. The following provides a list of typical requirements for invoicing, specifically providing guidance on the appropriate methods for invoicing administrative and direct overhead charges.

Administration Charges

Indirect and General Overhead (i.e., indirect overhead) charges are not an allowable expense for reimbursement. However, administrative expenses that are apportioned directly to the project are eligible for reimbursement. Cost such as rent, office supplies, fringe benefits, etc. can be "Direct Costs" and are eligible expenses as long as:

- There is a consistent, articulated method for how the costs are allocated that is submitted and approved by the Grant Manager. The allocation method must be fully documented for auditors.
- A "fully-burdened labor rate" can be used to capture allowable administrative costs.
- The administrative/overhead costs can never include:
 - Non-project specific personnel and accounting services performed within the Grantee or an LPS' organization
 - Generic markup
 - Tuition
 - Conference fees
 - Building and equipment depreciation or use allowances
- Using a general overhead percentage is never allowed

Labor Rates

The Grantee must provide DWR with supporting documentation for personnel hours (see personnel billing rates letter in example invoice packet). The personnel rate letter should be submitted to the DWR Grant Manager prior to submittal of the first invoice. The supporting documentation must include, at a minimum, employee classifications that will be reimbursed by grant funds and the corresponding hourly rate range. These rates should be "burdened"; the burdened rate must be consistent with the Grantee's/Local Project Sponsors standardized allocation methodology. The supporting documentation should also provide an explanation of what costs make up the burdened rate and how those costs were determined. This information will be used to compare against personnel hours summary table invoice back up documentation. Periodic updates may be needed during the life of the grant which would be handled through a revised billing rate letter

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 71038391B6BF44B3AF5B4CCABB6265F2	Status: Sent
Subject: Complete with DocuSign: 4600014652 Agreement- Borrego Water District	
FormID:	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 62	Signatures: 0
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled	Marisol Chavez
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	715 P Street
	Sacramento, CA 95814
	Marisol.Chavez@water.ca.gov
	IP Address: 136.200.53.20

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: Marisol Chavez	Location: DocuSign
12/6/2022 12:50:06 PM	Marisol.Chavez@water.ca.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: StateLocal	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: Department of Water Resources	Location: DocuSign

Signer Events

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Carmel Brown	Completed	Sent: 12/6/2022 12:57:26 PM
Carmel.Brown@water.ca.gov		Viewed: 12/7/2022 10:29:51 AM
Financial Assistance Branch Manager/Program Manager	Using IP Address: 174.62.67.9	Signed: 12/7/2022 10:30:02 AM
Department of Water Resources		
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)		
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:		
Not Offered via DocuSign		

Geoff Poole		Sent: 12/7/2022 10:30:05 AM
geoff@borregowd.org		Viewed: 12/7/2022 1:44:21 PM
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)		
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:		
Accepted: 12/7/2022 1:44:21 PM		
ID: 4abdfc0c-9281-4bd5-bf39-2b4c05b77da2		

Robin Brewer
 Robin.Brewer@water.ca.gov
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Not Offered via DocuSign

Arthur Hinojosa
 Arthur.Hinojosa@water.ca.gov
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Accepted: 2/13/2019 12:04:01 PM
 ID: 06486c94-6b1f-485f-a887-d0624ad04d23

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Resort Town Reimagined

Borrego Springs Integrated Planning Work Group

Scoping Proposal for an Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning Process January 2020

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1. Introduction

Borrego Springs, a small unincorporated desert community in northeastern San Diego County, faces a critical juncture for determining its future. The community is a hospitality hub for hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, as well as popular camping, hiking, golfing, recreational vehicle use, and wildlife viewing. It is also home to 2,328 year-round and roughly 1,000 more seasonal residents. The livelihood of Borrego Springs is 100% dependent on groundwater, and its basin is in a state of critical overdraft.¹ According to their Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the Borrego Valley must collectively reduce water use by 75%.²

Water use reductions will significantly impact Borrego's economy and socioeconomic structure, while also causing long-term environmental effects. The region's greatest water users – local agriculture and golf recreation – are also the primary drivers for the community's economy. Any change to agriculture or golf will disrupt local employment, and potentially degrade air quality due to land fallowing. This could lead to a ripple effect, with job loss and public health risks impacting the number of families living in the area, in turn affecting local commerce, housing demand, and school enrollment, among other factors.

These circumstances, while seemingly dire, present a significant opportunity for the Borrego Springs community to proactively pivot toward a sustainable future, based on an economy that will vitalize the region while living within its natural resource constraints. Borrego Springs can serve as a model for other communities for a just and resilient transition in the face significant socio-economic and environmental disruption. To succeed, efforts must be unified and collaborative across sectors, socioeconomic status, community values, and personal interests. No piece of the community fabric can be overlooked.

The integrated master planning process outlined in this scoping proposal begins by providing the current context – an overview of the sociocultural and physical conditions of Borrego Springs today. The following sections detail the important socioeconomic and environmental issues driving the need for an integrated master plan as well as the community priorities identified through several recent community engagement efforts. The work plan and budget sections provide the necessary detail about plan development phases, from establishing the leadership structure and engaging in community visioning to reviewing the economic, social, and environmental data needed to establish a baseline for Borrego's present-day community structure, as well as developing appropriate, implementable goals and actions that combine into a cohesive master planning strategy.

This scoping proposal is built upon extensive stakeholder engagement and long-term, cross-sector collaboration. This will ensure that the diverse interests of the community are represented and foster innovative, multi-benefit solutions to complex challenges.

An integrated, regional, watershed-scale master planning process will identify the complex relationships between water use, economic, social, and environmental factors that underlie Borrego's vitality, and strategize activities necessary to turn Borrego into a thriving community and world-class tourist destination.

¹ Critical overdraft occurs when 1) the average annual amount of extracted groundwater exceeds the long-term average annual supply and 2) continued extraction at these rates would likely incur significant impacts to water quality, availability, the local economy, and the environment. Retrieved from <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>

² Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin Retrieved from <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/SGMA/borrego-valley.html>

2. Current Conditions

2.1. Community Characteristics (Socio-cultural)

2.1.1. Demographics

Borrego Springs' estimated full-time population is 2,328.³ The median age of residents in Borrego Springs is 53.8 years, with almost 60% of the population aged 55-years or older.⁴ Residents are primarily White (87%), with the remainder Black/African-American, Asian, or two or more races. Approximately 20% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latinx (Figure 1).⁵

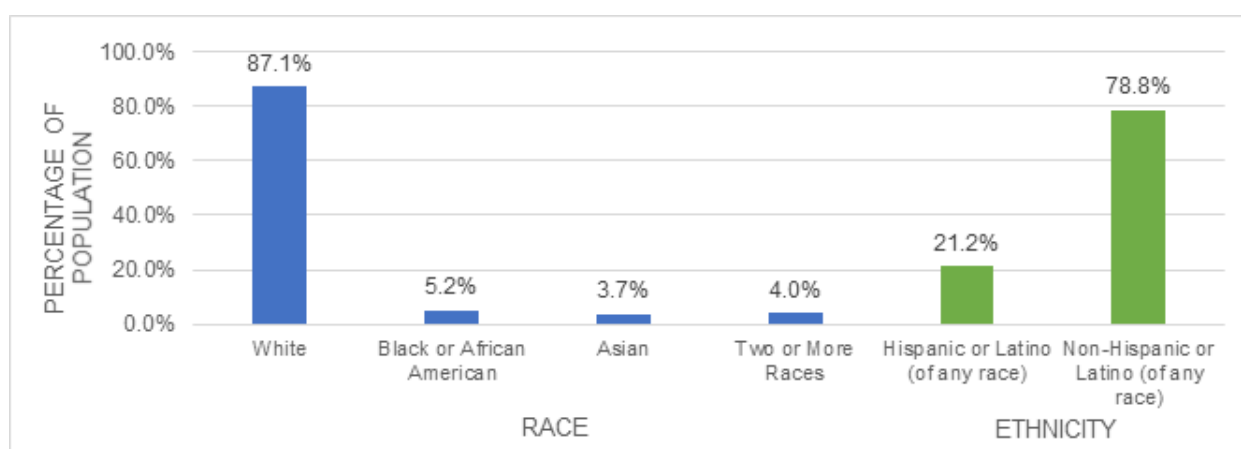


Figure 1. Race and Ethnicity, 2016 American Community Survey data

Based on the seasonality of the area, it is estimated that part-time residents – seasonal workers, “snowbirds,” and weekenders – inflate the population by two-fold.⁶

2.1.2. Resident Typologies

Anecdotally, year-round residents are comprised of two types:

1. Households consisting of individuals and couples over the age of 55, primarily White/non-Hispanic, who are living on limited or fixed incomes.
2. Households comprised of multigenerational families, primarily Hispanic/Latinx and consisting of grandparents, working parents, and children who make up most of the students in the Borrego Unified School District.⁷

Part-time residents are comprised of the following three types:

³ U.S. Census. (2016). *ACS Demographics and Housing Estimates, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_DP05; U.S. Census (2010). *Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics, 2010*. Retrieved from: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1

⁴ U.S. Census. (2016). *Age and Sex, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S0101

⁵ U.S. Census. (2016). *Place of Birth by Nativity and Citizenship Status, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_B05002

⁶ San Diego County. (2011). *Borrego Springs Community Plan*.

⁷ According to the National Center for Education Statistics (2018), 84% of students in the Borrego Springs Unified School District (BSUSD) are Hispanic/Latinx and 44% of students are English language learners. Retrieved from: https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/district_detail.asp?Search=2&details=1&ID2=0605700&DistrictID=0605700

1. Seasonal workers: Individuals who work in the area during agricultural harvest seasons.
2. Snowbirds: Those with second homes in the area who avoid Borrego’s hotter months, typically arriving in November and leaving in March or April.
3. Weekenders: Visitors often interested in outdoor activities ranging from golf to hiking to mountain biking.

2.1.3. Community Groups

Borrego Springs has an active network of community groups, comprised primarily of year-round residents and part-time “snowbirds.” Interests range from outdoor activity and nature clubs to youth and religious groups, volunteer service organizations, and community leadership groups focused on business and governmental affairs.

- Al-Anon, Alcoholic & Narcotics Anonymous
- American Legion Auxiliary
- American Legion Post 853
- Anza Borrego Foundation (ABF)
- Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association
- Borrego Art Institute (BAI), Borrego Springs Civic Foundation
- Borrego Spring Art Guild
- Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Borrego Springs Children's Center
- Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group
- Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition
- Borrego Springs Little League
- Borrego Springs Minister Association
- Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- Borrego Springs Rotary Club/Rotary Foundation
- Borrego Springs Senior Center
- Borrego Springs Youth Basketball League
- Borrego Valley Endowment Fund
- Borrego Valley Stewardship Council
- Borrego Village Association
- Borrego Village Foundation (BVF)
- Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, Boys & Girls Club of Borrego Springs
- Christmas Circle Community Park
- Feeding America at Borrego Springs Unified School District
- Feeding America at St Richard’s Catholic Church
- Friends of the Borrego Springs Library
- Kiwanis Club
- Lions Club
- S’Interact Club (High School Interact/Rotary plus Soroptimist)
- San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond Revitalization Groups: Revitalization Working Group on Economic Development/Tourism, Revitalization Working Group on Infrastructure, Revitalization Working Group on Community Health, Revitalization Working Group on the Environment
- San Diego Food Bank at Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church
- Soroptimist International of Borrego Springs
- Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy

2.1.4. Income and Poverty

According to 2016 U.S. Census data, the median household income (MHI) in Borrego Springs is \$34,046.⁸ This is almost 50% less than the San Diego County MHI of \$66,529 and the California MHI of \$63,783. The MHI qualifies Borrego Springs as a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) as well as an Economically Distressed Area (EDA) according to California Department of Water Resources guidelines.⁹

⁸ U.S. Census. (2016). *ACS Demographics and Housing Estimates, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

⁹ CA Department of Water Resources. (2016). *DAC Mapping Tool.*

With such a large population in retirement, income for many Borrego households comes from retirement, Social Security, or other sources of fixed income. In 2016, there were 1,050 individual Social Security beneficiaries in the 92004 ZIP code – 850 of the total were retired, and 895 were aged 65 or older.¹⁰ The Census estimates 45.2% of households receive Social Security income at an average of \$18,201 per year, and 30.3% of households have retirement income at an average of \$19,371 per year.¹¹

It is estimated that 11.5% of Borrego Springs full-time residents live below the federal poverty line, the threshold for 2016 being an income of \$24,300 for a four-member household.¹² Though children under 18 make up only 16% of the total population of Borrego, 60% of youth live in a household that receives food stamps/SNAP, cash assistance, or Social Security Income.¹³ Additionally, 71% of children in the Borrego Springs Unified School District (BSUSD) qualify for free lunch, while another 17% qualify for reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program.¹⁴

The census tract is also designated as “Low Income, Low Access at 10 miles” to groceries by the USDA.¹⁵ A census tract is designated Low Income if the poverty rate is 20% or higher, or if the MHI in the census tract is 80% less than the state or metropolitan area. A census tract is designated Low Access if at least 33% of the population lives farther than 1 mile from the nearest grocery store in an urban area, or farther than 10 miles in a rural area.

2.1.5. Housing

There are approximately 2,667 total housing units in Borrego Springs, with a seasonal housing vacancy rate of around 40%.¹⁶ Over 1,000 units are estimated to be for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Borrego is largely made up of single-family homes (62.5%), the majority detached, while 24.6% of homes in the area are mobile homes. Duplexes and multifamily units make up the final 12.9% of the housing stock.¹⁷ According to the Borrego Springs Community Plan, over 1,500 homes and condominiums were in the development pipeline in Borrego in 2011.¹⁸ Most of the projects were put on hold due to groundwater supply discussions, while some have had development resume, such as the Rams Hill Golf Course redevelopment.

The larger San Diego County Desert Community Planning Area (Desert CPA), which includes the Ocotillo Wells area and expands south encompassing the Anza Borrego State Park, adds an additional

¹⁰ OASDI Social Security Administration. (2016). *Number of beneficiaries with benefits in current-payment status and total monthly benefits, by field office and ZIP Code*. Retrieved from:

https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_zip/2015/ca.html

¹¹ U.S. Census. (2016). *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_DP03

¹² U.S. Census. (2016). *Percent of families and people whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_DP03

¹³ U.S. Census. (2016). *Receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash Public Assistance Income, of Food Stamps/SNAP, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_B09010

¹⁴ National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). *Enrollment Characteristics (2015-2016 school year)*.

https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/school_detail.asp?Search=1&SchoolID=060570000517&ID=060570000517

¹⁵ United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. (2015). *Low Income & Low Access Layers 2015*.

Retrieved from: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas>

¹⁶ U.S. Census. (2016). *Selected Housing Characteristics, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.; U.S.

Census. (2016). *Vacant housing units, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_B25004

¹⁷ U.S. Census. (2016). *Selected Housing Characteristics, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

¹⁸ San Diego County. (2011). *Borrego Springs Community Plan*. Retrieved from:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Borrego_Springs_CP.pdf

1,000 housing units to the sub-region's total, totaling approximately 3,500-3,700. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) estimates that more than 10,000 additional acres will be developed as Low-Density Single Family or Single Family by 2050, which would increase the total housing units in the Desert CPA by more than 1,500.¹⁹

Though sparsely populated, Borrego Springs still has unmet housing and infrastructure needs. The Census estimates that about 76% of renters in Borrego Springs are cost-burdened, and 30.6% of renters are severely cost-burdened.²⁰ This means almost a third of rental households face monthly housing costs that are 50% or more of their total household income. This generally affects lower-income households, as approximately 95% of renter households making below \$50,000 are cost burdened.²¹

The Borrego Springs Community Plan highlights a shortage of senior and low-to-moderate-income housing in the community, including assisted living and nursing homes. It also details the lack of pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to housing within the Village Core. Assuming the community remains a destination for older retirees, strategic planning around affordable housing for those on fixed or low incomes, as well as local accessibility and active transportation, will be important.

2.1.6. Public Health

Borrego Springs is located within a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) in San Diego County, as defined by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. An MUA is an area with too few primary care providers, high poverty rates, a higher older adult population, and/or a high infant mortality rate.²² There is one medical clinic that provides comprehensive healthcare for residents in the Borrego Valley -- the Borrego Valley Medical Center, which does not provide emergency services. Desert Home Care provides in-home care and Mountain view Assisted Living is an assisted-living facility in the area.

Borrego's location within the desert of San Diego County poses increased risk for heat-related illnesses. There is also a significant number of sub-populations with greater heat-related risk factors: those 65 years or older, those who are medically underserved and/or low-income, as well as those who are occupationally or recreationally active outdoors.²³ However, since 2014, thanks to the development of one of the largest utility microgrids in the United States, Borrego Springs and the surrounding northeast area of the county are less likely to have extended power outages that risk residents being without air conditioning.²⁴ In addition to heat risks, the census tract is also ranked higher than 75% of other state tracts for the number and type of groundwater threats that exist in the area due to contamination.²⁵

About 12% of residents in the 92004 ZIP code in 2014 had ever been diagnosed with asthma. This is slightly lower than the statewide rate of 14% and the countywide rate of 16% (1-17 years) and 14% (18-

¹⁹ SANDAG. (2013). *Series 13 Regional Growth Forecast: Desert Community Plan Area, County of San Diego*.

²⁰ U.S. Census. (2017). *Selected Housing Characteristics, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

²¹ U.S. Census. (2016). *Estimated percent of all renters with incomes less than \$50,000 who are burdened by housing costs between 2012-2016*. Retrieved from <https://policymap.com>

²² County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency. (2013). *San Diego County Atlas of Medically Underserved Areas/Populations, Health Professional Shortage Areas, & Registered Nurse Shortage Areas*. Retrieved from: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/documents/CHS-HealthcareShortageAtlas_2013.pdf

²³ County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency. (2012). *Health Vulnerability Atlas, San Diego County, 2012*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/documents/CHS-HeatAtlas2012.pdf>

²⁴ San Diego Gas and Electric. (2018). *The Borrego Springs Microgrid is a Glimpse into the Future*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sdge.com/more-information/environment/smart-grid/borrego-springs-microgrid>

²⁵ California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. (2017). *CalEnviroScreen 3.0, Groundwater Threats*. Retrieved from: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/groundwater-threats>

plus years).²⁶ However, changes in climate or land use could affect these rates, as the neighboring Salton Sea area has seen a spike in asthma issues due to drought and receding water.²⁷

2.1.7. Local Governance

Borrego Springs is an unincorporated community far removed from the majority of San Diego County and has little local governance. It is overseen by County District 5 Supervisor Jim Desmond, 38th State Senate District Senator Brian Jones, and 71st District Assemblymember Randy Voepel. All land use planning is subject to County approval, governed by the County General Plan and the Borrego Springs Community Plan. The Anza Borrego Desert State Park has jurisdiction over much of the land surrounding Borrego Springs, but no authority outside the park boundaries.

2.1.8. Amenities and Services

2.1.8.1. Facilities and Infrastructure

The Borrego Springs community is supported by the following facilities and infrastructure, which are also used by neighboring Ranchita and Shelter Valley.²⁸

- County Road Station
- School District
- Water District
- Fire Department
- Sheriff's Substation
- County Library
- Children's Center
- Boys and Girls Club
- Senior Center
- Medical Center
- Airport
- County Rural Bus System
- AT&T Central Office
- Chamber of Commerce

2.1.8.2. Parks and Recreation

Borrego Springs has several community facilities and is also located near multiple public recreation areas. The Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center presents multiple plays and musicals in season and the Community Concert Association also provides regular programming. The Borrego Springs Community Park offers pickleball courts, a dog park, a picnic area, and an astronomy bowl. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Palomar Mountain State Park, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park are nearby, as is Ocotillo Wells Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation, San Bernardino National Forest, Mt. San Jacinto, Joshua Tree National Park, and the Salton Sea.

²⁶ UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (2014). *Ever diagnosed with Asthma (1-17); Ever diagnosed with Asthma (18+)*. Retrieved from: askchisne.ucla.edu

²⁷ Desert Sun (2017). Salton Sea communities "no longer a good place to live" for those with respiratory issues. Retrieved from: <https://www.desertsun.com/story/salton-sea/2017/10/25/salton-sea-communities-no-longer-good-place-live-those-respiratory-issues/769970001/>

²⁸ County of San Diego General Plan (2014), Borrego Springs Community Plan. Retrieved from https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Borrego_Springs_CP.pdf

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park headquarters provides visitor facilities that are also used by residents, including a Visitor Center, developed campgrounds, trails, and an outdoor amphitheater.

2.1.8.3. Transportation

State Highway 78 and County Highways S3 and S22 serve the residents of Borrego Springs. The closest airport is Borrego Valley Airport. The closest international airport is Palm Springs International Airport, approximately 80 miles north of Borrego Springs. Public transit is available by Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), which provides transportation service via routes 891 and 892 but only on Thursdays and Fridays.

2.1.8.4. Education

The Borrego Unified School District (BSUSD) serves grades K-12 (approximately 450 students) who attend five schools. The school district includes Ocotillo Wells and serves discretionary students from Ranchita and Salton City. As of the last Community Plan update in 2014, a new charter school was recently approved by the BSUSD Board of Trustees.²⁹

2.1.8.5. Utilities

Electrical service in Borrego Springs is provided by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). Service reliability from SDG&E is poor, especially during summer “monsoon” season. Above-ground utility poles are eyesores that interrupt our panoramic views. They are also susceptible to damage in our frequent high winds, often disrupting service during storms. With high summer temperatures (averaging 107 degrees), costly electric bills for residents and businesses affect our ability to conduct year-round commerce, resulting in fewer services and lessened ability to market the community for year-round tourism. Propane service providers to Borrego Springs are Amerigas and Pro-Flame Gas Co. Increasingly, residents are installing private solar generation systems.³⁰

2.1.8.5.1. Distribution Communications Reliability Improvement (DCRI) Project

The Distribution Communications Reliability Improvement (DCRI) project will provide more reliable, high speed communications to help protect communities from wildfires by expanding the use of the Falling Conductor Protection (FCP) technology. FCP uses relays that communicate wirelessly to de-energize downed power lines (typically due to high winds) before contacting the ground, potentially sparking fire.

SDG&E plans to use its new advanced wireless communications network to monitor, communicate with, and control transmission and distribution equipment. They will be able to support additional smart grid functionality such as microgrids, advanced battery storage, dynamic voltage controllers, falling conductor applications, high-risk fire mitigation and photovoltaic penetration volatility.

SDG&E uses wireless networks to communicate between FCP and other devices. DCRI will replace these systems with a single wireless network serving various purposes, like FCP enabling push-to-talk radio for crews and the ability to monitor and control the power grid DCRI is part of a comprehensive 3-pronged program to minimize the risk of wildfire. First, SDGE engineers and operates the electric system to be fire safe. Second, they have weather models and over 150 weather sensors to predict and monitor fire conditions. Lastly, its educating residents in High Fire Threat Districts to be safe and prepared for wildfires

²⁹County of San Diego General Plan (2014), Borrego Springs Community Plan. Retrieved from https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Borrego_Springs_CP.pdf

³⁰ Ibid.

County, Borrego Springs has historically experienced many outages because the community is served by a single transmission line and weather conditions are extreme. To strengthen this community's energy reliability and resiliency, SDG&E explored the adoption of new technologies for local energy generation and battery storage.

2.1.8.5.2. Borrego Springs Microgrid

The Borrego Springs Microgrid is the first utility-owned, community scale microgrid in America to demonstrate the capabilities of renewable generation and new technologies to enhance energy reliability. Microgrids that use renewable energy and battery storage can increase energy resilience. The Borrego Springs Microgrid is designed to be a robust, renewable-based system that provides critical power during emergencies and planned outages, which are necessary when system upgrades and maintenance work are needed. The Borrego Springs Microgrid is also a true community microgrid providing benefits to the entire area, and not just to a single-metered customers. A utility-grade microgrid controller known as the Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) monitors all assets deployed across Borrego Springs including the distributed battery storage and the solar plant located at the northern edge of town.

When an outage occurs, the Microgrid can be activated to provide power. During the day, the Microgrid can harness energy from a local solar plant as well as the Microgrid's batteries and generators to power the entire community. During the night, the Microgrid's batteries and generators power designated critical-load areas. As needed, non-critical loads are shed to maintain Microgrid stability. Seamless transitions to and from the grid are possible and can be initiated and controlled onsite or remotely.³¹

2.1.8.6. Sewer and Water

Borrego Springs receives sewer and water service from the Borrego Water District (BWD), established in 1962. The Water District has 2100 water customers and 800 sewer customers. Since most of the houses are not occupied all year round only 1/3rd of the sewage is created from year-round residents. Many individual house owners have elected for septic tanks, which indicates low flow of sewage due to less customers. In December 1979, the latent powers of the District were activated by the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission to provide water and sewer services to Montezuma (formerly Rams Hill). Since 1979, the BWD has consolidated water and sewer services within the community. Sewer service uses existing treatment facilities located in the southeastern area of the Valley adjacent to the Borrego Sink. Service is provided via a collection system extending from the treatment plant approximately 7.2 miles north along Borrego Valley Road, and west along Palm Canyon Drive to Montezuma Valley Road. The Borrego Water District also maintains pest control and flood control powers.³²

2.1.8.7. Telecommunications

The local telephone company is AT&T. Only Borrego Valley businesses and residents living near Palm Canyon Drive are able to obtain high-speed data (T-1 and DSL) service. Residents living more than 10,000 feet from the central office must use dial-up or cable Internet service. The local franchised cable provider is CableUSA, providing television and high-speed Internet service. There are several Internet service providers that provide toll-free local access to their dial-up networks.³³

³¹ *Distribution Communications Reliability Improvement (DCRI) Project*. SDGE. Page 1

³² County of San Diego General Plan (2014), Borrego Springs Community Plan. Retrieved from https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Borrego_Springs_CP.pdf

³³ County of San Diego General Plan (2014), Borrego Springs Community Plan. Retrieved from https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Borrego_Springs_CP.pdf

2.2 Physical Characteristics (Geologic, Hydrologic, Geographic & Environmental Features)

Borrego Springs occupies 42.5 square miles and is surrounded by the 640,000-acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP).³⁴ Geography in the valley is generally sloping alluvium posing a significant flood consideration. [ii][1] The low-desert climate is characterized by mild winters and extremely hot summers, with rainfall historically averaging less than 7 inches per year. Flora and fauna are native to the Colorado Desert region of the Sonoran Desert.

2.1.1. Subbasin

Borrego Springs is situated within the Borrego Valley Subbasin. Land uses consist primarily of private land under County jurisdiction, and both the private land and the Borrego Valley Subbasin are surrounded by the perimeter of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Land uses in the subbasin include residential, agricultural, recreational, and commercial, with 4,000 acres devoted to agriculture and most commercial and residential property undeveloped.

The Borrego Valley Aquifer is a finite source of natural water, much of which has been present as groundwater for thousands of years. The amount of groundwater pumping in the Valley since the inception of agriculture has overwhelmed the amount that is naturally restored to the aquifer each year. [x] DWR has designated the 98-square-mile Borrego Valley subbasin as high priority and critically overdrafted. [4] [xi]

2.1.2. Watershed

The watersheds providing water runoff to Borrego Springs are important resources, protected mostly by the surrounding Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Coyote Canyon watershed provides the highest volume of natural water runoff into the Valley, followed by Borrego Palm Canyon, Henderson Canyon and Tubb Canyon.[5] [xii] The aquifer is replenished primarily from the Coyote Creek flow coming from the Collins Valley to the north. Coyote Creek runs year-round in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and supplies water to the Borrego Valley sub-flow migration. [xiii] Surface flow of streams entering the Valley, such as Coyote Creek, Palm Canyon Creek and Tubb Canyon can be impacted by the overdraft of the Borrego Valley Aquifer. Streams cannot meander far out into the valley if the aquifer has been depleted beneath them. The streams will quickly seep into the subsurface if the ground beneath them is not saturated at the canyon mouths. This impacts the amount of riparian vegetation near the canyon mouths and can negatively impact the growth of native fan palms, willows, mesquites and cottonwoods that normally inhabit desert canyons. [xiv]

Defining the subbasin setting also requires an examination of groundwater quality issues. Groundwater quality provided by the Borrego Water District (BWD) water supply wells meets California drinking water maximum contaminant levels without treatment. Arsenic concentrations were increasing in multiple BWD water supply wells until 2014, but have since decreased. Historically, there have been nitrate-related water quality problems encountered in BWD wells that led to well reconstruction, abandonment, and replacement. [xv]

³⁴ Ibid.

Given the limited number of water quality testing sites for agricultural wells that have been available, total dissolved solids and sulfate are presently the only known water quality constituents that show increasing concentrations with simultaneous declines in groundwater levels.

2.1.3. Socio-Political Boundaries

For the purposes of integrated planning, it will be important to document regional jurisdictional boundaries, including but not limited to: County boundaries, public agency boundaries, private and public lands, neighborhood designations, etc.

2.1.3.2. Land-Use Designations

Most land in Borrego Springs' 42.5 square mile radius is zoned as Rural Lands, some Semi-Rural Residential, and a sprinkling of General Commercial and Rural Commercial (Appendix A). There are also a few industrially zoned land uses related to jobs-based businesses. The larger Borrego Valley comprises 110 square miles and is defined by its open desert lands and mountains that surround Borrego Springs.

A United States Geological Survey report (Scientific Investigations Report 2015-5150) estimated the percent of overall land use in 2009 in the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin as the following. Approximately 72.5% of land is native vegetation, generally desert-type vegetation, while 5.6% of land is phreatophytic vegetation, e.g., plant communities with deep roots that depend on groundwater, like mesquite. An additional 11.1% of land is dedicated to residential or developed land while 3.6% of land is dedicated to citrus farming, 3% dedicated to golf courses, 2.1% to fallowed agricultural land or dedicated to livestock, 1.2% was dedicated to potato farming, and 0.9% was dedicated to dates, palms, or other nursery types.

2.1.3.3. Flooding Designations

There are several properties in Borrego that are subject to flooding, mapped as “repetitive loss properties” in the County Floodplain Management Plan (FMP)³⁵, and many of these properties have filed flood loss claims in the past. Any future develop should consider flood risk and the appropriate land uses for flood prone areas, including allowing areas in a flood zone to be utilized for agriculture, open space, or habitat restoration.

2.1.4. Air Quality

As noted previously the Borrego Springs area has seen increases in the number of asthma cases, which have been linked to decreasing air quality resulting from drought conditions and environmental changes in the Salton Sea area. Powerful winds blow across the Salton Sea, causing dust storms that increase highly hazardous particulate matter into the air.

Since 2015, in a joint venture between the University of California, Irvine (UCI), the Borrego Water District, and the Borrego Valley Endowment Fund, the Borrego Valley has developed one of the most sophisticated air quality monitoring systems of any small community in California. The monitoring system is composed of five stationary nephelometers located strategically throughout the region – Clark Dry Lake, Wilcox Well, the UCI Research Center, the Borrego Springs Elementary School, and Viking Ranch – and one mobile nephelometer used to intercalibrate the stationary monitoring devices with an official EPA-approved monitoring device in the Imperial Valley. The Borrego Air Quality monitoring system provides for constant monitoring of dust, or “particulate matter” sizes PM 2.5 and PM 10, which are the sizes of particulate matter regulated by EPA clean air standards. The process of intercalibration of

³⁵ County of San Diego Section 14.0, Floodplain Management Plan August 2007, Page 14-15

the maturing Borrego Air Quality monitoring system with EPA-approved monitoring devices will allow for closer coordination with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District for monitoring of air quality in Borrego and enforcement of federal clean air standards.

In addition to monitoring activities, air quality issues are being addressed through environmental interventions. One notable effort is the Red Hill Bay Restoration Project, which aims to restore and improve the quality of wetland habitat to conditions similar to the Salton Sea shoreline from many decades ago. The primary objectives are to reestablish the Red Hill Bay area as an important saline shallow-water habitat for migratory waterbirds and to cover the newly exposed playa with saline water in order to decrease fugitive dust released during wind events.

Congressmember Raul Ruiz, M.D., who represents the 36th Congressional District, has prioritized preventing toxic particulate matter from blowing into surrounding communities and harming public health, having brokered a \$30 million federal funding commitment for the Salton Sea, pushed for the groundbreaking of the Red Hill Bay project, and protected the long-term water supply for the Salton Sea through recent legislation.³⁶

3. Needs and Impetus for Integrated Planning

The Borrego Valley is surrounded on three sides by mountains: the Santa Rosas to the north, the San Ysidros to the west, and the Grapevine Hills to the south. To the east, the mud hills of the Borrego Badlands stretch off toward the Salton Sea. The area has been a major transportation corridor due to its geography and water sources. Native American migrations, Juan Bautista de Anza's inland route to San Francisco and other missions, stagecoach routes, the gold rush, Mexican War troop movement, ranchers and cattlemen, farmers and settlers. All followed the same routes in use today and used the same water sources.

In addition to agriculture production, Borrego Springs serves as a hospitality hub, providing lodging, dining, arts, and activities for visitors coming to explore the area. The Anza Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) is one of the largest draws for tourism in the area. Encompassing approximately 600,000 acres of California's Western Colorado Desert, the park is the largest state park in California and second largest in the U.S. ABDSP is also recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage Center's Man and Biosphere Programme, which tracks changes in the biosphere resulting from human and natural activities. Recreational opportunities attract hikers, campers, wildlife watchers, equestrians, mountain bikers, road bikers, nature seekers, star gazers, and artists to the area. Researchers, academics, teachers, and students of natural sciences, primarily geologists and paleontologists, study the area and have access to the University of California Irvine Desert Research Center facilities.

However, the local economy – consisting primarily of high-use water businesses such as agriculture and golf, as well as state park-related tourism – is struggling due to natural drought and a critically overdrafted groundwater basin. Borrego Springs must grow its sustainable economic activities, diversifying the local economy by introducing new sectors such as green tech, research hubs, education and training facilities, and expanded geotourism options. Sustainable directions for community and economic development must be established for residents of Borrego Springs and the surrounding area to continue to thrive.

³⁶ Press release. "Dr. Ruiz Calls for a Congressional Hearing on the Imminent Health Crisis at the Salton Sea." Retrieved from: <https://ruiz.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/dr-ruiz-calls-congressional-hearing-imminent-health-crisis-salton-sea>.

As discussed in subsequent sections, critical components of this economic transition are retraining the existing workforce to connect with year-round employment opportunities that align with a pivoting economy (e.g., loss of agriculture and introduction of new sectors) and creating educational and business incubator opportunities for the local workforce to take the lead on a variety of economic development activities.

3.1. Economy, Industry, and Workforce

The main economic driver in Borrego Springs is tourism, largely from state park visitation. It is estimated that the 900 square-mile ABDSP attracts between 650,000 and 1,000,000 visitors to the region annually.³⁷ Recent California State Park Statistical Reports from 2013-2016 put the official numbers between 350,000 to 550,000. In FY2015-2016, there were approximately 403,000 visitors to ABDSP, accounting for \$620,169 in total park revenue; meanwhile, Anza-Borrego's 2015-2016 total budgetary expenses added up to over \$3.7 million.³⁸

While Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest draw to the Borrego Springs area, visitors are often interested in other activities such as biking, hiking, golfing, stargazing, or visiting the Borrego Art Institute and local galleries. The surrounding businesses in Borrego, such as restaurants, retail stores, and lodging properties, also support this tourism economy. There are 10 lodging options for visitors to Borrego Springs, with additional communities and resorts offering traditional house rentals or RV parking, as well as multiple private vacation home listings for the greater Borrego Springs area.

It is important to note that most of the business in Borrego Springs is seasonal, with the high season from October to May, although the village is still active during the summer months. Since 2009, the Borrego Springs Village Association has been working on a variety of community initiatives to make Borrego's Central Business District more accessible and pedestrian-friendly through design enhancements and traffic-calming. This central area of the village provides much of the support for the tourism economy and hosts many of the local businesses serving the community.

There are an estimated 1,000 residents (around 50% of residents aged 16 years or older) in the labor force in Borrego Springs.³⁹ Workers are primarily employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, as well as educational services, healthcare, and social assistance.⁴⁰ Borrego Springs' 2015 Work Area Profile⁴¹ indicates that just over one-third of workers earned \$1,250 per month or less, one-third earned \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month, and a third earned more than that. The workforce is majority female (60%) and 37.5% are Hispanic/Latinx.

Unemployment data – excluding retired workers, students, active duty military, stay-at-home parents, those completing unpaid volunteer work, etc. – indicates that almost 20% of the civilian labor force in Borrego Springs is unemployed, compared to 7.8% of the population in San Diego County and 7.4% of the population nationally.⁴² According to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 unemployment indicator, this unemployment rate within the census tract is higher than 99% of the rest of the state.⁴³ However, this higher rate could be inflated due to a factor other than a lack of job opportunities in the area, such as the

³⁷ San Diego County. (2011). *Borrego Springs Community Plan*.

³⁸ California State Parks. (2016). *State Park Statistical Report 2015-2016 Fiscal Year*. Retrieved from: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23308

³⁹ U.S. Census. (2016). *Employment Status, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved From: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S2301

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² U.S. Census. (2016). *Employment Status, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

⁴³ California Environmental Protection Agency. (2016). *CalEnviroScreen 3.0: Unemployment*. Retrieved from: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/unemployment>

informal or “underground” sector of the local economy. The informal sector is defined as a part of the economy that is unregulated, unrecorded, and/or untaxed by the government. Common examples of informal employment includes paid domestic workers, day laborers, or other types of employees.⁴⁴ The Census estimates that there were 147 self-employed workers (in non-incorporated businesses) and unpaid family workers in Borrego Springs in 2016.⁴⁵

According to the San Diego North Economic Development Council (SDNEDC), two sub-regions, the Northern Coast and Inland North County (where Borrego is located), have lower than average educational attainment and lower than average wages.⁴⁶ A result of this disparate growth, SDNEDC suggests targeted workforce development to connect residents in less dynamic regions to high-skill, high-growth career pathways to distribute opportunity more evenly across the North County.

3.2. State and Local Policy Impacts

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014) requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to develop a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources. The California Department of Water Resources designated the Borrego Springs Subbasin as “critically overdrafted” basin, which required that the GSA develop a GSP by 2020 and ensure the subbasin reaches sustainable yield by 2040.

The Borrego GSP projects that a 75% reduction in groundwater use by 2040 will be needed to reach sustainability, i.e., to bring groundwater use and natural replenishment into balance. This substantial water-use reduction will have socioeconomic impacts affecting local industries (particularly agriculture and golf), job types and availability, water quality and affordability, and area demographics (both seasonal and year-round). Public health impacts related to land fallowing and any other physical changes related to SGMA need to be closely monitored. The integrated master planning process must account for the range of resiliency factors, from climate change uncertainties to economic shifts due to SGMA implementation.

The need for watershed scale planning in Borrego Springs is further highlighted by the following present-day example. San Diego County has declined to update ordinances in the “interim period” in which it is known that the General Plan does not sufficiently protect the critically overdrafted subbasin and before such time as the County updates the General Plan to takes the subbasin’s status into account. This interim period leaves the subbasin vulnerable to overdraft, and a recently submitted proposal for a local golf course’s specific plan would re-commit the County to allowing a second golf course to be built despite this land use conflicting with GSP sustainability goals. The Borrego Springs Community Plan needs to be updated to fully accommodate Borrego Spring’s critically overdrafted subbasin status.

3.3. Additional Socioeconomic Considerations

3.3.1. Local Resources Across Generations

Given Borrego Springs’ isolated location, there is a need to have all necessary services to sustain the residents without requiring them to commute long distances for health services, grocery shopping,

⁴⁴ Martha A. Chen. (2012). *WIEGO Working Paper No. 1: The Informal Economy: Definitions, Theories and Policies*. http://www.wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Chen_WIEGO_WPI.pdf

⁴⁵ U.S. Census. (2016). *Industry by Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved from: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_C24050

⁴⁶ San Diego North Economic Development Council (SDNEDC). (2018). *2018 San Diego North County Indicators*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sdnedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018-NC-Prospects-Report-final.pdf>

employment, and education. This includes high-quality broadband internet access to service both personal and professional needs.

Additionally, for Borrego to be viable in the long term for all residents (year-round, seasonal), there needs to be a mix of opportunities and access to resources across generations. For example, there is a need for a clinical care facility and transportation in and out of the valley for elderly residents and those with limited mobility, and there is also a need for entry-level jobs, college-level educational opportunities, and training centers for students graduating from the local high-school so that these young adults do not have to leave the area to move into the next phase of their lives.

3.3.2. Marketing the Area

Due to SGMA legislation and resulting groundwater sustainability planning activities, the local media narrative regarding Borrego Springs has focused on its limited water supply. According to Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce representatives, this narrative is inhibiting the Borrego community from attracting residents, tourism, and business investment. There is a need to market the Borrego Springs area to economic investment and change the narrative from “Borrego is running out of water/Borrego is a dying area” to “Borrego is the first locality with a critically overdrafted basin to successfully reposition its economy and unify its community around a shared set of values that preserve the prized natural features of the area while continuing to attract residents, tourism, and economic investment and preserving its water supply.”

Additionally, changing tourism-related demographics indicate a need for Borrego’s tourism-related marketing activities to focus on the following.

- Greater engagement with the sharing economy: devoting more attention to and/or working more closely with service providers like Airbnb, HomeAway, TripAdvisor, etc.
- Shifting from product development to experience development: focusing on nature, culture, culinary experiences, and more active pursuits.
- Increasing focus on sustainability: both cultural and environmental, as a component of strategies for creating more authentic visitor experiences, reducing negative impacts on local communities, increasing local value added, and as a source of competitive advantage, for increasingly environmentally and socially aware travelers.
- A shift from analog to digital: in terms of providing online trip planning tools, customized itineraries, digital destination promotion campaigns, micro-targeting, generating consumer feedback, and word-of-mouth advertising (through social media).

3.4. Public Health and Environmental Considerations

3.4.1. Public Health

Air and water quality monitoring, as well as wetland restoration activities will be critical to the integrated master planning process, ensuring that negative impacts related to land use changes and other actions taken as part of water use reductions and climate change will be mitigated. This includes land use changes such as fallowing agricultural land and increased tourism related to recreational vehicle use (a non-water-intensive desert recreation activity), both of which can increase harmful particulate matter in the air. Additionally, water quality changes will need close monitoring as they relate to shifts in well locations, new infrastructure, and water treatment.

3.4.2. Impacts of Climate Change

The impacts of climate change on Borrego Springs community may directly affect public health through increased temperatures and drought conditions, reduced wetlands, and air quality deterioration. Additionally, climate uncertainty and associated variability are likely to affect surface water availability, instream flows, and groundwater recharge, presenting yet another set of complicating factors for the community. While the impacts of climate change are uncertain, community resiliency will be an important consideration throughout many components of the integrated master planning process.

4. Goal / Desired Outcome

4.1. Community Priorities

4.1.1. Implement an equitable community engagement strategy across the master plan development process

Continued community engagement throughout the integrated master planning process is a key component to developing a pragmatic and actionable plan. Opportunities to update, educate, and engage the community in the earliest stages of plan development are important to ensure that all community members are aware of plan elements and able to provide feedback on short- and long-term impacts, as well as alternate strategies or timelines to consider. For example, water use reduction activities will likely result in significant job loss in agricultural sectors and may also impact jobs in recreational and hospitality sectors. It will be important for community members potentially affected by these changes to have reciprocal communication channels with plan development leadership through which their concerns and anticipated needs can be factored in (e.g., job retraining programs, local hire ordinances, etc.).

4.1.2. Develop a community vision with widespread buy-in from diverse groups and across sectors

Much community visioning has already been conducted through outreach activities related to the Borrego Springs Community Plan, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council. However, the community visioning as part of the integrated master planning process intends to move from the visionary and idealistic to the concrete – identifying specific outcomes and mapping the pathways to achieve them. Additionally, despite significant community engagement in previous efforts, there remain hard-to-reach subsets of the community that have not yet been meaningfully engaged in these processes. The integrated master planning effort must take special care to actively engage these groups to ensure that their vision and needs are adequately incorporated into the final deliverable.

4.1.3. Develop a healthy, economically viable community that meets the needs of residents across the lifespan

Prior community outreach efforts have identified the desire to have Borrego Springs develop into a community in which people can live and work, shop, and have access to a full range of resources and amenities without having to leave the area (e.g., drive to Coachella, Palm Springs, or San Diego). Community members have identified several focus areas:

1. Employment opportunities for a variety of skillsets across sectors. It is difficult to retain employees and their families in the area and businesses have difficulty recruiting potential employees that must move their families to the area and work in existing sectors. Additionally, local businesses will

sometimes lose employees to higher paying seasonal work in the area (e.g., in agriculture or recreation), creating retention and business stability issues.

2. Youth workforce development, training, and job placement: There is limited workforce development and training and job placement opportunities for young people finishing high school in Borrego Springs and wanting to stay in the area.
3. Education opportunities. Limited secondary and higher education opportunities require locals to leave the area to pursue an education that will lead to professional job opportunities.
4. Community-serving amenities across generations. There are limited community resources for locals, e.g., urgent care, retail, and other small businesses to serve the needs.

4.1.4. Preserve existing features and local natural characteristics

Local characteristics such as clean air, dark night skies, scenic mountain vistas, and natural flora and fauna are primary draws to Borrego Springs.⁴⁷ Community priorities identified in previous outreach efforts highlight community members' concerns that economic and residential growth in the area, as well as impacts from water use reductions, could affect the natural features that make the Borrego Valley unique. Therefore, it is important that the integrated master planning process consider impacts to valued local characteristics when developing strategies and projects. For example, integrated master plan activities related to increasing local business and nightlife would have to be reconciled with community goals to preserve Borrego's "dark sky community" designation from the International Dark Sky Association.

4.1.5. Reposition the economy to accommodate water use reductions

The integrated master planning process is intended to develop a comprehensive strategy that will effectively reposition the Borrego Springs economy within the bounds of mandated water use reductions. Community members from a variety of sectors have identified the following economic repositioning considerations related to water use reductions.

1. Identify methods that can retain all or portions of agricultural and golf industries within the bounds of water use reductions.
2. Consider a variety of sectors and businesses to invite to Borrego and explore incentives to locate in the area. This includes education/research institutions, art/film spaces and events, expanded tourism opportunities, skilled nursing/in-home medical care, medical billing, accounting, digital and web services, and new technology development.
3. Create workforce development and job retraining programs to address the employment needs of the local workforce that may be displaced due to water use reduction activities.
4. Prioritize local-hire opportunities in all economic development activities. This includes a needs assessment of existing and needed skills within the local workforce. Explore local-hire and retraining opportunities before outsourcing jobs.

4.1.6. Ensure water rates are affordable for low-income residents

Community feedback obtained during Groundwater Sustainability Plan development indicated that residents and business owners are concerned about rising water rates. Several residents said there should be efforts to create state or local funding to convert to drought-resistant landscaping. Others suggested that water rates could be tiered based on consumption. Over time, increasing water rates would increase financial hardship for lower-income households, according to a report commissioned by the Borrego Water District in 2016. Ideally, households would not spend more than 2% of their annual income on

⁴⁷ County of San Diego General Plan (2014), Borrego Springs Community Plan. Retrieved from https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Borrego_Springs_CP.pdf

essential water use, but households at the poverty level or below, and at the 20th percentile of income, already spend between 3.2 and 3.8% of their income on essential water needs, according to the report.

4.1.7. Build relationships with the County to improve water and land-use integration

Ensure that County of San Diego staff and the Borrego Springs Sponsor Group actively participate in the integrated planning process, particularly to review proposed strategies and other plan elements as related to jurisdictional policies and guidelines, potential opportunities and challenges, and implementation feasibility. The County can also support the planning process by providing additional data for economic development, land use, real estate, tourism, environmental, and public health to ensure the plan elements and implementation forecasting are grounded in real data to the extent possible.

4.2. Deliverables of the Process (Outputs)

The integrated regional watershed-scale master plan will serve as a roadmap for Borrego Springs to govern all major community decisions and investments to ensure alignment with the established vision and maximum benefit to the community. This Plan will include goals and targets for every aspect included in the master plan (e.g., ecosystem management, water use, economic development, public health, education, jobs, infrastructure, cultural resource preservation, etc.), as well as implementation and influence mechanisms to achieve those targets. Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, zoning changes, passing new ordinances, tax or permitting incentives for projects aligned with Plan goals, updating existing administrative policies, and launching community-driven projects. Appropriate agencies with jurisdiction over each of these mechanisms will also have to be on board with the plan.

The community may choose to establish a networked governance system for implementing the plan, comprising existing agencies with jurisdiction in the region (e.g., San Diego County, Borrego Water District, Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Borrego Springs School District, etc.) as well as representatives from the community and community-based organizations. This could take the shape of a formal Joint Powers Authority or Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, or a looser structure, similar to a watershed group or community development corporation, operating under Memoranda of Understanding with appropriate agencies and organizations.

The planning process will conduct extensive stakeholder engagement, visioning, and consensus-building to ensure all community voices are equally represented, and to build a plan that has broad cross-sector buy-in. The planning process will also include primary and secondary data collection and analysis to fill gaps related to air quality, demographic, and employment data that will be important to developing a realistic, pragmatic plan for shifting Borrego Springs to a thriving, low water-use community that meets the needs of the local residents, business, and the workforce.

4.3. Ancillary Outcomes

Borrego Springs residents are concerned about the impact of water use reductions on their way of life and their community. By having a visible, community-driven planning process, anxiety about the unknown can be ameliorated. Additionally, the iterative nature of the master planning process will significantly increase local capacity for collaboration by building new skills and relationships among participants and strengthening existing partnerships.

4.3.1. Building Community Capacity

By participating in the integrated planning process, community members will learn more about their own community and the community planning process, as well as be better equipped to recognize and act on opportunities and overcome future challenges, including how to foster and improve collaboration across sectors, better engage the County and build relationships, and apply for future funding to implement the plan.

Capacity-building outcomes from long-term community participation in the master planning process include:

1. New and strengthened connections among community members, particularly across sectors, which increases collaboration opportunities as a natural offshoot of planning discussions and cross-sector education.
2. Increased understanding of state and local government structures, policies, economic development processes, and the socioeconomic and environmental factors involved, which can foster creative thinking and innovative solutions.
3. An informed network of integrated master plan community leaders who can advocate for plan elements and assist with educating the community and building partnerships during implementation.
4. A robust communication network that includes a database of local leadership, master planning participants, and other partners, as well as a well-developed protocol for ongoing community engagement during implementation.

4.3.2. Building Local Cohesion

The planning process will bring together diverse community members, and a well-designed and facilitated process can foster understanding and empathy among disparate sectors of the community. Participating community members might reach consensus on key elements of the integrated master plan, which will promote a unified message whenever the community engages in County planning meetings, speaks with other stakeholders or the media, and actively supports local, state, and federal initiatives that could positively impact Borrego's economic repositioning activities.

4.3.3. Preparing for Localized Governance

While the integrated master plan is not a governing document, it will contain much of the baseline information, economic forecasting, and community engagement required in County planning documents. This will better position the Borrego community to participate in decision-making about its future – community members will have a comprehensive document to continuously draw upon throughout the County's Borrego Springs Community Plan update process, during implementation of local groundwater sustainability goals, and when serving on state or local boards and commissions. Additionally, the educated and active local network of planning participants can work with the County to develop collaborative governance processes for integrated master plan implementation.

5. Anticipated Process

Any major planning process or initiative is inherently complex and uncertain. Developing an Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan that incorporates water management, land use planning, community and economic development, public health, and cultural resources is exponentially moreso. To be successful, the scope of work (or, guiding process for the planning initiative) must strike a balance between being

sufficiently detailed to provide adequate structure and guidance for the team leading the effort, while remaining flexible enough for the team to adapt the process as necessary to changing conditions, needs, resources, and/ or priorities within their community as well as lessons learned and best practices gained through the process itself.

The Work Plan outlined for this Scoping Proposal is not intended to meet the criteria described above and should not be solely relied upon in its current condition to lead an Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process. To be clear, this is not a planning document. Rather, it is intended to be a rough concept or framework to guide the Borrego Springs community in their pursuit of an integrated planning process, which can be further developed, modified, and adapted as the community sees fit. This work plan (and the scoping proposal in general) can also be used as a framework to inform other local planning efforts (such as the Community Plan update, economic revitalization, organizational strategic planning, etc.). The work plan, and this Scoping Proposal, are in no way intended to be a “one size fits all” solution or “cookie-cutter” approach to planning. Rather, it is intended to serve as a guidance document - a starting point - for the community to build on for their specific purposes.

The draft Work Plan below is divided into three major stages of the process, each with multiple tasks and subtasks or specific activities. These are:

- Stage I: Plan to Plan
- Stage II: Develop the Plan
- Stage III: Implement, Evaluate, and Adapt

Stage I, or “Plan to Plan,” must be the first step. This is when the entity leading or initiating the planning process determines all necessary structures, partners, agreements, and processes necessary to launch the planning process. This includes determining leadership for the initiative and building partnerships with other agencies/organizations critical to the success of the endeavor. This stage should also include initiating a community outreach and engagement effort, and establishing a rough, high-level vision for the future of the watershed which the planning process & implementation will strive toward achieving. The vision will be further developed by the community at large during the planning process. Stage I should be the shortest stage of the entire planning process, but it is critically important. This stage can take anywhere from three to eighteen months, depending on the circumstances.

Stage II, or “Develop the Plan,” is the most intensive part of the process; this is where the actual planning work takes place. Tasks may include characterizing the region across multiple perspectives and/or contexts; establishing goals and objectives the Plan will strive to meet; and identifying specifically how the community will progress toward those goals and objectives. Ideally, this stage will be conducted in conjunction with other planning efforts within the region (e.g., Community Plan, Groundwater Management Plan / Groundwater Sustainability Plan; economic revitalization; etc.). Indeed, the community may determine they do not want to develop an integrated plan, but would rather use this Scoping Proposal as a framework for guiding how to update and/or integrate their existing plans. Depending on its application (i.e., to update existing plans or to create a new integrated plan), this stage will likely take between 12 and 36 months. While the tasks in this stage are likely to follow a chronological step-by-step process, the actual plan is more likely to be organized into different components. Stage II may be initiated or contributed to during Stage I; thus Stage I and II will likely overlap at least to a small degree.

Stage III, or “Implement, Evaluate, and Adapt,” is where the proverbial rubber meets the road; when the plan transforms from a document into action. The tasks within this stage are intended to be especially iterative. When implementing the Plan, it is critical to conduct ongoing evaluation of its success or room for improvement, and the plan can be adapted as needed. This stage is also iterative, in that the team should regularly be evaluating the process’ successes and areas for improvement, and adapting both the

plan and the plan implementation as needed. Stage III will last for the entire duration of the plan horizon, to be determined by the scope and scale identified in Stage I; this could be anywhere from 1 to 10 to 50 years.

The specific activities to be conducted, and the order in which they are to occur, must be well thought out and prepared for by the entity that will be managing the planning process. Tasks and subtasks are not necessarily linear. Not all tasks will require the same amount of time or level of detail; and may tasks may overlap. Furthermore, this is intended to be an iterative process, adapting the work plan as needed along the way. This is also a long-term process; it is highly likely that individual stages, and even tasks, will be funded separately through different funding mechanisms, and not all at once. The intent of this document is to outline the long term strategy and what the process may look like in order to demonstrate to funders that this is a worthy initiative to invest in, and that the Borrego Springs community is well poised to take the next step in their integrated planning endeavors. The goal is to leverage as much outside funding as possible to support each stage (or even task) of the process, if not all at one time.

Work Plan

5.1. Stage I: “Plan to Plan” (establish the planning process and structure)

Stage I, “Plan to Plan,” is designed to help the entity that will be managing the planning process to get organized, preparing itself and the community for the planning process. Activities during this stage are likely to include: establishing a leadership team, building partnerships, conducting community outreach and stakeholder engagement, and starting to outline a high-level shared vision for the future of the community and the watershed. Specific tasks, order, and timing will of course be determined by the community and leadership team. The tasks outlined below are for guidance purposes only.

5.1.1. Task A: Establish Leadership & Build Partnerships

At the time this document was produced, the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council was going through a major transition and structural development. The original intent of the Workgroup that developed this concept proposal was that the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council would lead coordination of any future integrated planning efforts, working with community input to establish a leadership structure. It is currently unclear whether the Stewardship Council will emerge as the convener of future planning efforts.

Therefore, the first and most important immediate next step is to determine which entity will take the lead on future integrated planning efforts. From that point, the organization identified can begin building partnerships with other important community constituents, determine some basic parameters for the planning process (e.g., scope and scale), and begin planning what community outreach and stakeholder engagement will look like throughout the planning process. The subtasks outlined below are meant as a recommendation to guide the process, but should be adapted by the lead organization as they see fit.

5.1.1.1. Subtask 1: Identify the entity or group that will lead & manage the integrated planning effort

As stated above, there must be an entity that has ownership over the planning process, coordinates all of the parties, and ensures the process is moving forward. Activities within this subtask could include selecting an interim leadership team to identify the planning project lead entity and conducting a SWAT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and solutions) Analysis to determine what type of entity is best suited to manage the planning effort. Options include: an outside consultant; an existing public agency, an existing community organization; or a new hybrid team including multiple types of organizations and

partners. This subtask could also include establishing goals, expectations, a decision-making process, and the necessary contracting for the entity selected to lead and manage the planning effort.

5.1.1.2. Subtask 2: Determine scope & scale of the plan

Once a lead organization is identified and project management processes are determined, the management team can begin establishing some parameters on the planning process. While the integrated watershed-scale planning process is intended to be comprehensive, no one plan can include everything. The project management team should establish guidelines on what will be included in the plan, and what will not be included. These guidelines should then be vetted with the community at large, to ensure there is agreement among the majority of stakeholders.

One important factor to consider in determining the scope and scale of a plan is its geographic boundaries: will it include the entire watershed, subwatershed, just a portion of the watershed, or the watershed as it is situated in the larger geographic region; what are those boundaries? Equally important is the range of topics the plan will address, which are innumerable. Topics we recommend considering include: physical infrastructure, social and cultural values, natural ecosystems, natural resources (e.g., water, air, soil, energy), industry and economic development. Specific topics, and the level of detail to which the plan addresses each topic, should be proposed by the project leadership team, and then finalized based on broad community input.

5.1.1.3. Subtask 3: Develop a Stakeholder & Community Engagement Plan

Robust, equitable outreach and engagement of the community at large was identified as one of the highest priorities by the Workgroup, and is critically important to any planning process. Especially given the wide range of topics and interests likely to be included in an integrated watershed-scale master planning process, it is even more important to ensure all community members have an opportunity to participate, and that key stakeholders are actively and continuously engaged. The planning project management team should take special care to develop a comprehensive engagement plan that is well thought out and vetted by community members.

Activities under this subtask will likely include (but should not be limited to): identifying key stakeholders; creating an advisory committee; determining the best mechanisms for engaging the community (and various subsets of the community); and establishing an engagement timeline.

5.1.2. Task B: Initiate Outreach & Engagement

Specific subtasks and steps for conducting the community outreach and stakeholder engagement will be determined by the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan, developed in Task A3, above. Subtasks will likely include (but should not be limited to): a public communications and media campaign; a series of public meetings; and a schedule and structure for stakeholder advisory committee meetings.

The planning project management team may decide to hire a communications and/or community engagement consultant to actually conduct either a portion or all of the activities included in the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan. The team should consider carefully which approach would be in the best interest of the community and yield a more positive outcome. Budget, human resources, and capacity must also be taken into consideration.

5.1.2.1. Subtask 1: Communications & Media

Activities under this subtask will likely include (but should not be limited to): determining the frequency and type of communications (social media, print, mail, postings, email list, local radio, public television, etc.); arranging those communications; and then ensuring they are executed according to the schedule developed.

5.1.2.2. Subtask 2: Public Meetings

Based on the stakeholder and community engagement plan developed in Task A3, activities under this subtask will likely include (but should not be limited to): determining the frequency and duration of public meetings; planning agendas for each public meeting; promoting each public meeting; preparing all meeting materials; conducting public meetings; debriefing and compiling data from public meetings; incorporating that information back into the planning process; and sharing the results back out to the public.

Important considerations for equitable public meetings include (but should not be limited to) the following:

- Location: should be easily accessible and welcoming to all members of the community.
- Time of day: meetings should be held at times when the greatest number of community members will be able to attend (this may include evenings and weekends).
- Scheduling Conflicts: to the extent possible, meetings should not conflict with other important community events or meetings.
- Accessibility: babysitting and translation services should be made available for all public meetings.
- Structure: meeting agendas should include both a time for the project team to report out to the community, and the community to address and/or provide feedback to the project team.
- Promotion: to the extent possible, meetings should be promoted through outreach channels that meet the needs of all community members. This may include (but should not be limited to): email, mailers, distributing flyers to parents via schools, and posting on web platforms such as NextDoor.com and Facebook. Promotional materials should be translated as needed to ensure equitable engagement of all community members.

5.1.2.3. Subtask 3: Stakeholder Advisory Group Meetings

It is strongly encouraged that the planning project management and leadership team convene a stakeholder advisory group, representative of the community, to more actively engaged in the planning process. The stakeholder advisory group does not preclude the importance of robust community engagement, nor does community engagement preclude the value of an advisory group. If the planning project management team does institute a stakeholder advisory group, it is important that the process for selecting group members be one that is transparent, fair, and equitable; and that the group itself reflects the makeup of the community.

Activities under this subtask will likely include (but should not be limited to): determining the process by which the stakeholder advisory group will be populated; identifying and inviting Stakeholder Advisory Group members; determining the frequency and duration of Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings; planning agendas for each meeting; preparing all meeting materials; conducting each meeting; and sharing out notes and follow-up items from each meeting with the leadership team and broader community (e.g. via a public website).

5.1.3. Task C: Establish a High-Level Shared Vision for the Future of the Community and Watershed

Before any master planning initiative can really begin, it is critical that the community at large has a shared vision of what they want for the future of their community and watershed. This vision need not be very specific or detailed, but it must be broadly supported. If the community is relatively cohesive and already has at least a high-level shared vision for their future, then this task will be less intensive. The existing vision can be further crystallized, in the context of the scope and scale of the Integrated Master Plan (as determined in Task A2). If, on the other hand, the community is fractured and/or lacks any real collective vision, then this task will require much greater time and resources. This vision must be established, as it will shape the goals, objectives, and activities that the plan will address.

Subtasks that may occur within this task include (but should not be limited to): identifying the values and priorities of all stakeholder groups within the community; determining areas in which identified stakeholder values and priorities conflict, as well as areas in which they are aligned; and then coalescing around a set of core values and top priorities broadly supported by the entire community. These activities are outlined in more detail below, for guidance purposes only.

The planning project management team should strongly consider hiring a professional facilitator to complete Task C, with expertise in community visioning and consensus building.

5.1.3.1. Subtask 1: Identify Values and Priorities of all Stakeholder Groups

Before a shared vision can be established, a community must understand all its disparate parts. This requires identifying all of the subsets, interest groups, and stakeholders within the community, and then understanding what each holds as its values and priorities. Depending on the diversity or homogeneity of the community - and thus the number of unique stakeholder groups - this could be a relatively simple process; or it could be very arduous. This is a task that a Stakeholder Advisory Group would be very helpful in executing.

Activities under this subtask may include (but are not limited to): analyzing community demographics to identify subsets of the community; cataloging all interest groups active within the planning area; evaluating each subset and interest group for relevance to the plan scope and scale (as established in Task A2); compiling a list of those relevant as “stakeholders;” conducting a desktop review of all available information on each stakeholder group to gain a general sense of their values and priorities (e.g., reading organizations’ websites and publications); ground-truthing identified values and priorities with each stakeholder group; and finally crystalizing a concise description of values and priorities for each stakeholder group.

5.1.3.2. Subtask 2: Determine Areas of Conflict and Areas of Alignment

Once stakeholders’ relevant values and priorities are determined, they can be further analyzed to identify areas in which stakeholder views are divergent - or even in direct opposition to one another - (“conflict”), as well as areas in which the community as a whole generally shares values and interests (“alignment”). Areas of conflict will need to be directly confronted in the Planning process, and a mutually-agreeable solution should be determined. Areas of alignment will provide the foundation on which the shared vision can be developed.

This analysis could be conducted in a number of ways, including (but not limited to): the advisory group self-analyzing the information; community focus groups to discuss the interests; and social science research analytics.

5.1.3.3. Subtask 3: Coalesce Around a Set of Values and Priorities Broadly Supported by the Community

The process for determining a set of shared values and priorities will greatly depend on the agency or organization leading this initiative. Regardless, it should be closely aligned with the decision-making process established under Task A1. It is critically important that the community vision be vetted by the actual community itself, and not just by the management team or stakeholder advisory group. The community must be fully “bought in” to the vision, or they will quickly lose interest in the plan to be developed, and the planning process itself.

Activities under this subtask may include (but are not limited to): identifying the values and priorities most relevant to the plan; mapping how each aligns with the components of the plan; ground-truthing selected values and priorities with the community at large; and implementing a broad public information campaign.

5.2. Stage II: Develop the Plan

All of the preparations conducted during Stage I will ensure the community – and the project management team – is well equipped to actually begin compiling and developing the integrated watershed-scale master plan. The scope and scale of the plan (as determined in Task A2), as well as the number of goals and objectives included (as identified in Task C3), will greatly influence how long the plan takes to develop, and how intensive the process will be.

A community striving to integrate natural resources management with economic development and community visioning can expect to spend between 3-5 years to develop the plan. As Borrego Springs is a relatively small community with limited jurisdiction, and because much of the supporting work that will feed into the plan already exists (as exemplified by this Scoping Proposal) and simply needs to be compiled and referenced or slightly modified, the process will likely take less time. With a strong project management team and sufficient budget, Borrego Springs may be able to complete their Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan in as little as two to three years.

Activities during this stage are likely to include: establishing a widely-accepted characterization of the region; determining goals and objectives the plan will address; and designing a process for actually implementing the plan once fully developed. Specific tasks, order, and timing will of course be determined by the community and leadership team, and will be greatly influenced by the outcomes of Stage I. The tasks outlined below are for guidance purposes only.

As the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council has no governance authority, the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan will be dependent upon existing governance and regulatory authority over the region. Therefore, close coordination with the County of San Diego, the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the Borrego Water District, San Diego Association of Governments, and relevant state and federal agencies will be critical to the plan’s success. In addition to regulatory and jurisdictional alignment, the plan should include activities that can be conducted by the private sector.

5.2.1. Task D: Characterize the Region

Drawing heavily on previous community visioning, and data collected and compiled for other planning or policy initiatives, the integrated plan will need to include a comprehensive description of the planning region. The characterization should include all components to be addressed in the plan (e.g., watershed geographic boundaries, physical characteristics, demographics, and culture). The plan should summarize

this information into a concise description or “profile” of the planning region and community. This description should be representative of all stakeholders, and widely accepted by the community at large. This "profile" will be similar to what is developed for the Community Plan; these could even be one in the same document - or at least drawing on the same content.

Subtasks for creating the regional characterization will likely include (but are not limited to): conducting a thorough review of all existing information and noting information gaps; identifying the primary issues of concern to community members and stakeholders; and determining the desired outcomes of the integrated watershed-scale master plan. These proposed activities are outlined in more detail below, for guidance purposes only.

5.2.1.1. Subtask 1: Conduct Desktop Review

The region characterization process should begin with a thorough review of all existing plans, research, data, community interests and priorities, etc. Thanks to the work already conducted through development of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and development of this Scoping Proposal, much of this information has already been compiled and reviewed. Some data gaps have already been identified. The planning team will need to determine if additional gaps exist, and what additional research is still needed.

Once data or research gaps are identified, the planning team must determine and pursue how best to fill those data or research gaps. This may involve hiring an outside consultant or leveraging existing resources within the community to do so.

Once all research is completed, the planning team can summarize a shared characterization of the region, addressing all plan components identified in Task A2. The planning team may decide to begin developing the characterization summary concurrent with additional research being conducted, and adapt the summary as new information becomes available.

As with most activities in the planning process, it will be important for the planning team to ground truth the characterization summary with stakeholders and provide an opportunity for feedback. This should result in a final characterization of the region that is widely supported by the community at large.

The planning team may choose to follow the above process, or identify other activities in support of this task.

5.2.1.2. Subtask 2: Identify Primary Issues of Concern

The community at large, with support and guidance from the planning team, should identify and summarize the issues facing the community with which they are most concerned. Once issues are identified, then the planning team can identify areas in which community concerns are aligned and prioritize those issues which the community as a whole deems most important. The planning team may choose to follow the above process or identify other activities in support of this task.

5.2.1.3. Subtask 3: Determine Desired Outcomes of the Plan

Once primary issues of concern are identified and prioritized, the community can determine what they hope to be the outcome of the integrated watershed-scale master plan. Rather than a “wish list” of results to please each stakeholder group, these should be overarching aspirations that the community as a whole ascribes to. The desired outcomes should directly support the shared vision developed in Task C. While the planning team will establish the specific procedure for determining these desired outcomes, it should be a heavily facilitated, iterative process with ample community participation.

5.2.2. Task E: Established Goals and Objectives for the Plan

Determining the desired outcomes of the integrated watershed-scale master plan prepares the community for establishing more specific goals and objectives for the plan which, when implemented, will drive the region toward those desired outcomes. For the purposes of master planning, a “goal” is the broad primary outcomes towards which effort and actions are directed. An “objective” is the measurable step taken to achieve a goal.

Goals and objectives can be developed consecutively or concurrently, depending on the preference of the planning team. Regardless, this task should also be an iterative, facilitated process with robust community input.

5.2.2.1. Subtask 1: Determine Goals

One potential approach to determining goals is to first brainstorm potential solutions to each of the issue areas or primary concerns; (Task 3B). Identifying how the solution would contribute toward the plan’s desired outcomes (from Task 3C) will ensure the plan is cohesive. The planning team should consider establishing “SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound). Goals should be ground-truthed by the community to ensure accuracy and alignment with community values. More specificity to the goal-setting process will be determined by the planning team.

5.2.2.2. Subtask 2: Define Objectives

Whether completed concurrently or consecutively defining objectives for each of the plan goals will lay the foundation for plan implementation. The objectives map out what specific activities, projects, and/or policies will be necessary to achieve the goals set forth.

Activities within this subtask may include but are not limited to: identifying which agencies, entities, and/or policies are directly relevant to the plan goals; working with each responsible entity to determine what activities or processes are necessary for achieving each goal; establishing objectives for each goal by prioritizing the necessary actions identified; and determining appropriate metrics for measuring progress toward the goal. It is important in defining objectives that the planning team consider which activities or processes will be most important, most necessary, and most impactful for implementing new policies.

5.2.3. Task F: Design an Implementation Process to Achieve Goals & Objectives

Specific subtasks and steps for designing an implementation process for the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan will be determined by the specific goals and objectives identified in Task 5, above. Subtasks will likely include (but are not limited to): coordination agreements; policy interventions; project development and prioritization; financing; etc. It is also critical to include continuous community outreach and engagement in every aspect of the implementation process.

The implementation process must be integrated into the other local planning processes, such as (but not limited to): the Groundwater Management Plan, County General Plan Community Plan, State Park Master Plan, and Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan. This plan must not be developed nor implemented without considering all other local planning processes and aligning timelines, objectives, and goals. Alternatively, this process may be applied to the existing planning efforts mentioned above as a framework for engagement, setting goals and objectives, determining implementation processes, and monitoring progress toward achieving goals.

5.2.4. Subtask 1: Agency & Organizational Coordination

Activities in support of this subtask are likely to include (but are not limited to): identifying the best point of contact for each agency or organization identified in Task E to be coordinated with; reaching out to those identified; determining which policies, processes, and activities are to be coordinated; and developing and executing coordination agreements with each agency or organization. Coordination agreements should specify activities to be conducted, responsible parties, and timeline for activities.

5.2.5. Subtask 2: Policy Interventions

Policy interventions will be highly dependent on the outcomes of Task E; “Establishing Goals and Objectives.” The plan should include all potential policy interventions that will advance the goals and objectives identified, even though there is no guarantee that the proposed policy changes will be achieved. Policymakers (e.g. County staff) should be consulted early on in this process to determine which policy interventions are most necessary and feasible. This plan should also outline the specific actions to be undertaken, and a timeline for doing so, for each policy intervention identified.

Specific activities in support of this subtask should be identified in concert with the relevant agencies and organizations identified in Task F1.

5.2.6. Subtask 3: Project Development & Prioritization

Specific projects to advance the goals of the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan will be highly dependent on the outcomes of Task E; “Establishing Goals and Objectives.” The plan should include all potential projects that may be undertaken, despite the uncertainty of whether projects will indeed be implemented. Project implementation will be influenced by multiple factors, including but not limited to: the agency or organization responsible for implementing the project; other agency or organizational priorities; funding availability for project implementation; and other unforeseen circumstances. As such, identified projects should be prioritized based on their need, urgency, and feasibility, as well as any other factors the community determines to be most important.

Activities in support of this subtask may include (but are not limited to): brainstorming possible projects that would advance each goal and/or objective; identify the most appropriate entity to undertake the project (whether public agency, organization, or private sector company); collaborate with the appropriate entity to determine the feasibility and potential timeline for project implementation; prioritize projects based on need, urgency, and feasibility; establish a mechanism to track project implementation in concurrence with the plan goals and objectives.

5.2.7. Subtask 4: Financing

It is inevitable that there will be costs involved in implementing the Integrated Watershed Scale Master Plan. At minimum, the planning and leadership teams must be supported, and community engagement will need to be funded. Additionally, the majority of implementation activities - whether policy interventions or projects - will have associated costs. The implementation process is only as useful as it determines how these activities will be financed. Even if all financing cannot be determined at the outset, the implementation process should outline how funds could be secured for implementing additional components of the Plan.

Activities in support of this subtask may include (but are not limited to): working with each relevant agency, organization, and project proponent to estimate a budget for each implementation activity; determining what funds and financing mechanisms already exist in support of the plan implementation activities; brainstorming additional financing mechanisms and funding options to support

implementation; evaluate options for feasibility; and outline a strategy for pursuing prioritized financing mechanisms.

5.2.8. Subtask 5: Outreach & Engagement Plan

As previously stated in Stage I, robust and meaningful community outreach and stakeholder engagement is critically important to the success of any planning effort; even more so to the successful implementation of that plan. Drawing on experience and lessons learned from outreach and engagement efforts during plan development, the planning team should develop a specific outreach and engagement process for plan implementation activities. The specific activities in support of this subtask are likely to be very similar to those outlined in Task B.

5.3. Stage III: Implement, Evaluate, and Adapt

Once the community has developed their integrated watershed-Scale Master Plan, and outlined a process for implementing that plan, they can begin actually following their implementation process. It is critical to the effective implementation of that plan that progress toward plan goals and objectives be carefully monitored, and in response to monitoring, the plan and/or implementation process be adapted as needed throughout its time horizon. Furthermore, the community should be provided regular updates on plan progress, and have an opportunity to provide input along the way.

The specific tasks for this stage of the plan will be directly shaped by the outcomes of the previous two stages (“Plan to Plan” and Develop the Plan”). As such, the recommended tasks outlined herein are less detailed than the previous two stages. And, again, are meant only for guidance purposes.

5.3.1. Task G: Implement the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan

As previously stated under Task F, the goals, objectives, and activities outlined within the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan must be implemented through policies and actions of the public agencies which have jurisdictional and/or regulatory authority over the activity, or through independent projects carried out by private entities, so long as those entities seek all necessary approvals and/or permits. This Scoping Proposal does not recommend the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council, or any other entity, take on activities outside their scope, authority, or jurisdiction.

Specific subtasks and steps for implementing the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan will be identified in the Implementation Process during Task F, above. Subtasks will likely include (but are not limited to): administrative actions; policy changes and implementation; community initiatives; physical projects (e.g., construction or restoration work); etc. It is also critical that active community outreach and engagement continues throughout the duration of the plan implementation process.

5.3.1.1. Subtask 1: Outreach & Engagement

The Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan project management team should continue community outreach and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the Outreach and Engagement Plan developed during Subtask F5. Specific outreach and engagement activities should be planned in support of every policy intervention and project developed during Task F.

5.3.1.2. Subtask 2: Administrative Actions

Many of the goals and objectives determined through the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process will likely be able to be addressed simply through internal agency or organizational decisions, rather than requiring a formal policy or regulatory change, project construction, or budget allocation.

These “administrative actions” would be at the discretion of existing agency or organizational staff. The project management team should brainstorm all potential administrative decisions that will advance the goals and objectives of the plan; identify the decision-maker(s), determine the best method for approaching the decision-maker(s); request the administrative action; and then collaborate with decision-maker(s) to execute the requested administrative actions.

5.3.1.3. Subtask 3: Policy Changes

Some of the goals and objectives determined through the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process will need to be addressed through changes to public policy. The desired policy changes should be identified during Task F2, and a strategy developed for achieving the desired policy change. Examples include (but are not limited to) community ordinances, zoning codes, development incentives, etc.

Accomplishing these changes may require political strategies, lobbying, and/or a public awareness campaign. Specific activities in support of this subtask will be informed by the implementation process, and determined by the project management and leadership teams.

5.3.1.4. Subtask 4: Community Initiatives

Some of the goals and objectives determined through the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process may not necessitate administrative action or formal public policy change, but rather can be achieved through community-based initiatives. Local non-governmental organizations may be willing to take on various activities aligned with their organizational mission and scope of work. For example, the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council identified a lack of skilled labor available to transition the community toward a geotourism-centric economy, and the Borrego Village Association sought grant funding to launch a youth job training program in order to help address the issue.

Potential community initiatives in support of the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan goals and objectives should be identified during Subtask F3. The project team should coordinate with relevant organizations to ensure alignment with plan goals and objectives. Specific activities will depend on the particular initiatives pursued, and will be determined by the project management and leadership teams.

5.3.1.5. Subtask 5: Physical Projects

Some of the goals and objectives determined through the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process may require actual construction of physical projects, such as (but not limited to): urban greening; improved infrastructure and facilities; habitat restoration; land conversion; water or energy efficiency projects, etc.

Specific physical projects to be pursued should be identified during Subtask F3. The project team should coordinate with the project proponents (whether public sector agencies or private organizations) to ensure alignment with plan goals and objectives. Specific activities will depend on the particular projects pursued, and will be determined by the project management and leadership teams.

5.3.2. Task H: Evaluate Implementation Progress

As soon as the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan is completed, and implementation begins, the project management and leadership team should begin tracking progress of the implementation process toward the goals and objectives identified in the plan. Establishing metrics by which each goal and objective will be evaluated, and a timeline and process for that evaluation, enables the project management and leadership teams to effectively adapt implementation of the plan as needed. This process of evaluation and adaptation will greatly increase the likelihood that the plan achieves its greatest potential.

The specific process and schedule for evaluating implementation of the plan will be determined by the project management and leadership teams, in alignment with the plan's goals, objectives, and planning horizon. Recommended activities are outlined below for guidance purposes only.

5.3.2.1. Subtask 1: Quarterly Progress Reports

A format for the project management team to compose quarterly reports on implementation progress will ensure all involved parties are regularly kept up to date on all plan activities.

5.3.2.2. Subtask 2: Annual Analysis

Conducting an annual SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) of all plan activities will provide the appropriate level of insight for the project management and leadership teams to determine where changes may need to be made in the implementation process, as well as highlighting success-stories and best practices that can be applied to other scenarios.

5.3.2.3. Subtask 3: Stakeholder and Community Input

As with all activities associated with the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process, the community at large and key stakeholders should have opportunities to provide input on their perception of the implementation process, its progress, and effectiveness.

5.3.3. Task I: Adapt Plan Implementation

Evaluation is only as useful as it informs adaptation. Through the evaluation process, the project management and leadership teams should glean enough information to determine the effectiveness of plan implementation, and thus how the implementation process should be adapted. Changes can be made to improve an activity that has proven ineffective, as well as to address new needs or respond to shifting priorities.

Specific activities in support of this task will be informed by the evaluation results, and determined by the project management and leadership teams. These teams should determine a schedule for reviewing and adapting the implementation process. The following subtasks are suggested for guidance purposes only.

5.3.3.1. Subtask 1: Identify Areas in need of change

By analyzing the results of the evaluation process, it should be evident to the project management and leadership teams what changes need to be made to the implementation process. The project management and leadership teams should compile a list of all desired changes, and then prioritize that list based on need, urgency, and feasibility.

5.3.3.2. Subtask 2: Propose Draft Changes & Solicit Feedback

Once potential changes have been identified, the project management and leadership teams should determine what agency and/or organizational personnel are relevant to those changes. The teams should collaborate with the relevant personnel to draft potential changes to the implementation process. Then, the teams should share the draft changes with both key stakeholders and the community at large, providing them opportunities for feedback.

5.3.3.3. Subtask 3: Adapt Implementation Process Accordingly

The project management and leadership teams should incorporate stakeholder and community feedback into their revised changes to the implementation process. It should be noted that all agencies and organizations involved in the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Planning process may be impacted by any changes to that process. As such, all associated agencies and organizations must be notified and provided an opportunity to participate in the process. Some agencies or organizations may need to make changes to coordination agreements, bylaws or decision-making processes as a result of any changes to the implementation process.

6. Estimated Budget & Timeline

[\(Spreadsheet Link\)](#)

The following budget is a rough order-of-magnitude cost range for the tasks and subtasks outlined in this Draft Scoping Proposal. Costs for each task were determined based on standard consulting costs and expense estimates for similar work in similar-sized communities. For more specific detail on the assumptions made for each cost, please see the excel file in Appendix [X].

The Borrego Valley Stewardship Council, and the community of Borrego Springs, should expect costs to fluctuate, based on a wide range of factors. As such, the actual project cost for the proposed work plan may be higher or lower than what is outlined herein. For example: a non-profit consultant will cost less than a for-profit consultant; some cost-savings may be achieved through in-kind services or expenses provided free-of-charge; any delay in timeline is likely to have a correlative increase in cost; some cost-savings can be achieved by coordinating project tasks with other local or regional planning efforts funded by other sources (e.g., Community Plan update, Groundwater Sustainability Plan update, etc.). These processes are likely to have overlapping goals, objectives, and tasks; and should therefore be aligned to the greatest extent possible.

6.1. Budget

STAGE	TASK	SUBTASK	SUBTASK DESCRIPTION	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE
I. Plan to Plan	A		Establish Leadership & Build Partnerships	\$42,00	\$63,000
		1	Identify the entity or group that will lead & manage the integrated planning effort	\$6,000	\$9,000
		2	Determine scope & scale of the plan (What's included / what's not)	\$16,000	\$25,000

STAGE	TASK	SUBTASK	SUBTASK DESCRIPTION	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE	
		3	Develop a Stakeholder & Community Engagement Plan	\$20,000	\$30,000	
		B	Initiate Outreach & Engagement		\$455,798	\$683,698
			1	Communications & Media	\$210,000	\$315,000
			2	Public Meetings	\$207,000	\$311,000
			3	Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings	\$38,000	\$57,000
		C	Establish a High-Level Shared Vision for the Future for the Community and Watershed		\$149,133	\$223,699
			1	Identify Values and Priorities of all Stakeholder Groups	\$44,000	\$65,000
			2	Determine Areas of Conflict and Areas of Alignment	\$7,000	\$11,000
			3	Coalesce Around a Set of Values and Priorities Broadly Supported by the Community	\$98,000	\$148,000
		II. Develop the Plan		D	Characterize the Region (watershed, basin, community, area of influence)	
1	Conduct Desktop Review				\$42,000	\$63,000
2	Identify Primary Issues of Concern				\$13,000	\$20,000
3	Determine Desired Outcomes of the Plan				\$31,000	\$47,000
E	Establish Goals and Objectives for the Plan			\$32,000	\$48,000	
	1			Determine Goals	\$21,000	\$32,000
	2			Define Objectives	\$11,000	\$16,000
F	Design an Implementation Process to Achieve Goals & Objectives			\$79,878	\$119,816	
	1			Agency & Organizational Coordination	\$19,000	\$29,000
	2			Policy Interventions	\$26,000	\$39,000

STAGE	TASK	SUBTASK	SUBTASK DESCRIPTION	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE
		3	Project Development & Prioritization	\$13,000	\$20,000
		4	Financing	\$11,000	\$17,000
		5	Outreach & Engagement Plan	\$10,000	\$15,008
III. Implement, Evaluate, and Adapt	G	Implement the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan		\$444,804	\$667,206
		1	Outreach & Engagement	\$315,000	\$472,000
		2	Administrative Actions	\$31,000	\$47,000
		3	Policy Changes	\$31,000	\$46,000
		4	Community Initiatives	\$37,000	\$55,000
		5	Physical Projects	\$32,000	\$48,000
	H	Evaluate Implementation Progress		\$52,456	\$78,684
		1	Quarterly Progress Reports	\$4,000	\$6,000
		2	Annual SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis	\$16,000	\$23,000
		3	Stakeholder and Community Input	\$33,000	\$49,000
	I	Adapt Plan Implementation		\$64,381	\$96,572
		1	Identify Areas in need of change	\$13,000	\$20,000
		2	Propose Draft Changes & Solicit Feedback	\$38,000	\$57,000
		3	Adapt Implementation Process Accordingly	\$13,000	\$20,000
	GRAND TOTALS				\$1,406,736

6.2. Timeline

Similar to the work plan and budget, the project timeline will be greatly dependent on the specific actions and decisions of the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council, and the ability of the community to secure funding for these efforts. The schedule outlined below is based on standard expectations for time to complete the tasks outlined in the Work Plan of this Draft Scoping Proposal. Some factors that will impact the schedule include (but are not limited to): project team size (which is dependent on project budget); timeline of other planning efforts with which this effort should be aligned; availability of

community-members to engage (e.g., seasonality of some residents); availability of funding, and restrictions on grant funding. Any delay in the work plan process will delay future task and subtask progress.

The table below is a summary overview of the entire project timeline. For a more detailed month-by-month timeline, please see the Gant chart in [Appendix X].

STAGE	TASK	SUBTASK	SUBTASK DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	
I. Plan to Plan	A	Establish Leadership & Build Partnerships		12-20 months	
		1	Identify the entity or group that will lead & manage the integrated planning effort	3-6 months	
		2	Determine scope & scale of the plan (What's included / what's not)	6-8 months	
		3	Develop a Stakeholder & Community Engagement Plan	3-6 months	
	B	Initiate Outreach & Engagement		36 months (or duration of project)	
		1	Communications & Media	36 months (duration of project)	
		2	Public Meetings	36 months (duration of project)	
		3	Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings	36 months (duration of project)	
	C	Establish a High-Level Shared Vision for the Future for the Community and Watershed		14-24 months	
		1	Identify Values and Priorities of all Stakeholder Groups	6-12 months	
		2	Determine Areas of Conflict and Areas of Alignment	2-4 months	
		3	Coalesce Around a Set of Values and Priorities Broadly Supported by the Community	6-8 months	
		1	Conduct Desktop Review	8-12 months	
	II. Develop the Plan	D	Characterize the Region (watershed, basin, community, area of influence)		14-24 months
			1	Conduct Desktop Review	8-12 months
2			Identify Primary Issues of Concern	3-6 months	

STAGE	TASK	SUBTASK	SUBTASK DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
		3	Determine Desired Outcomes of the Plan	3-6 months
		Establish Goals and Objectives for the Plan		6-10 months
	E	1	Determine Goals	2-4 months
		2	Define Objectives	4-6 months
	F	Design an Implementation Process to Achieve Goals & Objectives		20-30 months
		1	Agency & Organizational Coordination	4-6 months
		2	Policy Interventions	6-8 months
		3	Project Development & Prioritization	4-6 months
		4	Financing	2-4 months
		5	Outreach & Engagement Plan	4-6 months
		3	Policy Changes	12-48 months
III. Implement, Evaluate, and Adapt	G	Implement the Integrated Watershed-Scale Master Plan		36-52 months (or duration of plan horizon)
		1	Outreach & Engagement	duration of plan horizon
		2	Administrative Actions	12-36 months
		3	Policy Changes	12-48 months
		4	Community Initiatives	12-52 months
		5	Physical Projects	36-52 months
	H	Evaluate Implementation Progress		quarterly; duration of plan horizon
		1	Quarterly Progress Reports	quarterly; duration of plan horizon
		2	Annual SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis	annually; duration of plan horizon
		3	Stakeholder and Community Input	ongoing; duration of plan horizon

STAGE	TASK	SUBTASK	SUBTASK DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
	I	Adapt Plan Implementation		annually; duration of plan horizon
		1	Identify Areas in need of change	annually; duration of plan horizon
		2	Propose Draft Changes & Solicit Feedback	annually; duration of plan horizon
		3	Adapt Implementation Process Accordingly	annually; duration of plan horizon

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

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1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Key Demographics
4. Major Findings
5. Recommendations
6. Long-term Considerations

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

Executive Summary

In an effort to better understand the needs and preferences of the Borrego Springs Community. The Borrego Valley Stewardship Council as funded by the Sustainable Ground Water Implementation Grant and the Department of Water Resources, conducted a community survey. This community survey of Borrego Springs reveals a mature, predominantly white residential community facing significant challenges with healthcare access, water sustainability, and affordable housing, while benefiting from strong community bonds and amenities of being surrounded by the protected natural landscapes of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The survey gathered responses from 168 participants, providing insights into community demographics, needs, and priorities.

Introduction

This report presents the findings from a comprehensive community survey conducted in Borrego Springs to inform the development of a community resiliency strategy. The survey addressed various aspects of community life, including housing, infrastructure, public services, and economic development.

Survey Methodology

- Total Respondents: 168
- Survey Period: 2024
- Response Format: Multiple choice and priority selection questions
- Coverage: Residents, property owners, and visitors

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

Key Demographics

Relationship to Community

- 75.6% live in Borrego Springs
- 53.0% own property
- 17.3% work in the area
- 7.1% are visitors

Residency Status

- 57.1% year-round, full-time residents
- 26.8% seasonal residents (primarily winter)
- 0.6% seasonal residents (primarily summer)
- 5.4% non-residents

Age Distribution

- 53.6% aged 65+
- 30.4% aged 46-64
- 6.5% aged 25-45
- 9.5% under 25

Racial/Ethnic Composition

- 73.2% White/Caucasian
- 18.5% Hispanic/Latino
- 3.0% Asian
- 1.8% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0.6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

MAJOR FINDINGS

Community Satisfaction

Quality of Life Indicators

- 80% report strong sense of community
- 79.5% satisfied with quality of life
- 71.9% feel safe at night
- 84.3% agree there are sufficient public parks and open spaces

Primary Community Attractions

1. Access to nature (76%)
2. Quality of life (68%)
3. Rural atmosphere (66.7%)
4. Sense of community (60%)

Critical Challenges

Healthcare Services

- 74.7% prioritize healthcare access
- 70.3% concerned about insufficient medical services
- 78.4% support medical care development
- Healthcare ranks as top desired industry (76.3%)

Water Sustainability

- 92.9% aware of aquifer as sole water source
- 84.5% aware of required 70% reduction by 2040
- Water Costs:
 - 46.6% pay \$50-100 monthly
 - 43.6% pay \$100-200 monthly
 - 9.8% pay over \$200 monthly

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

MAJOR FINDINGS

Community Satisfaction (con't)

Housing Affordability

- 73.2% perceive housing shortage
- Affected Groups:
 - 92.9% Low/moderate income families
 - 45.1% Senior citizens
 - 40.7% Assisted living needs

Infrastructure Priorities

1. Natural resource protection (59.5%)
2. High-speed internet access (55.4%)
3. Sustainable water management (41.9%)
4. Reliable public utilities (36.5%)

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Healthcare Development

- Prioritize healthcare provider recruitment
- Develop telemedicine infrastructure
- Explore public-private partnerships
- Create medical facility development plan

2. Water Sustainability

- Implement comprehensive conservation programs
- Develop tiered water pricing
- Launch public education campaigns
- Explore water-efficient housing solutions

3. Housing Strategy

- Develop mixed-income housing
- Focus on senior/assisted living facilities
- Encourage multi-family development
- Implement sustainable building practices

4. Infrastructure Development

- Secure high-speed internet funding
- Create sustainable infrastructure plans
- Develop integrated trail systems
- Support EV infrastructure

5. Economic Development

- Focus on sustainable tourism
- Encourage R&D industries that also protect the priority of natural landscape conservation
- Support healthcare/tourism businesses
- Develop workforce training programs

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS

Sustainability

- Balance development with water restrictions:
- Preserve natural resources
- Maintain rural character
- Support sustainable tourism
- Update Community Plan and zoning recommendations

Community Development

- Focus on age-diverse design
- Improve essential services
- Protect natural amenities
- Enhance community connectivity

END OF SURVEY

Planning Agreement

by and among

**the County of San Diego,
the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and
the United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

regarding the

**North and East County
Multiple Species Conservation Program Plans:
Natural Community Conservation Program Plans and
Habitat Conservation Plans**

Third Restated and Amended

March 2021

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- Exhibit A - County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Planning Area Boundaries
- Exhibit B - Interim Review Process
- Exhibit C - Draft Species List for the MSCP North County Plan
- Exhibit D - Preliminary Species List to be Evaluated for Inclusion in the MSCP East County Plan
- Exhibit E - Natural Communities and Acreages within the North County MSCP Planning Area
- Exhibit F - Natural Communities and Acreages within the East County MSCP Planning Area
- Exhibit G - Milestones to Demonstrate Progress

Third Restated and Amended North and East County MSCP Plans Planning Agreement

This Third Restated and Amended Planning Agreement (“Planning Agreement”) for the planning and preparation of the North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan (or ‘North County Plan’) and East County MSCP Plan (or ‘East County Plan’), each of which is anticipated to be a joint Natural Community Conservation Program Plan (“NCCP Plan”) and Habitat Conservation Plan (“HCP”), is entered into as of the Effective Date by and among the County of San Diego (“County”), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”). These entities are referred to collectively as “Parties” and each individually as a “Party.” The CDFW and USFWS are referred to collectively as “Wildlife Agencies.” The North and East County MSCP Plans will be separate NCCP Plans/HCPs covering different areas of unincorporated San Diego County, as depicted in Exhibit A, and will complement the MSCP South County Subarea Plan adopted in 1997. The Plans will be completed sequentially, with initial efforts focused on the North County Plan.

This Planning Agreement supersedes and replaces the “North and East County MSCP Plans Planning Agreement” dated July 2019 and all other prior versions of this agreement.

1. Definitions

Terms used in this Planning Agreement that are defined in the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act have the meanings set forth in Fish and Game Code Section 2805. The following terms as used in this Planning Agreement will have the meanings set forth below.

- 1.1.** “Board of Supervisors” means the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors.
- 1.2.** “CEQA” means the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, *et seq.*
- 1.3.** “CESA” means the California Endangered Species Act, California Fish and Game Code, Section 2050, *et seq.*
- 1.4.** “County” means the government of the County of San Diego.
- 1.5.** “Covered Activities” means the activities that will be addressed in the Plans and for which the County will seek a NCCP Plan permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code, Section 2835, and an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act.
- 1.6.** “Covered Species” means those listed and non-listed species identified in the Plans to be conserved and managed consistent with the approved Plans such that,

through approval of the Plans, CDFW and the USFWS authorize their take under state and/or federal law.

1.7. “CDFW” means the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

1.8. “Effective Date” means the date by which all of the Parties to the Planning Agreement have signed it.

1.9. “FCA” means Focused Conservation Area.

1.10. “FESA” means the federal Endangered Species Act, 16 United States Code Section 1530, *et seq.*

1.11. “HCP” means a habitat conservation plan prepared pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of FESA.

1.12. “Implementation Agreement” means the agreement required pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2820, subdivision (b), and authorized under 14 U.S.C. Section 1539 (a)(2)(B) which defines the terms for the implementation of the Plans.

1.13. “Listed Species” means those species designated as candidate, threatened, or endangered pursuant to CESA and/or listed as threatened or endangered under FESA.

1.14. “MSCP” means Multiple Species Conservation Program.

1.15. “Natural Community Conservation Program Plan” or “NCCP Plan” means a conservation plan created pursuant to Fish and Game Code, Section 2800, *et seq.*

1.16. “Natural Community Conservation Planning Act” or “NCCPA” means Fish and Game Code, Section 2800, *et seq.*

1.17. “NEPA” means the National Environmental Policy Act, United States Code Section 4321, *et seq.*

1.18. “Plans” means both the North and East County MSCP Plans, each of which is anticipated to be a joint NCCP Plan and HCP.

1.19. “Planning Area” means each respective geographic area proposed to be addressed in the North and East County MSCP Plans as described in Exhibit A. The Planning Areas include lands not subject to the County’s land use authority.

1.20. “Permit Area” means lands within the Planning Areas for which parties will be granted Incidental Take Authorization. This may include land which would not

otherwise be subject to the County's land use authority but has been included voluntarily by the landowner, such as land owned by a special district.

1.21. "Steering Committee" means a committee formed for each of the North and East County MSCP Plans comprised of key interest group representatives that will participate in Plan development.

1.22. "USFWS" means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

1.23. "Wildlife Agencies" means the CDFW and the USFWS, collectively.

2. Background

2.1. Natural Community Conservation Planning Act

The NCCPA was enacted to encourage broad-based planning to provide for effective protection and conservation of California's wildlife resources while continuing to allow appropriate development and growth. The purpose of natural community conservation planning is to provide for the conservation of biological diversity by protecting biological communities at the ecosystem and landscape scale. Conservation of biological diversity includes protecting sensitive and more common species, natural communities, and the ecological processes necessary to sustain ecosystems over time. An NCCP plan identifies and provides for the measures necessary to conserve and manage natural biological diversity within a plan area, while allowing compatible and appropriate economic development, growth, and other human uses.

2.2. Purposes of NCCP Planning Agreements

The purposes of NCCP Planning Agreements are to:

- Define the Parties' goals and commitments with regard to preparation of the Plans;
- Define the geographic scope of the conservation Planning Areas;
- Identify a preliminary list of natural communities and species known or reasonably expected to be found in those communities, that are intended to be the initial focus of the Plans;
- Identify preliminary conservation objectives for the Planning Areas;
- Establish a process for the inclusion of independent scientific input into the planning process;
- Ensure coordination between the Wildlife Agencies, particularly with respect to FESA and CESA;
- Establish an interim process to review projects within the Planning Areas that includes coordination with the Wildlife Agencies by the County at the earliest opportunity in the discretionary review process to ensure that preliminary conservation objectives and preserve options for establishing a viable reserve system or equivalent long-term conservation measures are not precluded and that project impacts are adequately mitigated; and
- Ensure public participation and outreach throughout the planning process.

2.3. Compliance with CESA and FESA

The Planning Areas contain valuable biological resources, including native species of wildlife and their habitat. Among the species within the Planning Areas are certain species that are protected, or may be protected in the future, under CESA and/or FESA. The Parties intend for the Plans to satisfy the requirements of an HCP under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of FESA, and of an NCCP Plan under the NCCPA, to serve as the basis for take authorizations under both acts.

The NCCPA provides that after the approval of an NCCP Plan, CDFW may permit the taking of any covered species, listed or non-listed, whose conservation and management is provided consistent with the NCCP Plan. Take of state-listed species may be authorized pursuant to CESA during preparation of the Plans. After approval of the Plans, state-authorized take may be provided pursuant to the NCCPA.

FESA provides that after the approval of an HCP, USFWS may permit the taking of wildlife species covered in the HCP if the HCP and permit application meet the requirements of section 10(a)(2)(A) and (B) of FESA. Take authorization for federally listed wildlife species covered in the HCP shall generally be effective upon approval of the HCP and issuance of an incidental take permit. Take authorization for non-listed wildlife species covered in the HCP becomes effective if and when the species is listed pursuant to FESA. Take authorization during plan preparation for wildlife species listed pursuant to FESA may be provided pursuant to individual permits issued pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B), or consultations under section 7 of FESA. Although there is no take of plants under FESA and thus USFWS is not able to authorize take of plants, USFWS may include plants as covered species for purposes of extending federal assurances for them provided the MSCP North and East County Plans meet Section 10 issuance criteria and they provide conservation benefits to plants.

2.4. Section 7 of FESA

To the extent allowed under law, the Parties intend that the mitigation and minimization measures included in the Plans, once approved by the USFWS and included as a condition of federal incidental take permits to the County, will be incorporated into future Section 7 consultations between the USFWS and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Department of Transportation, or other applicable federal agencies regarding Covered Activities that may adversely affect Covered Species or their habitat.

2.5. Concurrent Planning for Wetlands and Waters of the United States

The County intends to address impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States and changes to the bed, bank, or channel of rivers, streams and lakes resulting from Covered Activities in the Planning Areas. Based on the Plans, the County may seek future programmatic permits or authorizations under the Clean Water Act and Section 1601 (or Section 1603) of the Fish and Game Code as necessary for Covered Activities. The Parties agree to work together to explore the feasibility of undertaking

concurrent but separate planning regarding these permits. However, such programmatic permits or authorizations are not necessary for approval of the Plans or for the issuance of take permits.

2.6. Assurances

2.6.1. FESA

The Parties anticipate that the USFWS will provide assurances pursuant to applicable federal law and regulations then in effect upon issuance of the federal incidental take permits to the County. These assurances include the “no surprises” rule that the USFWS will not request additional money, land, or water for the Covered Species if circumstances change beyond those already anticipated in the Plans.

2.6.2. NCCPA

The Parties anticipate that if the Plans meet the criteria for an NCCP Plan permit under Section 2835 of the Fish and Game Code, CDFW will provide assurances consistent with its statutory authority upon approval of the Plans and issuance of NCCP Plan permits to the County. Under Section 2820(f) of the Fish and Game Code, CDFW may provide assurances for plan participants commensurate with the level of long-term conservation and associated implementation measures provided in the Plans. In order to ensure that state regulatory assurances are legally binding, such provisions will be included in an Implementation Agreement.

3. Planning Goals

The planning goals include the following:

- Provide for the conservation and management of Covered Species;
- Preserve aquatic and terrestrial resources through conservation partnerships with the County;
- Allow for appropriate and compatible growth and development that are consistent with applicable laws, including but not limited to local land use laws and the General Plan;
- Provide a basis for permits necessary to lawfully take Covered Species;
- Provide a comprehensive means to coordinate and standardize mitigation and compensation requirements of FESA, CESA, CEQA, NEPA, and NCCPA within the Planning Areas;
- Provide a less costly, more efficient project review process which results in greater conservation values than project-by-project, species-by-species review; and
- Provide clear expectations and regulatory predictability for persons carrying out Covered Activities within the Planning Areas.

4. Planning Areas and Plan Participants

Implementation of the Plans will preserve a network of habitat and open space, protect biodiversity, and enhance the region's quality of human life. Many natural communities in

the region are considered sensitive because they have been greatly reduced in distribution by development. San Diego County contains 300-400 plant and animal species that are: federally and/or state listed as endangered, threatened, or rare; proposed or candidates for listing; or otherwise considered sensitive.

4.1. Geographic Scope

Each of the Plans is a separate NCCP Plan/HCP covering different areas of unincorporated San Diego County (Exhibit A). The Plans will complement the South County MSCP Subarea Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1997. The Planning Area boundaries may be further refined in the future.

4.1.1. North County MSCP Plan

The North County MSCP Planning Area covers approximately 324,205 acres in San Diego County as depicted in Exhibit A. The North County MSCP Planning Area extends: to the Riverside County line to the north; to the existing South County MSCP Subarea Plan boundary around Lake Hodges, Rancho Santa Fe, San Pasqual Valley, Mount Woodson, and Fernbrook to the south; to the eastern edge of Camp Pendleton Marine Base and the northern coastal cities of San Diego County to the west; and to the Cleveland National Forest to the east (Exhibit A). The North County MSCP Plan includes the communities of Bonsall, Pendleton – De Luz, Fallbrook, Hidden Meadows, unincorporated North County Metro, Pala, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, Twin Oaks, Valley Center, portions of Lakeside, portions of San Dieguito, and much of Ramona. Areas in the incorporated cities under the County's stewardship, such as San Elijo Lagoon, Guajome County Park, and Palomar Airport, are also included in the North County MSCP Planning Area.

4.1.2. East County MSCP Plan

The East County MSCP Planning Area covers approximately 1.55 million acres in San Diego County as depicted in Exhibit A. The East County MSCP Planning Area is bounded on the west generally by the western boundary of the Cleveland National Forest, on the north by Riverside County, and on the east predominantly by Imperial County, and the south by Mexico.

The East County MSCP Plan includes the backcountry communities of Central Mountain, Cuyamaca, Descanso, Pine Valley, Desert/Borrego Springs, Julian, Mountain Empire, Boulevard, Jacumba, Lake Morena/ Campo, Potrero, Tecate, portions of Dulzura, and Palomar/North Mountain, all of which are within the jurisdictional boundary of the unincorporated San Diego County.

The County of San Diego has land use authority over private parcels and County-owned land in the unincorporated County which is approximately 25 percent (382,000 acres) of the East County MSCP Planning Area. The other 75 percent of the Planning Area includes land subject to the land use jurisdiction of other public agencies.

4.1.3. Excluded Lands

Military lands, Tribal lands in Trust, lands owned or managed by non-signatory public agencies, state or federal agencies, or water and school districts will be excluded from the Permit Areas unless they consent and are willing to voluntarily participate in the Plans. The County will coordinate planning efforts with these entities to determine where and how conservation strategies will be able to complement one another. The North and East County MSCP Plans for the unincorporated area will be stand-alone plans and the Permit Areas' excluded lands will not be relied upon for conserving and gaining coverage from the Wildlife Agencies for listed and other sensitive species.

As directed by the Board of Supervisors on October 28, 2020 (6), private property currently owned by the Rancho Guejito Corporation is excluded from the North County MSCP Planning Area.

4.2. County of San Diego

The County is the local sponsor of the Plans. As part of this planning process, the County has committed to undertake a collaborative, systematic approach to protecting the Planning Areas' ecologically significant resources, including candidate, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats, open space, and working landscapes, and to ensure that the Covered Activities comply with applicable federal and state laws.

4.3. California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CDFW is the agency of the state of California authorized to act as trustee for the state's wildlife. CDFW is authorized to approve NCCP Plans pursuant to the NCCPA, administer and enforce CESA and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code, and enter into agreements with federal and local governments and other entities for the conservation of species and habitats pursuant to CESA and the NCCPA.

4.4. United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS is an agency of the United States Department of the Interior authorized by Congress to administer and enforce FESA with respect to terrestrial wildlife, certain fish species, insects and plants, and to enter into agreements with states, local governments, and other entities to conserve threatened, endangered, and other species of concern. The NCCPA and this Planning Agreement require coordination with USFWS with respect to FESA.

5. Preliminary Conservation Objectives

The preliminary conservation objectives intended to be achieved through the Plans are to:

- Provide for the protection of species, natural communities, and ecosystems on a landscape level;
- Preserve the diversity of plant and animal communities throughout the Planning Areas;

- Protect threatened, endangered, or other special status plant and animal species, and minimize and mitigate the take or loss of proposed Covered Species;
- Identify and designate biologically sensitive habitat areas;
- Preserve habitat and contribute to the recovery of Covered Species;
- Reduce the need to list additional species;
- Set forth species-specific goals and objectives;
- Set forth specific habitat-based goals and objectives expressed in terms of amount, quality, and connectivity of habitat;
- Provide an effective adaptive management and monitoring strategy for Covered Species and natural communities; and
- Provide a secured funding source to implement the Plans.

5.1. Conservation Elements

5.1.1. Ecosystems, Natural Communities, and Species List

The Plans will employ a strategy that focuses on the conservation of ecosystems, natural communities, and ecological processes in the Planning Areas. In addition, where appropriate, the Plans will employ species-specific measures to minimize and mitigate for negative impacts, and species-specific measures for conservation and management.

Preliminary lists of the endangered, threatened, candidate, or other sensitive species known from, or reasonably expected to be found in, the Planning Areas, and that are intended to be the focus of the Plans are provided in Exhibit C for the North County MSCP Plan and Exhibit D for the East County MSCP Plan. The lists identify species that the Parties will evaluate for inclusion in the Plans, and they are not necessarily the final Covered Species lists for the Plans. The lists are preliminary and can be updated as needed without amending this Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that inclusion of a particular species as a Covered Species in the Plans will require separate determination by CDFW and USFWS that the Plans adequately provide for conservation of the species in accordance with state and/or federal permit issuance requirements. The natural communities that are mapped for the North County and East County MSCP Planning Areas are listed in Exhibits E and F, respectively.

5.1.2. Conservation Areas and Viable Habitat Linkages

The Plans will establish conservation areas throughout the Planning Areas and provide linkages, where appropriate, between the conservation areas within the Planning Areas. They will also identify where linkages between the conservation areas and important habitat areas outside the Planning Areas should occur. The conservation areas will include a range of environmental gradients and ecological functions, and will address edge effects and other reserve design principles.

5.1.3. Project Design

The Plans will ensure that development projects are appropriately designed to avoid and/or minimize negative on-site and off-site impacts to biological resources and to adequately mitigate for those impacts.

6. Preparing the Plans

The Parties intend that this Planning Agreement will fulfill the NCCPA requirements pertaining to planning agreements and will establish a mutually agreeable process for preparing the Plans that fulfills the requirements of the NCCPA and FESA. As described below, the process used to develop the Plans will incorporate independent scientific input and analysis, and include extensive public participation with ample opportunity for comment from the general public and (as solicited by the County) for advice from key groups.

6.1. Best Available Scientific Information

The Plans will be based on the best available scientific information, including, but not limited to:

- Principles of conservation biology, community ecology, landscape ecology, individual species' ecology, and other scientific knowledge and thought;
- Thorough information about all natural communities and proposed Covered Species on lands throughout the Planning Areas; and
- Advice from well-qualified, independent scientists.

6.2. Data Collection

The Parties agree that information regarding the subjects briefly described below in Section 6.2.1 is important for preparation of the Plans and have already begun collecting data on these subjects. The Parties further agree that data collection for preparation of the Plans should remain prioritized to develop more complete information on these subjects. Preference should be given to collecting data essential to address conservation requirements of natural communities and proposed Covered Species. The independent science advisory process and analysis of existing information may reveal data gaps currently not known that are necessary for the full and accurate preparation of the Plans. Data needed for preparation of the Plans may not be known at this time nor identified herein. Therefore, the Parties anticipate that data collection priorities may be adjusted from time to time during the planning process. All data collected for the preparation and implementation of the Plans will be made available to the Wildlife Agencies in hard and digital formats, as requested. The data developed or anticipated to be developed for the North and East County MSCP Plans include the following topic areas.

6.2.1. GIS Database and Baseline Data Inventory

Data layers were and will continue to be developed for sensitive species locations, vernal pool locations, natural communities (using a classification system based on Holland 1986), topography, soils, climate zones, land use, ownership, and resource management status. The natural communities

mapped in the North County and East County MSCP Planning Areas are listed in Exhibits E and F, respectively.

6.2.2. Preserve Design Criteria

The preserve design criteria and conservation goals will be based on the basic principles and tenets of conservation biology and coarse filter goals.

6.2.3. Habitat Modeling and Analysis

Habitat modeling and analysis will continue to be used to extrapolate biological data and knowledge in a consistent and comprehensive manner across the Planning Areas.

6.2.4. Analysis of Gaps in Protection

The gap analysis will be used primarily to identify, at a coarse scale, areas of potentially high habitat value that are currently not well protected (areas “at risk”).

6.2.5. Preserve Design

MARXAN, which is a Reserve Selection Algorithm (RSA) Model, is being and will continue to be used to form the structure of the overall preserve design. This model is the basis for identifying the Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas (“PAMA”) in the North County Planning Area and the Focused Conservation Areas in the East County Planning Area. The PAMA in the North County Planning Area was refined in 2016 to remove existing development, minimize inclusion of small parcels, and adjust to existing parcel boundaries where appropriate, and will continue to be refined as appropriate.

6.2.6. Conservation Analysis

The conservation analysis will provide detailed species-specific analyses of the level of conservation and take expected from the implementation of the Plans. The analysis will include the ultimate biological effects from the establishment of the preserve and from the adherence to the County’s Biological Mitigation Ordinance and other documents associated with the Plans.

6.3. Independent Scientific Input

In 2001, the County contracted with a group of independent science advisors to review computer models, field research data, and potential Preserve design methods for the North County Plan. Their recommendations were summarized in a written report dated July 1, 2001 and resulted in revisions to the modeling process and incorporation of the SITES Reserve Selection Algorithm model. In 2002, the independent science advisors reconvened to review the revisions made based on the 2001 recommendations. Their response to the revisions made to the North County Plan modeling process and their recommendations and input on the Preserve planning process are summarized in a written report dated February 27, 2002.

In 2006, the County convened another group of independent science advisors to provide input on the East County Plan. They participated in two workshops (February 2006 and January 2007) and produced a report dated March 31, 2006. County and CDFW anticipate additional consultation with independent scientists as preparation of the Plans continues in order to ensure that Plans are developed using the “best available” science methodologies.

The County and CDFW intend to seek additional independent scientific input and analysis to assist in the completion of the North County Plan and in the preparation of the East County Plan. For that purpose, independent scientists representing a broad range of disciplines, including conservation biology and locally relevant ecological knowledge, will, at a minimum:

- Recommend scientifically sound conservation strategies for species and natural communities proposed to be covered by the Plans;
- Recommend a set of reserve design principles that address the needs of species, landscapes, ecosystems, and ecological processes in the Planning Areas proposed to be addressed by the Plans;
- Recommend management principles and conservation goals that can be used in developing a framework for the monitoring and adaptive management components of the Plans; and
- Identify data gaps and uncertainties so that risk factors can be evaluated.

Design and implementation of the science advisory process must be done in a coordinated fashion and with the mutual agreement of the County and CDFW. The County and CDFW will establish funding and payment procedures. The independent science advisory process will include the preparation of a detailed scope of work, input from technical experts, and production of a report by the scientists. In addition, the County and CDFW will make the report available for use by all participants and the public during the planning process.

The independent scientists may be asked to provide additional feedback on key issues during preparation of the Plans and may prepare reports regarding specific scientific issues throughout the process, as deemed necessary by the County and CDFW.

6.4. Public Participation

The County will prepare the Plans in an open and transparent process with an emphasis on obtaining input from a balanced variety of public and private interests including state, local, and Tribal governments, landowners, conservation organizations, agricultural commissioners, agricultural organizations, and the general public. The planning process will provide for thorough public review and comment, and include representatives from key interest groups who will review the Plans throughout the preparation of the Plans. To assist in the preparation of the Plans, the County has formed a Steering Committee.

6.4.1. Steering Committee

Steering Committee members come from a diverse group of interests in the County representing the agricultural community, environmental groups, the development community, landowner groups, conservation groups, recreational interests, and public agencies. During the preparation of the North and East County MSCP Plans, the Steering Committee will examine the NCCP Planning/HCP policies, review drafts of parts of the Plans, and serve as a sounding board and assist in the preparation of the Plans. Staff from the Wildlife Agencies and the County will work with the Steering Committee to provide technical expertise and share information for the preparation and implementation of the Plans.

6.4.2. Outreach

The County, in concert with the Steering Committee, will provide access to information to persons interested in the Plans. The Parties expect and intend that public outreach regarding preparation of the Plans will be conducted largely by and through the Steering Committee meetings and through outreach to the County's Community Planning/Sponsor Groups (CPSGs) and other interested parties. In addition, the County will continue to hold public meetings to present key decisions regarding the preparation of the Plans and to allow the public the opportunity to comment on and inquire about the decisions. Other outreach efforts will include periodic updates to the CPSG chair members, individual meetings with interested CPSGs and other interested groups, status updates in the County of San Diego Planning & Development Services' e-Blast, maintenance of the County's Conservation website (<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/mscp/>), press releases, and related activities.

6.4.3. Availability of Public Review Drafts

The County will designate and make available for public review in a reasonable and timely manner "public review drafts" of pertinent planning documents including, but not limited to, plans, memoranda of understanding, maps, conservation guidelines, and species coverage lists. Such documents will be made available by the County at least ten working days prior to any public hearing addressing these documents. This obligation will not apply to all documents drafted during preparation of the Plans. However, the County will periodically designate various pertinent documents drafted during preparation of the Plans as "public review drafts" and will make these documents available to the public. The Parties agree the website, <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/mscp/>, will be one of the principal means of making documents available for public review, as well as more traditional means such as distribution and display of hard copies of such documents.

6.4.4. Public Hearings

Public hearings regarding preparation of the Plans will be planned and conducted in a manner that satisfies the requirements of CEQA, NEPA, and any other applicable state or federal laws.

6.4.5. Public Review and Comment Period Prior to Adoption

The County will make the proposed draft Plans and Implementation Agreements available for public review and comment for a minimum of 90 days before adoption. The County expects to fulfill this obligation by distributing the draft Plans and Implementation Agreements with the draft environmental impact reports prepared for the Plans pursuant to CEQA and/or the draft environmental impact statements prepared for the Plans pursuant to NEPA.

6.5. Covered Activities

Covered Activities under the Plans are those activities that may result in authorized take or loss of Covered Species that will be identified and addressed in the Plans. Covered Activities may include: those land uses over which the County has land use authority; certain agricultural activities over which the County exercises control for purposes of the Plans; and research, restoration, adaptive habitat management and monitoring activities in the Planning Areas. The Parties intend that the Plans will allow Covered Activities in the Planning Areas to be carried out in compliance with the NCCPA, CESA, and FESA.

6.6. Interim Project Processing

The Parties recognize that before the Wildlife Agencies approve the Plans, certain projects and activities may be proposed within the Planning Areas. The Parties agree to the guidelines provided in the attached Interim Review Process (Exhibit B) to: (1) ensure that development, construction, annexation of land from the County's jurisdiction into another jurisdiction, and other projects or activities approved or initiated in the Planning Areas before completion of the Plans are consistent with the preliminary conservation objectives (Section 5) and do not compromise successful completion and implementation of the Plans; (2) facilitate CEQA, CESA, and FESA compliance for interim projects subject to these laws; and (3) ensure that processing of interim projects is not unduly delayed during preparation of the Plans.

6.7. HLP Processing and Demonstration of Progress

The planning process for the North and East County Plans was initiated in approximately 2000 and has therefore been ongoing for 20 years. The Wildlife Agencies and the County have identified milestones (Exhibit G) that the County must meet to demonstrate future progress towards developing the Plans. If the County fails to meet any of these deadlines, CDFW and USFWS separately represent that they may withdraw from the Planning Agreement, consistent with Section 8.7, if the County fails to meet any of the deadlines in Exhibit G; USFWS further represents that it is not the intent of the Endangered Species Act 4(d) rule, 50 C.F.R. Section 17.41(b) ("4(d) Rule"), for the California gnatcatcher to allow piece-meal development or to encourage a

process that continues to authorize take without reasonable progress being made in the development and implementation of a long-term habitat conservation plan that contributes to the recovery of the gnatcatcher. Therefore, consistent with the NCCP Process Guidelines and the biological opinion for the California gnatcatcher 4(d) rule(1-6-93-FW-37R2), milestones (Exhibit G) have been identified by the Wildlife Agencies and the County which must be met in order to continue to process habitat loss permits and authorize take of gnatcatchers pursuant to the 4(d) rule.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, deadlines in Exhibit G can be changed if the County is diligently working on the Plans and USFWS and CDFW both agree to change the deadlines.

6.8. Protection of Habitat Land During the Planning Process

6.8.1. Conservation Lands Acquired/Protected

The Parties may elect to preserve, enhance, or restore, either by acquisition or other means (*i.e.*, conservation easements, open space easements, designated setbacks), lands in the Planning Areas that contain native species of wildlife or natural communities prior to approval of the Plans. As part this effort, the County will coordinate with the Wildlife Agencies during monthly coordination meetings regarding potential target areas to be conserved for purposes of protection related to the North County and East County Plans.

6.8.2. Mitigation Lands

Lands, or portions of lands, acquired or otherwise protected solely to mitigate the impacts of specific projects, actions, or activities approved prior to approval by the Wildlife Agencies of the Plans will be considered as mitigation only for those projects, actions, or activities. Such lands will be considered during the Plans' analysis but will not count toward future mitigation obligations of the Plans.

6.8.3. Annexation of Lands

In the event land within the County's jurisdiction is proposed to be annexed to another jurisdiction, the County shall request that the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) impose a requirement on the annexing jurisdiction that it shall enter into a MSCP consistency review agreement between the County, the annexing jurisdiction, USFWS and CDFW as part of the annexation process to ensure that annexation would only occur when the annexation will not jeopardize the buildout of the preserve or the coverage of species within either of the Planning Areas, or compromise viable habitat linkages within the proposed preserve, and that any development of the annexed lands proceeds in accordance with the Preliminary Conservation Goals set out in section 5 of this Agreement. The agreement shall also set forth the resulting responsibilities for ongoing maintenance and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement as they relate to the annexed land. Issuance of Take

Authorizations to the annexing jurisdiction or amendment of the annexing jurisdiction's Take Authorizations, if any are already in place, may be required in order to authorize Take on the annexed land.

6.9. Implementation Agreement

The NCCPA requires that any NCCP Plan approved by CDFW include an Implementation Agreement that contains provisions for:

- conditions of species coverage;
- measures to ensure the long-term protection of habitat reserves and/or other conservation measures;
- implementation of mitigation and conservation measures;
- terms for suspension or revocation of the take permit;
- procedures to amend the Plan and Implementation Agreement;
- implementation of monitoring and adaptive management;
- oversight of Plan effectiveness and funding;
- periodic reporting; and
- annexation of lands.

While the Plans are being developed, the Parties will negotiate draft Implementation Agreements that will satisfy the requirements of the NCCPA and FESA and include specific provisions and procedures for the implementation, monitoring, and funding of the Plans. Drafts of the Implementation Agreements will be made available for public review and comment with the final public review draft of the Plans.

7. Commitment of Resources

7.1. Funding

The Parties agree that they will work together to bring available funding to the planning effort.

7.1.1. Local Funding

The County recognizes that, as a prospective applicant for state and federal permits, it has the primary responsibility for developing Plans that meet applicable legal requirements and that, as a result, the preparation and implementation of the Plans must be funded primarily from locally assured sources. However, the Parties anticipate that all Parties will contribute financially to the implementation of the Plans.

7.1.2. CDFW Assistance with Funding and CDFW Costs

CDFW agrees to cooperate with the other Parties in identifying and securing, where appropriate and available, federal and state funds earmarked for natural community conservation planning. The Parties agree that the County shall not provide reimbursement to CDFW for its participation in the planning phase of the Plans as provided in Fish and Game Code, Section 2810, except as provided in Section 8.7 of this Planning Agreement. CDFW's commitments and

obligations under this Planning Agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and the written commitment of funds by an authorized CDFW representative.

7.1.3. USFWS Assistance with Funding

The USFWS agrees to cooperate with the other Parties in identifying and securing, where appropriate, federal and state funds earmarked for habitat conservation planning purposes. Potential federal funding sources may include: the USFWS' Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; Land and Water Conservation Fund; and land acquisition grants or loans through other federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, or the Departments of Agriculture or Transportation. The commitments of the USFWS under this Planning Agreement are subject to the requirements of the federal Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. section 1341) and the availability of appropriated funds. The Parties acknowledge that this Planning Agreement does not require any federal agency to expend its appropriated funds unless and until an authorized officer of that agency provides for such expenditures in writing.

7.2. Expertise of Wildlife Agencies

Subject to funding and staffing constraints, the Wildlife Agencies agree to provide technical and scientific information, analyses, and advice to assist the County with the timely and efficient preparation of the Plans.

8. Miscellaneous Provisions

8.1. Public Officials Not to Benefit

No member of or delegate to Congress will be entitled to any share or part of this Planning Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise from it.

8.2. Statutory Authority

The Parties will not construe this Planning Agreement to require any Party to act beyond or in a manner inconsistent with its statutory authority.

8.3. Multiple Originals

This Planning Agreement may be executed by the Parties in multiple originals, each of which will be deemed to be an official original copy.

8.4. Effective Date

The Effective Date is the date by which all of the Parties to the Planning Agreement have signed it.

8.5. Duration

This Planning Agreement will be in effect until the Plans are approved and permitted by the Wildlife Agencies, but shall not be in effect beyond January 31, 2025, unless

extended by amendment. This Planning Agreement may be terminated pursuant to section 8.7 below.

8.6. Amendments

This Planning Agreement can be amended only by written agreement of all Parties.

8.7. Termination and Withdrawal

Subject to the requirement in Section 8.7.1 of the Planning Agreement, any party may withdraw from this Planning Agreement upon 30 days' written notice to the other Parties. The Planning Agreement will remain in effect as to all non-withdrawing Parties unless the remaining Parties determine that the withdrawal requires termination of the Planning Agreement. This Planning Agreement can be terminated only by written agreement of all Parties.


8.7.1. Funding

In the event that federal or state funds have been provided to assist with Plan preparation or implementation, any Party withdrawing from this Planning Agreement shall return to the granting agency unspent funds awarded to that Party prior to withdrawal. A withdrawing Party shall also provide the remaining Parties with a complete accounting of the use of any federal or state funds it received regardless of whether unspent funds remain at the time of withdrawal. In the event of termination of this Planning Agreement, all Parties who received funds shall return any unspent funds to the grantor prior to termination.

9. Signatures

Dated: March 29, 2021

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

By: 

Sarah Aghassi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Dated: _____, 2021

UNITED STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By: _____

Scott A. Sobiech, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Field Office

Dated: _____, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

By: _____

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director

9. Signatures

Dated: _____, 2021 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

By: _____
Sarah Aghassi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Dated: _____, 2021 UNITED STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By: **SCOTT SOBIECH** Digitally signed by SCOTT SOBIECH
Date: 2021.03.11 16:26:31 -08'00'
Scott A. Sobiech, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Field Office

Dated: _____, 2021 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

By: _____
Chad Dibble, Deputy Director

9. Signatures

Dated: _____, 2021 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

By: _____
Sarah Aghassi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Dated: _____, 2021 UNITED STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By: _____
Scott A. Sobiech, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Field Office

Dated: 3/22/2021, 2021 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE


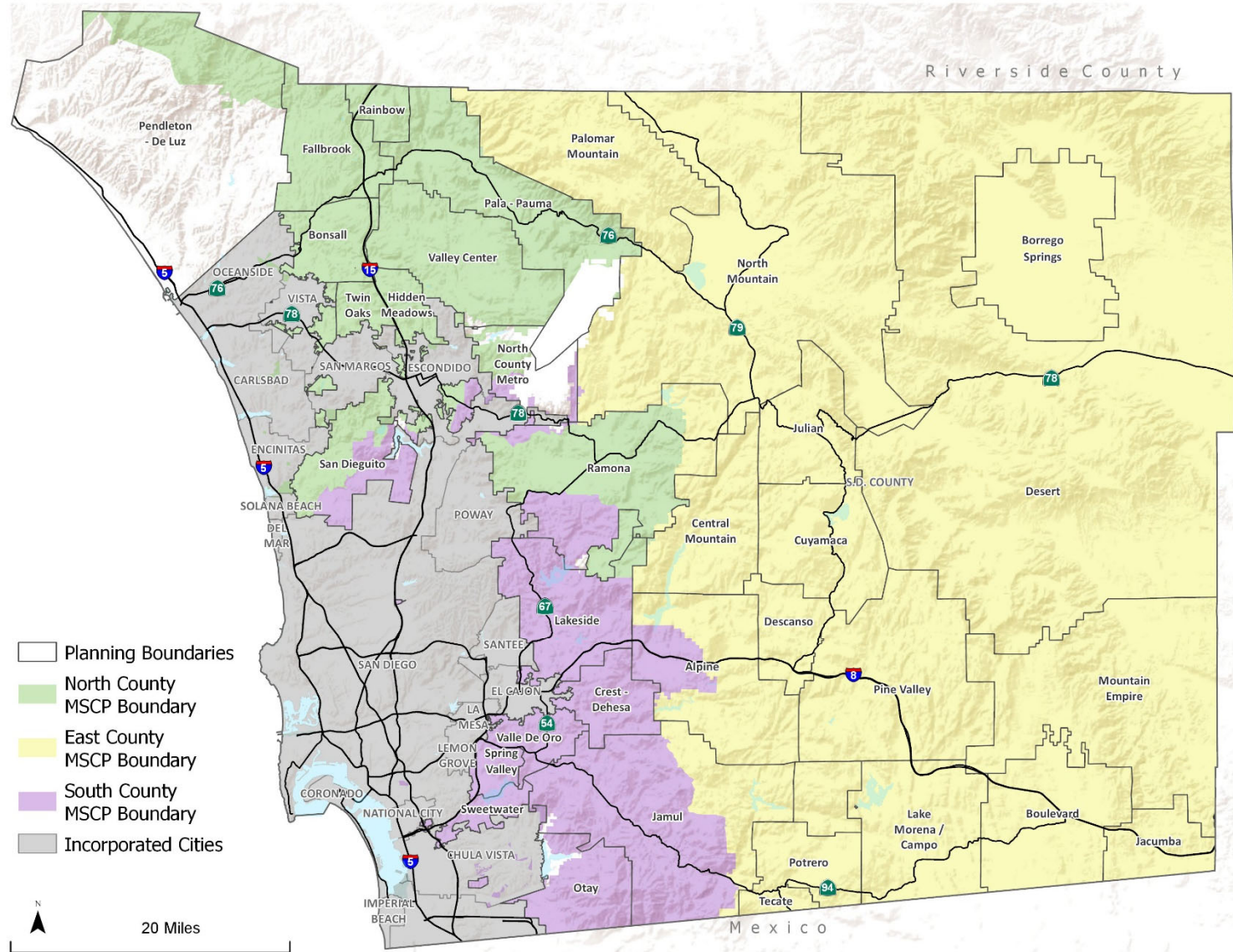
By: 
40BCCD3DEE9340B
Chad Dibble, Deputy Director

EXHIBIT A

County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program Planning Area Boundaries¹



¹ Planning Area boundaries may be further refined in the future.

EXHIBIT B

Interim Review Process

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Interim Review Process is to ensure that discretionary development/construction projects (“Interim Projects”) approved or initiated in the North or East County MSCP Planning Areas prior to the adoption of the Plans do not compromise the successful implementation of the Plans. The Interim Review Process may also help facilitate CESA and FESA compliance for Interim Projects when required, as well as ensure that interim projects are not delayed solely due to preparation of the North and East County MSCP Plans. However, compliance with the Interim Review Process does not guarantee CESA or FESA compliance for Interim Projects.

The Interim Review Process also ensures early review and consideration of proposed discretionary projects and annexations by the Wildlife Agencies. With respect to discretionary projects and annexations which may have the potential to conflict with the preliminary conservation objectives in section 5 of the Planning Agreement, preclude long-term preservation planning, or impact the viability of biological resources, the Wildlife Agencies commit to meet with the County and/or project proponent at the earliest feasible point in the CEQA or NEPA process to review such projects; preferably the meeting would occur when the supporting technical reports have been prepared for the CEQA or NEPA document, but it will at minimum occur as soon as possible after a project application is deemed complete pursuant to Government Code Section 65943. Early identification of potential impacts will assist in the preparation of environmental documents for the project and provide the opportunity to identify potential project alternatives and mitigation measures for consideration in compliance with Public Resources Section 21080.3(a).

The Interim Review Process is intended to streamline the review of Interim Projects and is not intended to create an additional layer of project review nor to grant any additional authority to the Wildlife Agencies. The final decision of whether to approve, modify, or deny a project remains in the hands of the County pursuant to existing laws.

DEFINITION OF INTERIM PROJECTS

Interim Projects may include proposed development or construction projects, whether conducted by the County or requiring permits from the County, which are located in the North or East County MSCP Planning Areas and are considered discretionary as defined by CEQA Guidelines Article 20, Section 15357. Interim projects also include annexations of County jurisdictional lands from one of the Planning Areas into other jurisdictions. Interim Projects shall be reported to the Wildlife Agencies if they meet all of the following criteria:

- The proposed project is located in either the North or East County MSCP Planning Areas; and

- A determination has been made by the County that the proposed project is not exempt from CEQA; and
- The project has the potential to adversely impact proposed Covered Species or natural communities within the Planning Areas, including but not limited to when the project is located within the preferred preserve areas (e.g., PAMA or FCA), high quality habitat or connectivity would be impacted, or a habitat loss permit would be required to receive County approval for the impacts; and
- The project represents one or more of the following actions or is subject to one or more of the following discretionary permits:
 - Administrative Permits;
 - County-initiated discretionary projects;
 - Grading Permits;
 - Major Use Permits;
 - Major Use Permit Modifications (Review shall exclude areas unaffected by the proposed Modifications);
 - Rezones;
 - Site Plans;
 - Tentative Parcel Maps;
 - Tentative Maps;
 - Revised Tentative Parcel Maps and Revised Tentative Maps (review shall exclude areas unaffected by the proposed revisions);
 - Vacations of Open Space Easements; and
 - Annexations
- Projects that are not located within the preferred preserve areas (i.e., PAMA or FCA) and would not impact (directly or indirectly) any Covered Species or narrow endemic species do not qualify as an interim project subject to review.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

The County shall notify the Wildlife Agencies of Interim Projects meeting the criteria described above as soon as possible after the County has reviewed the project application and determined it to be complete pursuant to Section 65943 of the Government Code, or has been notified about a proposed annexation. The following information shall be provided electronically via e-mail (which information is typically located in a project's biological technical report):

- Project Description;
- Project Location;
- Aerial Photo;
- Vegetation Map per the County's GIS data;
- List of potential sensitive species that may be found on-site; and
- Proposed mitigation (if identified).

The Wildlife Agencies shall each identify a lead person for project review and meeting attendance. The notification process for Interim Projects shall end upon completion of the North and East County MSCP Plans or upon termination of the Planning Agreement.

COORDINATION ON INTERIM PROJECTS

Representatives from the County shall meet on an as needed basis with the Wildlife Agencies to discuss Interim Projects and coordination of Interim Projects during the preparation of the North and East County MSCP Plans. Preferably these Interim Project discussions will occur during the regularly scheduled monthly batching meetings for review of habitat loss permits. For purposes of CEQA, the project review meeting and any related activities (site visits, follow-up correspondence, etc.) shall constitute a consultation pursuant to Public Resources Section 21080.3(a). If possible at the meeting, but otherwise in not more than 30 days following the meeting, the Wildlife Agencies shall provide input to the lead agency (County of San Diego) as to whether either agency believes the project may potentially conflict with the conservation objectives of the Planning Agreement.

The Wildlife Agencies shall also indicate specific issues which either believes should be addressed, suggest any studies they believe may be necessary to assess project impacts to specific biological resources, and propose any mitigation measures or project alternatives that would help achieve the preliminary conservation objectives.

It is recognized that the compliance with the Interim Review Process neither confers any authority not granted by existing planning and environmental laws, nor negates any authority so granted. The Interim Project Review is intended only to facilitate cooperation among the County, the Wildlife Agencies, and the project applicants to ensure timely review of projects which have the potential to preclude long-term preservation planning and to facilitate the resolution of issues which might affect the successful preparation of the North and East County MSCP Plans.

PROCEDURES

1. Meetings will be scheduled on an as-needed basis and will be held in conjunction with existing Habitat Loss Permit Batching Meetings. Please refer to Section 9 of the Protocols for Projects Requiring Habitat Loss Permits (https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/ProjectPlanning/docs/HL_PProtocols.pdf). Meeting protocols that differ between the Interim Review Process and the Batching Meetings include:
 - Meeting attendees for Interim Review Process projects will include County and Wildlife Agency staff only, unless one of the Parties requests the presence of the project applicant and biologist in which case those parties will attend as well.
 - The County will send the Wildlife Agencies information listed above under “Notification Process.”

2. At the review meeting, the attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the project, answer questions, *etc.* County staff will provide discussion during the review meeting on the proposed preserve design principles and will include discussion in the CEQA document.

Where a project will negatively affect (a) biological resources in areas mapped as “high value” and “very high value” based on the County’s habitat evaluation models that utilize the best available information at the time, (b) areas mapped as “moderate” or “low” value that may be important for preserve assembly, and/or (c) proposed Covered Species or their habitat based on current biological surveys, the NCCP/4(d) findings shall be considered and preserve design principles shall be applied to the project including the following:

- Project siting should be designed to minimize impacts to the proposed Plan’s anticipated preserve design (Section 6.2.5), specifically to those areas identified as draft PAMA and/or FCA on the map entitled “County of San Diego: Multiple Species Conservation Programs” dated March 14, 2014 (https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/mscp/docs/mscp_areas.pdf) and on a parcel specific MSCP map prepared as part of an Initial Study Research Packet (<https://gis-public.co.san-diego.ca.us/ISRP/home>). Project siting should also be consistent with the preliminary conservation objectives for the respective Plans (Section 5) and comply with the County’s land use regulations and mitigation requirements.
- On-site open space should provide a long-term biological benefit.
- On-site open space must protect habitat of equal or greater value as that being impacted.
- No isolated pockets of open space should be used for mitigation credit.
- Separate lots should be used whenever possible for on-site open space to help protect the biological value of the preserved areas.
- On-site open space shall contribute to regional conservation efforts and shall not impede the Plan’s proposed conservation strategy.
- Open space design should not reduce the biological diversity found on the site.
- Open space design shall maintain habitat connectivity between areas of high quality habitat.
- The most sensitive resources shall be protected to maximize long-term viability.
- Edge effects and habitat fragmentation shall be minimized by maximizing the surface area to perimeter ratio, preserving large blocks of contiguous open space. Edge effects shall be further minimized by establishing buffers, providing fencing and/or permanent signs, and limiting trails and/or lighting.

In addition, where a project will affect Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS), County staff will provide information on how the project follows the Coastal Sage Scrub NCCP

Process Guidelines and associated Attachment A: Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Conservation Guidelines (November 1993). These guidelines shall be applied to the project, and a draft Habitat Loss Permit shall be prepared and included as a part of the CEQA public review process. Processing of the draft Habitat Loss Permit shall also follow the agreed upon Protocols for Projects Requiring Habitat Loss Permits.

3. At the review meeting if possible, otherwise in not more than 30 days after the review meeting, the Wildlife Agencies representatives shall provide the following information to the County and project applicant:
 - List of concerns related to negative impacts on the biological resources which the Wildlife Agencies believe could occur from the project as proposed, and the agency's assessment as to whether those impacts have the potential to conflict with the preliminary conservation objectives in the Planning Agreement;
 - List of any additional studies on specific species which the Wildlife Agencies believe are necessary;
 - List of any project alternatives, mitigation measures, or studies which the Wildlife Agencies believe should be considered in the environmental review process; and
 - Guidance on anticipated Wildlife Agency permits required for the project including permit requirements and processing guidance.

The Wildlife Agencies will retain the right to provide further comments during the formal public comment period or may choose to entirely waive their comments during the Interim Review Process and reserve them for the public comment period.

EXHIBIT C
Draft Species List for the MSCP North County Plan

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS FED/CA/CNPS
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES		
1. <i>Anaxyrus californicus (Bufo californicus)</i>	Arroyo toad	FE/CSC
2. <i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	Southwestern pond turtle	--/CSC
3. <i>Scaphiopus hammondi</i>	Western spadefoot toad	--/CSC
4. <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	Coast horned lizard	--/CSC
BIRDS		
5. <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored blackbird	--/CT-CSC
6. <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	--/CFP-CSC
7. <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Western burrowing owl	--/CSC
8. <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>	Coastal cactus wren	--/CSC
9. <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT/CE
10. <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/CE
11. <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Coastal California gnatcatcher	FT/CSC
12. <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's vireo	FE/CE
INVERTEBRATES		
13. <i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>	San Diego fairy shrimp	FE/--
14. <i>Streptocephalus wootoni</i>	Riverside fairy shrimp	FE/--
15. <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	Quino checkerspot butterfly	FE/--
16. <i>Euphyes vestris harbisoni</i>	Harbison's dun skipper	--/--
17. <i>Lycaena hermes</i>	Hermes copper	FC/--
MAMMALS		
18. <i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	Townsend's western big-eared bat	--/CSC
19. <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	--/CSC
20. <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Stephens' kangaroo rat	FE/CT
PLANTS		
21. <i>Acanthomintha ilicifolia</i>	San Diego thornmint	FT/CE/1B
22. <i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	San Diego ambrosia	FE/--/1B
23. <i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa ssp. crassifolia</i>	Del Mar manzanita	FE/--/1B
24. <i>Baccharis vanessae</i>	Encinitas baccharis	FT/CE/1B
25. <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	Thread-leaved brodiaea	FT/CE/1B
26. <i>Chorizanthe orcuttiana</i>	Orcutt's spineflower	FE/CE/1B
27. <i>Eryngium aristulatum var. parishii</i>	San Diego button-celery	FE/CE/1B
28. <i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	Spreading navarretia	FT/--/1B
29. <i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann oak	--/--/4
Total Species	29	

Status:

CE State (California) Endangered
 CR State Rare
 CT State Threatened
 CFP State Fully Protected Species
 CSC State Species of Special Concern
 FE Federally Endangered
 FT Federally Threatened
 FC Federal Candidate for Listing

CNPS List:

1B Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
 2 Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
 3 Plants which need more information.
 4 Plants of limited distribution – a watch list.

EXHIBIT D
Preliminary Species List to be Evaluated for Inclusion in the MSCP East County Plan

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS FED/CA/CNPS
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (EC Plan)		
1. <i>Anniella pulchra</i>	California legless lizard	--/CSC
2. <i>Batrachoseps aridus</i>	Desert slender salamander	FE/CE
3. <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> (<i>Bufo microscaphus californicus</i> .)	Arroyo toad	FE/CSC
4. <i>Bufo punctatus</i>	Red spotted toad	--/- -
5. <i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	--/CSC
6. <i>Cnemidophorus hyperythrus</i>	Orange-throated whiptail	--/CSC
7. <i>Coleonyx switaki</i>	Switak's banded gecko	-- / CT
8. <i>Crotalus ruber ruber</i>	Northern red diamond rattlesnake	--/CSC
9. <i>Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi</i>	Large-blotched salamander	--/CSC
10. <i>Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis</i>	Coronado skink	--/CSC
11. <i>Gambelia copeii</i>	Cope's leopard lizard	--/- -
12. <i>Lampropeltis zonata pulchra</i>	San Diego mountain kingsnake	--/CSC
13. <i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>	Coast horned lizard	--/CSC
14. <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i>	Flat tailed horned lizard	--/CSC
15. <i>Rana aurora draytoni</i>	California red-legged frog	FT/CSC
16. <i>Rana muscosa</i>	Mountain yellow-legged frog	FE / CSC
17. <i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>	Coast patch-nosed snake	--/CSC
18. <i>Sauromalus ater</i>	Common chuckwalla	--/- -
19. <i>Spea hammondi</i>	Western spadefoot	--/CSC
20. <i>Taricha torosa</i>	California newt	--/CSC
21. <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	Two-striped garter snake	--/CSC
22. <i>Uma notata</i>	Sonoran desert fringe-toed lizard	--/CSC
BIRDS (EC Plan)		
23. <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored blackbird	--/CSC
24. <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	Rufous-crowned sparrow	--/CSC
25. <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i>	Grasshopper sparrow	--/- -
26. <i>Amphispiza belli belli</i>	Bell's sage sparrow	--/CSC
27. <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	--/CSC-CFP
28. <i>Asio otus wilsonianus</i>	Long-eared owl	--/CSC
29. <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing owl	--/CSC
30. <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous hawk	--/CSC
31. <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	--/ST
32. <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>	Coastal cactus wren	--/ CSC
33. <i>Cathartes aura meridionalis</i>	Turkey vulture	--/- -
34. <i>Circus cyaneus hudsonius</i>	Northern harrier	--/CSC
35. <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-billed cuckoo	FP -/- -

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS FED/CA/CNPS
BIRDS Cont. (EC Plan)		
36. <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow warbler	--/CSC
37. <i>Elanus leucurus majusculus</i>	White-tailed kite	--/CFP
38. <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/-
39. <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	California horned lark	--/CSC
40. <i>Ixobrychus exilis hesperis</i>	Least bittern	--/-
41. <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	--/CSC
42. <i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	Brown-crested flycatcher	--/-
43. <i>Piranga rubra</i>	Summer tanager	--/-
44. <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Coastal California gnatcatcher	FT/CSC
45. <i>Progne subis subis</i>	Purple martin	--/CSC
46. <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus flammeus</i>	Vermilion flycatcher	--/CSC
47. <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	California spotted owl	--/CSC
48. <i>Toxostoma crissale coloradense</i>	Crissal thrasher	--/CSC
49. <i>Toxostoma lecontei lecontei</i>	Leconte's thrasher	--/CSC
50. <i>Vermivora luciae</i>	Lucy's warbler	--/-
51. <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's vireo	FE/CE
52. <i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Gray vireo	--/CSC
53. <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed blackbird	--/-
INVERTEBRATES (EC Plan)		
54. <i>Ariolimax columbianus stramineus</i>	Palomar banana slug	--/-
55. <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	Quino checkerspot butterfly	FE/-
56. <i>Euphyes vestris harbisoni</i>	Harbison's dun skipper	--/-
57. <i>Helminthoglypta traski coelata</i>	Peninsular Range shoulderband snail	--/-
58. <i>Lycaena hermes</i>	Hermes copper	FC/-
59. <i>Pseudocopaeodes eunus eunus</i>	Alkali skipper	--/-
60. <i>Pyrgus ruralis lagunae</i>	Laguna mountain skipper	FE/-
MAMMALS (EC Plan)		
61. <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	--/CSC
62. <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	Ringtail	--/CFP
63. <i>Dipodomys merriami collinus</i>	Aguanga kangaroo rat	--/-
64. <i>Dipodomys merriami trinidadensis</i>	Merriam's kangaroo rat	--/-
65. <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Stephens' kangaroo rat	FE/CE
66. <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	--/CSC
67. <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	Southern grasshopper mouse	--/CSC
68. <i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Peninsular bighorn sheep	FE/CT-CFP
69. <i>Perognathus longimembris bangsi</i>	Palm Springs pocket mouse	--/CSC
70. <i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	Los Angeles little pocket mouse	--/CSC
71. <i>Perognathus longimembris internationalis</i>	Jacumba little pocket mouse	--/CSC
72. <i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	--/CSC

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS FED/CA/CNPS
MAMMALS Cont. (EC Plan)		
73. <i>Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus</i>	Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	/CSC
74. <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	--/CSC
PLANTS (EC Plan)		
75. <i>Acanthomintha ilicifolia</i>	San Diego thornmint	FT/CE
76. <i>Arctostaphylos otayensis</i>	Otay manzanita	--/--
77. <i>Astragalus crotalariae</i>	Salton milkvetch	--/--
78. <i>Astragalus deanei</i>	Deane's milkvetch	--/--
79. <i>Astragalus douglasii</i> var. <i>perstrictus</i>	Jacumba milkvetch	--/--
80. <i>Astragalus insularis</i> var. <i>harwoodii</i>	Harwood's rattleweed/milkvetch	--/--
81. <i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>borreganus</i>	Borrego milkvetch	--/--
82. <i>Astragalus oocarpus</i>	San Diego milkvetch	--/--
83. <i>Berberis higginsiae</i>	Fremont barberry	--/--
84. <i>Boechera hirshbergiae</i>	Hirshberg's rockcress	--/--
85. <i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i>	Orcutt's brodiaea	--/--
86. <i>Bursera microphylla</i>	Small-leaf elephant tree	--/--
87. <i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	Pink fairyduster	--/--
88. <i>Calochortus dunnii</i>	Dunn's mariposa lily	--/CR
89. <i>Carex obispoensis</i>	San Luis Obispo sedge	--/--
90. <i>Carlwrightia arizonica</i>	Arizona carlwrightia	--/--
91. <i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's caulanthus	--/--
92. <i>Ceanothus cyaneus</i>	Lakeside-lilac	--/--
93. <i>Chaenactis parishii</i>	Parish's pincushion	--/--
94. <i>Chamaebatia australis</i>	Southern mountain misery	--/--
95. <i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>	Knotweed spineflower	--/--
96. <i>Clarkia delicata</i>	Delicate/Campo clarkia	--/--
97. <i>Cryptantha costata</i>	Ribbed/Ashen cryptantha	--/--
98. <i>Cryptantha ganderi</i>	Gander's cryptantha	--/--
99. <i>Hesperocyparis forbesii</i>	Tecate cypress	--/--
100. <i>Cupressus stephensonii</i>	Cuyamaca cypress	--/--
101. <i>Cylindropuntia wolfii</i>	Wolf's cholla	--/--
102. <i>Cylindropuntia x fosbergii</i>	Mason Valley cholla	--/--
103. <i>Deinandra floribunda</i>	Tecate tarplant	--/--
104. <i>Deinandra mohavensis</i>	Mohave tarplant	--/CE
105. <i>Delphinium hesperium</i> ssp. <i>cuyamacae</i>	Cuyamaca larkspur	--/CR
106. <i>Dieteria asteroides</i> var. <i>lagunensis</i>	Laguna Mountain aster	--/CR
107. <i>Downingia concolor</i> var. <i>brevior</i>	Cuyamaca Lake downingia	--/CE
108. <i>Ericameria cuneata</i> var. <i>macrocephala</i>	Laguna Mountain goldenbush	--/--
109. <i>Ericameria palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>	Palmer's goldenbush	--/--
110. <i>Eriogonum evanidum</i>	Vanishing wild buckwheat	--/--

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS FED/CA/CNPS
PLANTS Cont. (EC Plan)		
111. <i>Galium angustifolium</i> ssp. <i>borregoense</i>	Borrego bedstraw	--/CR
112. <i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>flaccidum</i>	California flaccidus	--/-
113. <i>Geraea viscida</i>	Sticky geraea	--/-
114. <i>Grindelia hallii</i>	Hall's gum plant	--/-
115. <i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grappling-hook	--/-
116. <i>Herissantia crispa</i>	Curly abutilon	--/-
117. <i>Heuchera brevistaminea</i>	Mt. Laguna alumroot	--/-
118. <i>Holocarpha virgata</i> ssp. <i>elongata</i>	Graceful tarplant	--/-
119. <i>Horkelia truncata</i>	Ramona horkelia	--/-
120. <i>Hulsea californica</i>	San Diego hulsea	--/-
121. <i>Hulsea mexicana</i>	Mexican hulsea	--/-
122. <i>Hulsea vestita</i> ssp. <i>callicarpha</i>	Beautiful hulsea	--/-
123. <i>Lathyrus splendens</i>	Pride-of-California	--/-
124. <i>Lepidium flavum</i> var. <i>felipense</i>	Borrego Valley peppergrass	--/-
125. <i>Lessingia glandulifera</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	Ranchita lessingia	--/-
126. <i>Lewisia brachycalyx</i>	Southwestern bitter-root	--/-
127. <i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i>	Ocellated Humboldt lily	--/-
128. <i>Lilium parryi</i>	Lemon lily	--/-
129. <i>Limnanthes gracilis</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	Parish's meadowfoam	--/CE
130. <i>Linanthus bellus</i>	Desert beauty	--/-
131. <i>Linanthus orcuttii</i>	Orcutt's linanthus	--/-
132. <i>Lotus haydonii</i>	Haydon's lotus	--/-
133. <i>Lupinus excubitus</i> var. <i>medius</i>	Mtn. Springs bush lupine	--/-
134. <i>Lycium parishii</i>	Parish's desert thorn	--/-
135. <i>Malacothamnus aboriginum</i>	Indian valley bushmallow	--/-
136. <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> var. <i>aridus</i>	Jacumba monkey flower	--/-
137. <i>Mimulus clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's bush monkey flower	--/-
138. <i>Mimulus palmeri</i>	Palomar monkey flower	--/-
139. <i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>lanata</i>	Felt-leaf monardella	--/-
140. <i>Monardella nana</i> ssp. <i>leptosiphon</i>	San Felipe monardella	--/-
141. <i>Navarretia peninsularis</i>	Peninsular navarretia	--/-
142. <i>Nolina cismontana</i>	Chaparral beargrass	--/-
143. <i>Packera ganderi</i>	Gander's/San Diego butterweed	--/-
144. <i>Pentagramma triangularis</i> ssp. <i>nov.</i>	Goldenback fern	--/-
145. <i>Phacelia nashiana</i>	Charlotte's phacelia	--/-
146. <i>Pholistoma auritum</i> var. <i>arizonicum</i>	Arizona fiesta flower	--/-
147. <i>Piperia cooperi</i>	Rein orchid	--/-
148. <i>Piperia leptopetala</i>	Narrow-petaled rein orchid	--/-
149. <i>Poa atropurpurea</i>	San Bernardino bluegrass	FE/-

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS FED/CA/CNPS
PLANTS Cont. (EC Plan)		
150. <i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann oak	--/--
151. <i>Ribes canthariforme</i>	Moreno currant	--/--
152. <i>Rubus glaucifolius</i>	Cuyamaca raspberry	--/--
153. <i>Rupertia rigida</i>	Parish's psoralea	--/--
154. <i>Sibaropsis hammittii</i>	Hammitt's claycress	--/--
155. <i>Thermopsis macrophylla ssp. semota</i>	Velvety false-lupine	--/--
156. <i>Xanthisma junceum</i>	Rush-like bristleweed	--/--
157. <i>Xylorhiza orcuttii</i>	Orcutt's woolly aster	--/--
Total Species	157	

Status:

- CE State (California) Endangered
- CR State Rare
- CT State Threatened
- CFP State Fully Protected Species
- CSC State Species of Special Concern
- FE Federally Endangered
- FT Federally Threatened
- FC Federal Candidate for Listing

CNPS List:

- 1B Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- 2 Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
- 3 Plants which need more information.
- 4 Plants of limited distribution – a watch list.

EXHIBIT E
Natural Communities and Acreages within
the North County MSCP Planning Area

Natural Communities	Total Acres within Planning Area
Bog and Marsh	438
Chaparral	94,780
Coastal Sage Scrub	36,034
Disturbed or Developed	140,321
Forest	2,837
Grasslands, Vernal Pools, Meadows, and Other Herb Communities	15,648
Riparian and Bottomland Habitat	10,499
Scrub	7,039
Woodland	16,611
Planning Area Totals:	324,205

Data source: County wide vegetation layer, created in 1995 through remote sensing, updated in 2018 based on 2017 aerial photos, and maintained on a project by project basis as changes occur.

Note: The Planning Area refers to all lands within the geographic area proposed to be addressed in the North County Plan as described in Exhibit A. This includes lands not subject to the County's land use authority.

EXHIBIT F
Natural Communities and Acreages within
the East County MSCP Planning Area

Natural Communities	Total Acres within Planning Area
Bog and Marsh	1,492
Chaparral	633,081
Coastal Sage Scrub	23,085
Disturbed or Developed	41,304
Dune Community	46,603
Forest	76,476
Grassland, Vernal Pool, Meadows, and Other Herb Communities	59,371
Riparian and Bottomland Habitat	42,542
Scrub	493,513
Woodland	131,044
Planning Area Totals:	1,548,512

Data source: County wide vegetation layer, created in 1995 through remote sensing, updated in 2018 based on 2017 aerial photos, and maintained on a project by project basis as changes occur.

Note: The Planning Area refers to all lands within the geographic area proposed to be addressed in the East County Plan as described in Exhibit A. This includes lands not subject to the County's land use authority.

EXHIBIT G
Milestones to Demonstrate Progress

North County

Board Update & Direction	October 2020
Species Goals, Objectives	June 30, 2021
Conservation Analysis	September 30, 2021
Draft North County Plan	December 31, 2021
Framework Management Plan	March 30, 2022
Prepare Draft Implementing Documents	June 30, 2022
Implementing Agreement	
Biological Mitigation Ordinance	
CEQA Environmental Process	March 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024
Hearing Preparation & Plan Adoption	June 1 – November 30, 2024

East County

Refined Species List	December 30, 2022
Review of Draft FCA	March 30, 2023

BORREGO WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM II.F

March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Geoffrey Poole, General Manager

SUBJECT: Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster Board – VERBAL D Duncan/K Dice/T Driscoll

1. Update on Board Activities
2. Update on Technical Advisory Committee Activities

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss upcoming Watermaster related activities

ITEM EXPLANATION:

BWD Representatives from the Watermaster and TAC will provide a verbal review of recent and upcoming events.

NEXT STEPS

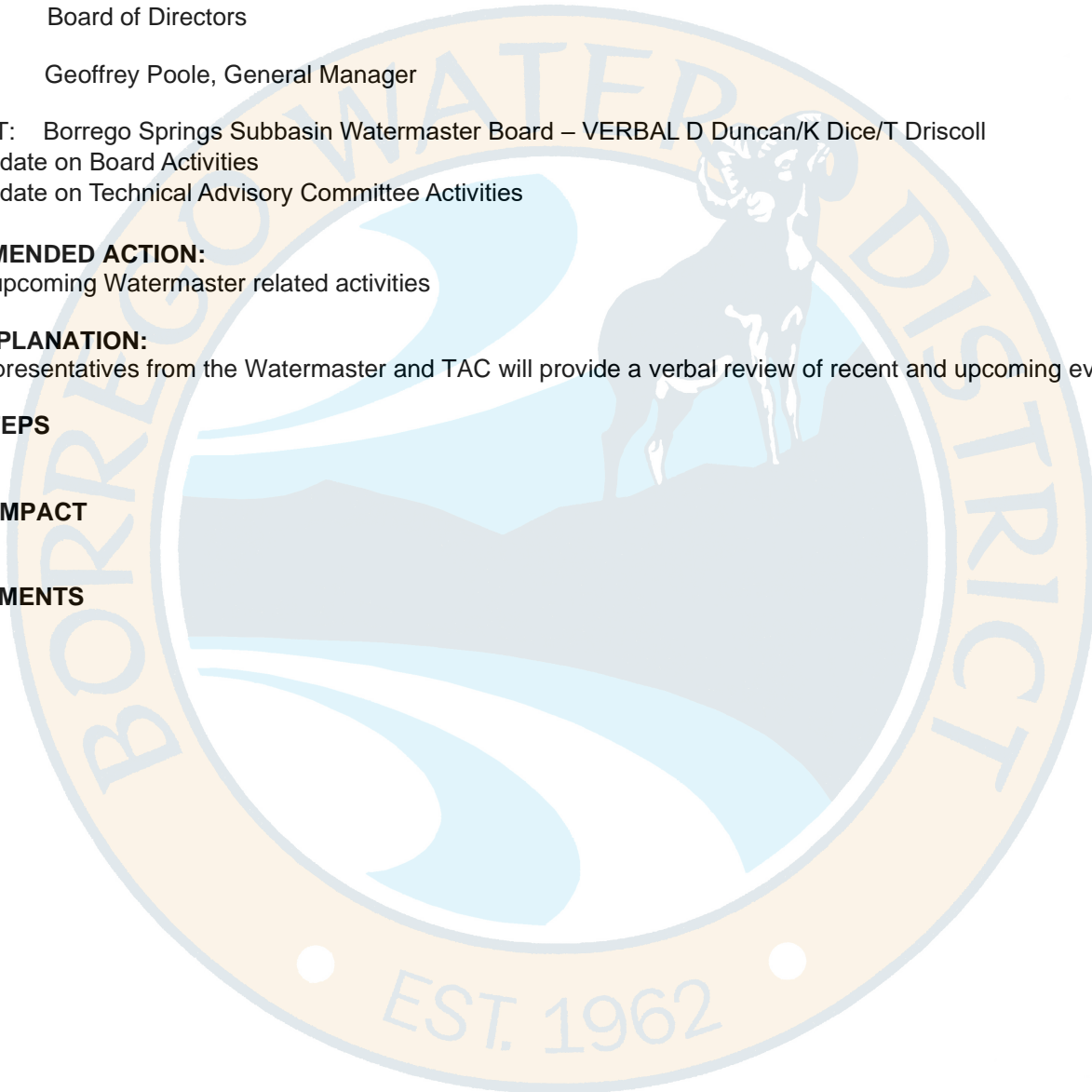
1. TBD

FISCAL IMPACT

1. TBD

ATTACHMENTS

1. None



IV.A

February 2025 Waste Water Report





BORREGO WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2025

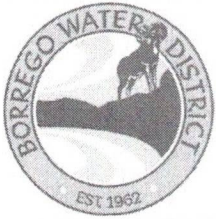
WASTEWATER OPERATIONS REPORT

There's no know problems with wastewater system at the moment:

Rams Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility serving ID-1, ID-2 and ID-5 Total Cap. 0.25 MGD (million gallons per day):

Average flow: 115000 (gallons per day)

Peak flow: 139000 gpd Sunday, February 16- 2025



BORREGO WATER DISTRICT

RAMS HILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
4861 Borrego Springs Rd, BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004
(760) 767-5806 FAX (760) 767-5994

03/13/2025

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD – REGION 7
73-720 FRED WARING DR. SUITE 100
PALM DESERT, CA. 92260

Attn: Adrian Lopez/WRCE

RE: FEBRUARY 2025 Borrego Springs WWTP

Dear Adrian,

Please find attached the FEBRUARY 2025 monthly monitoring reports and Lab results for Borrego springs district WWTP. I misrecollect the domestic water supply monitoring well #11 &12 samples (TDS & PH) for the month of February 2025

We are pleased to inform you that there's no known violations for this month.

If you have any questions please contact ROGELIO MARTINEZ/WT-III. (760)419-2764.

Respectfully,

Rogelio Martinez/ water plant operator III

CC: Geoff Poole/GM

MONTHLY REPORT: R.H.W.T.F

MONTH: FEBRUARY

YEAR: 2025

BORREGO WATER DISTRICT,
RAMS HILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY,
4861 BORREGO SPRINGS ROAD,
BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004
760-767-5806; phone
760-767-5994; fax

COMMENTS: THERE ARE NO SPILLS TO REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025; THE FLOW REPORT IS ATTACHED.

Submitted by: ROGELIO MARTINEZ/BWD TO: GEOFF POOLE/BWD;

03/13/2025

P.H. / D.O. LOG ; R.H.W.T.F., BORREGO WATER DISTRICT

YEAR,2025

FEBRUARY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>P.H.</u>	<u>D.O</u>	<u>Alkalinity</u>	<u>Freeboard</u>
2/6/2025	EFFLUENT	7.05	5.33mg/l	180ppm	
2/6/2025	POND	7.11	9.46mg/l	180ppm	3.5ft
2/20/2025	EFFLUENT	7.17	4.84mg/l	180ppm	
2/20/2025	POND	7.19	9.41mg/l	180ppm	3.5ft

Berm Condition: Good and no Odors around the pond

FEB 2025	INFLUENT DAILY FLOW GAL.	TOTAL FLOW GAL.
1	121000 GAL	14201000 GAL
2	124000 GAL	14325000 GAL
3	106000 GAL	14431000 GAL
4	109000 GAL	14541000 GAL
5	108000 GAL	14649000 GAL
6	107000 GAL	14756000 GAL
7	114000 GAL	14870000 GAL
8	123000 GAL	14994000 GAL
9	114000 GAL	15109000 GAL
10	111000 GAL	15221000 GAL
11	111000 GAL	15333000 GAL
12	107000 GAL	15440000 GAL
13	109000 GAL	15550000 GAL
14	122000 GAL	15672000 GAL
15	124000 GAL	15796000 GAL
16	139000 GAL	15935000 GAL
17	126000 GAL	16061000 GAL
18	112000 GAL	16173000 GAL
19	107000 GAL	16280000 GAL
20	111000 GAL	16391000 GAL
21	113000 GAL	16504000 GAL
22	120000 GAL	16624000 GAL
23	122000 GAL	16746000 GAL
24	116000 GAL	16862000 GAL
25	111000 GAL	16973000 GAL
26	114000 GAL	17088000 GAL
27	115000 GAL	17203000 GAL
28	118000 GAL	17321000 GAL

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BAIS REGION**

WDID NO.: 7A 37 0125 001
ORDER NO.: R7-2007-0053

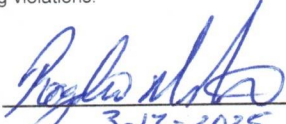
**MONITORING AND REPORTING
BORREGO WATER DISTRICT - RAMS HILL WWTF**
MONTH: February
YEAR: 2025

REPORTING FREQUENCIES: **MONTHLY (Oct-March)**

February

TYPE OF SAMPLE:	INFLUENT			PONDS		
	Flow	BOD	TSS	PH	DO	Freeboard
CONSTITUENTS:	Flow	BOD	TSS	PH	DO	Freeboard
FREQUENCY:	Daily	Monthly	Monthly	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly
DESCRIPTION:	Measurement	Grab	Grab	Grab	Grab	Measurement
UNITS:	gpd	mg/L	mg/L	s.u	mg/l	ft
REQUIREMENTS						
30-DAY MEAN:						
MAXIMUM:						
MINIMUM:						
DATE OF SAMPLE	February					
1	121000					
2	124000					
3	106000					
4	109000					
5	108000					
6	107000	170	180	7.11	9.46	3.5
7	114000					
8	123000					
9	114000					
10	111000					
11	111000					
12	107000					
13	109000					
14	122000					
15	124000					
16	139000					
17	126000					
18	112000					
19	107000					
20	111000			7.19	9.41	3.5
21	113000					
22	120000					
23	122000					
24	116000					
25	111000					
26	114000					
27	115000					
28	118000					
29						
30						
31						
30-DAY MEAN	115500	170	180	7.15	9.44	3.5
MAXIMUM	139000	170	180	7.19	9.46	3.5
MINIMUM	106000	170	180	7.11	9.41	3.5

I declare under the penalty of law that I personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: 
Date: 3-13-2025

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BAIS REGION**

WDID NO.: 7A 37 0125 001
ORDER NO.: R7-2007-0053

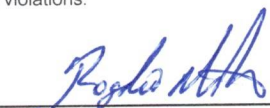
**MONITORING AND REPORTING
BORREGO WATER DISTRICT - RAMS HILL WWTF**
MONTH: February
YEAR: 2025

REPORTING FREQUENCY: **MONTHLY (Oct - March)**

January

TYPE OF SAMPLE:	EFFLUENT					
	BOD	TSS	SS	T. Nitrogen	TDS	pH
CONSTITUENTS:	BOD	TSS	SS	T. Nitrogen	TDS	pH
FREQUENCY:	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly	Twice Monthly
DESCRIPTION:	Grab	Grab	Grab	Grab	Grab	Grab
UNITS:	mg/L	mg/L	ml/L		ml/L	
REQUIREMENTS						
30-DAY MEAN:						
MAXIMUM:	30mg/l	30mg/l	0.3ml/l		700mg/l	9.0
MINIMUM:						
DATE OF SAMPLE						
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6	12.0	12.0	0.0	11.0	500	7.05
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20	23	16.0	0.0	26.0	520	7.17
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						
30						
31						
30-DAY MEAN	17.5	14.0	0.0	18.5	510	7.11
MAXIMUM	17.5	16.0	0.0	26.0	520	7.17
MINIMUM	17.5	12.0	0.0	11.0	500	7.05

I declare under the penalty of law that I personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: 
Date: 3-13-2025

IV.B

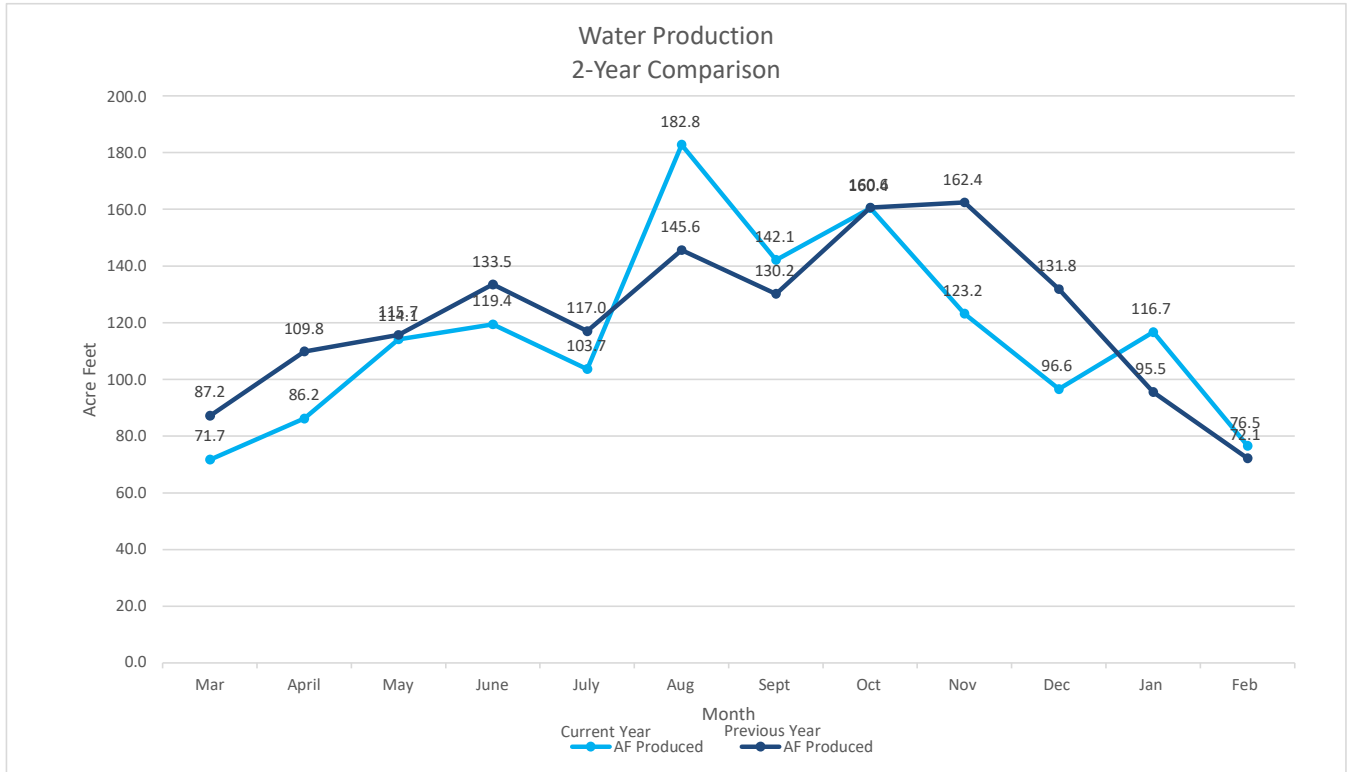
February 2025 Water Production Report





BORREGO WATER DISTRICT

WATER PRODUCTION SUMMARY February 2025



Past 12 months Production vs. Sales

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Past 12 Mo. TOT
AF Used	65.4	78.9	101.2	104.6	113.4	142.0	121.6	133.3	108.0	83.6	100.2	81.6	1233.7
AF Produced	71.7	86.2	114.1	119.4	103.7	182.8	142.1	160.4	123.2	96.6	116.7	76.5	1393.3
% Non Rev.	8.8%	8.5%	11.3%	12.4%	-9.4%	22.3%	14.4%	16.9%	12.3%	13.5%	14.2%	-6.6%	12.9%

Previous 12 Months Production vs. Sales

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Prior 12 Mo. TOT
AF Used	95.1	115.7	128.4	128.4	128.4	128.4	119.1	180.8	154.2	121.9	89.3	67.9	1457.5
AF Produced	87.2	109.8	115.7	133.5	117.0	145.6	130.2	160.6	162.4	131.8	95.5	72.1	1461.4
% Non Rev.	-9.1%	-5.4%	-11.0%	3.8%	-9.7%	11.8%	8.5%	-12.6%	5.0%	7.5%	6.5%	5.9%	0.3%

Non Revenue Water Summary

Feb-25	-6.6%
Avg. Past 12 Mos.	9.9%
Avg. Past 24 Mos.	5.0%

IV.C

January 2025 Finance Report





TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 25

	Bank Balance	Carrying Value	Fair Value	<u>% of Portfolio</u> Current Actual	Rate of Interest	Maturity	Valuation Source
Cash and Cash Equivalents:							
Demand Accounts at CVB/LAIF							
General Account/Petty Cash	\$ 2,122,653	\$ 2,120,663	\$ 2,120,663	60.23%	0.68%	N/A	CVB/WF
Payroll Account	\$ 13,904	\$ 76,628	\$ 76,628	2.18%	0.68%	N/A	WF
Grant Fund Account	\$ 99,867	\$ 99,867	\$ 99,867	2.84%	0.00%	N/A	WF
LAIF	\$ 1,223,776	\$ 1,223,776	\$ 1,223,776	34.76%	4.48%	N/A	LAIF
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 3,460,199</u>	<u>\$ 3,520,933</u>	<u>\$ 3,520,933</u>	<u>100.00%</u>			

Cash and investments conform to the District's Investment Policy statement filed with the Board of Directors on June 09, 2020
 Cash, investments and future cash flows are sufficient to meet the needs of the District for the next six months.
 Sources of valuations are CVB Bank, LAIF and US Trust Bank.

Jessica Clabaugh, Finance Officer



**Borrego Water District
Water Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
<u>INCOME</u>					
RATE REVENUE					
Water Rates Revenues					58%
Commodity Rates					
Residential T1 & T2 Revenues	1,154,187	88,224	68,935	639,653	78%
Residential T3 Revenues	267,750	47,604	15,992	472,508	
Commercial	645,750	55,137	38,568	394,466	61%
Irrigation	363,825	28,961	21,730	256,774	71%
Total Commodity	<u>2,431,512</u>	<u>219,928</u>	<u>145,231</u>	<u>1,763,402</u>	73%
Non-Commodity Charges				-	
Base Meter Charges	1,518,300	126,295	126,525	877,241	58%
Meter Install/Repair	36,750	-	3,063	8,870	24%
New Water Supply Connection Fee	26,124	-	2,177	5,532	21%
Backflow Testing/Install	5,985	-	499	6,618	111%
Bulk Water Sales	6,825	2,957	569	37,391	548%
Total Non-Commodity	<u>1,593,984</u>	<u>129,251</u>	<u>132,832</u>	<u>935,652</u>	59%
				-	
Total Water Rate Revenues	4,025,496	349,179	278,063	2,699,054	67%
Availability Charges Collected thru Tax Roll					
ID1 - Water	34,965	15,251	9,706	18,474	53%
ID3/ID4 - Water Standby	117,000	27,864	32,478	71,870	61%
Total Availability (Tax Roll)	<u>151,965</u>	<u>43,115</u>	<u>42,183</u>	<u>90,344</u>	59%
Other Income			0		
Sale of Viking Ranch Property	225,000			247,089	110%
Sale of Retired Fleet Truck				8,000	
Total Other Income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>255,089</u>	
TOTAL WATER REVENUE	4,177,461	392,294	320,246	3,044,487	73%



**Borrego Water District
Water Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Operations & Maintenance Expense					
R&M Water	279,928	19,441	23,327	94,861	34%
Telemetry	4,963	2,406	414	18,284	368%
Trash Removal	5,956	617	496	4,326	73%
Vehicle Expense	22,080	5,133	1,840	21,623	98%
Fuel & Oil	42,445	2,937	3,537	20,803	49%
Lab/Testing	34,338	5,923	2,862	30,838	90%
Permit Fees	28,820	19,364	2,402	25,068	87%
Pumping Electricity	525,000	39,484	43,750	299,749	57%
Total Operations & Maintenance Expense	943,530	95,306	78,628	515,552	55%
Professional Services					
Accounting (Tax & Debt Filings)	4,268	-	2,768	-	
Payroll Services	3,077	662	256	2,697	88%
Audit Fees	27,350	2,948	2,279	20,058	73%
IT & Cyber Security	38,400	2,364	3,200	34,111	89%
Financial Consulting	79,411	-	6,618	28,937	36%
Engineering (Dudek)	45,584	-	3,799	3,704	8%
Legal Services - General	67,000	2,859	5,583	20,550	31%
Advocacy	59,558	5,280	4,963	41,360	69%
Total Professional Services	324,648	14,112	29,466	151,417	47%
Insurance Expense					
ACWA/JPIA Program Insurance	120,322	-	-	98,890	82%
ACWA/JPIA Workers Comp	15,803	4,667	3,951	8,691	55%
Total Insurance Expense	136,125	4,667	3,951	107,580	79%
Personnel Expense					
Board Meeting Expense	22,830	1,016	1,903	5,733	25%
Salaries & Wages	1,131,468	95,422	94,289	668,811	59%
<i>Contra Account - Salaries & Wages</i>	<i>(57,436)</i>	<i>(21,651)</i>	<i>(4,786)</i>	<i>(52,606)</i>	92%
Contract Labor/Consulting	9,926	-	827	-	0%
Payroll Taxes	23,226	3,806	1,936	14,069	61%
Benefits - Medical	190,841	18,404	15,903	128,729	67%
Benefits - CalPERS	188,140	15,867	15,678	113,279	60%
Trainings & Conferences	17,867	318	1,489	13,394	75%
Uniforms	6,949	567	579	3,721	54%
Safety Compliance & Emergency Prep	4,963	255	414	1,084	22%
Total Personnel Expense	1,538,774	114,006	128,231	896,213	58%



Borrego Water District
Water Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
OPERATING EXPENSES (Con't)					
Office Expense					
Office Supplies	23,823	4,390	1,985	15,198	64%
Office Equipment	49,632	1,413	4,136	30,646	62%
Postage & Freight	14,890	2,771	1,241	8,960	60%
Property Tax	2,978	-	-	1,399	47%
Telephone Expense	27,350	2,069	2,006	17,568	64%
Dues & Subscriptions (ACWA/AWWA)	22,830	607	1,903	23,427	103%
Printing & Publication	4,963	-	414	1,602	32%
Office/Shop utilities	9,117	786	760	10,899	120%
Total Office Expense	<u>155,583</u>	<u>12,036</u>	<u>12,444</u>	<u>109,700</u>	71%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	3,098,660	240,127	252,720	1,780,462	57%
Debt Expense					
BBVA Bank Note 2018A/B - Principal	337,138	-	-	349,860	104%
BBVA Bank Note 2018A/B - Interest	49,821	-	-	20,248	41%
2021 Bond Cap One - Principal	376,605	-	-	382,555	102%
2021 Bond Cap One - Interest	140,571	-	-	66,772	48%
Total Debt Expense	<u>904,135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>853,569</u>	94%
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT EXPENSES (see GWM Detail)					
Pumping Fees	100,000	-	-	32,885	33%
GWM Expense	79,158	-	6,597	1,861	2%
Legal Expense	100,000	3,391	8,333	32,491	32%
Engineering/TAC Expense (Intera)	135,000	1,040	11,250	39,901	30%
TOTAL GROUNDWATER MGMT EXPENSES	<u>414,158</u>	<u>4,430</u>	<u>26,180</u>	<u>107,138</u>	26%
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>4,416,953</u>	<u>244,557</u>	<u>278,900</u>	<u>2,741,170</u>	62%
NET INCOME	<u>(239,492)</u>	<u>147,736</u>	<u>41,346</u>	<u>303,317</u>	



**Borrego Water District
Sewer Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 TO 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
<u>INCOME</u>					
RATE REVENUE					
Sewer Rates					
TCS Holder Fees (SA2)	170,532	14,508	14,211	101,558	60%
TCS User Fees (SA2)	135,653	12,117	11,304	84,821	63%
RH Sewer User Fees (ID1)	171,377	14,340	14,281	104,425	61%
Sewer Standby/Capacity Fees	-	8,380		10,966	
Sewer User Fees (ID5)	<u>193,989</u>	<u>16,113</u>	<u>16,166</u>	<u>112,796</u>	58%
Total Sewer Rates	671,551	65,458	55,963	414,565	62%
Availability Charges Collected thru Tax Roll					
ID1 - Sewer Standby	<u>34,965</u>	<u>30,502</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>33,823</u>	97%
Total Availability (Tax Roll)	34,965	30,502	800	33,823	97%
TOTAL SEWER REVENUE	706,516	95,960	56,763	448,389	63%



**Borrego Water District
Sewer Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 TO 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
EXPENSES					
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Operations & Maintenance Expense					
R&M WWTF	135,360	17,989	11,280	52,632	39%
Telemetry	677	-	100	7,690	1136%
Trash Removal	812	104	150	728	90%
Vehicle Expense	3,011	231	251	1,297	43%
Fuel & Oil	6,676	388	556	6,477	97%
Lab/Testing	11,650	2,962	1,059	12,408	107%
Permit Fees	12,352	617	1,029	14,083	114%
Total Operations & Maintenance Expense	170,538	22,291	14,426	95,314	56%
Professional Services					
Accounting (Tax & Debt Filings)	582	-	582.00	-	0%
Payroll Services	420	90	52.50	331	79%
Audit Fees	3,730	402	310.83	2,442	65%
IT & Cyber Security	5,236	322	436.33	4,646	89%
Financial Consulting	10,829	-	902.42	3,946	36%
Engineering (Dudek)	6,216	-	518.00	2,905	47%
Legal Services - General	9,136	390	761.33	4,843	53%
Advocacy	8,122	720	676.83	5,640	69%
Total Professional Services	44,271	1,924	4,240	24,753	56%
Insurance Expense					
ACWA/JPIA Program Insurance	16,408	-	-	13,744	84%
ACWA/JPIA Workers Comp	3,659	691	4,500	1,742	48%
Total Insurance Expense	20,067	691	4,500	15,485	77%
Personnel Expense					
Board Meeting Expense	3,113	139	259	782	25%
Salaries & Wages	261,561	26,204	21,797	157,250	60%
<i>Contra Account - Salaries & Wages</i>	<i>(7,832)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(653)</i>	<i>(907)</i>	<i>12%</i>
Contract Labor/Consulting	1,354	-	113	7,931	586%
Payroll Taxes	5,369	898	447	3,292	61%
Benefits - Medical	44,117	5,054	3,676	27,619	63%
Benefits - CalPERS	43,492	4,332	3,624	22,414	52%
Trainings & Conferences	2,436	-	203	1,025	42%
Uniforms	948	77	79	508	54%
Safety Compliance & Emergency Prep	677	-	56	-	0%
Total Personnel Expense	355,235	36,704	29,603	219,914	62%



Borrego Water District
Sewer Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 TO 01/31/2025

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
OPERATING EXPENSES (Con't)					
Office Expense					
Office Supplies	3,249	682	271	2,049	63%
Office Equipment	6,768	193	564	4,594	68%
Postage & Freight	2,030	378	169	1,210	60%
Property Tax	406	-	-	-	0%
Telephone Expense	3,730	282	311	2,395	64%
Dues & Subscriptions (ACWA/AWWA)	3,113	83	259	3,186	102%
Printing & Publication	677	-	56	219	32%
Office/Shop utilities	1,243	598	104	4,274	344%
Total Office Expense	<u>21,216</u>	<u>2,216</u>	<u>1,734</u>	<u>17,927</u>	<u>84%</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	611,327	63,826	54,503	373,393	61%
Debt Expense					
2021 Bond Cap One - Principal	64,545	-	-	64,545	100%
2021 Bond Cap One - Interest	5,979	-	-	5,979	100%
Total Debt Expense	<u>70,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,390</u>	<u>52%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>681,851</u>	<u>63,826</u>	<u>54,503</u>	<u>409,783</u>	60%
<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>24,665</u>	<u>32,134</u>	<u>2,260</u>	<u>38,606</u>	



**Borrego Water District
Pest Control Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Dec FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Dec FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
<u>INCOME</u>					
Charges Collected thru Tax Roll					
Pest Control Standby	<u>17,150</u>	<u>2,779</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>7,530</u>	44%
<u>TOTAL PEST CONTROL FUND REVENUE</u>	<u>17,150</u>	<u>2,779</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>7,530</u>	44%
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
R&M Pest Control	1,500	-		338	23%
ACWA/JPIA Program Insurance	500	-		128	26%
Salaries & Wages	4,193	-		3,508	84%
Benefits - Medical	711	-		702	99%
Benefits - CalPERS	701	-		537	77%
ACWA/JPIA Workers Comp	59	16		68	116%
Payroll Taxes	<u>87</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>75</u>	86%
<u>TOTAL PEST CONTROL FUND REVENUE</u>	<u>7,751</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,747</u>	61%
<u>Net Income Pest Control Enterprise Fund</u>	<u>9,399</u>	2,763	393		



Borrego Water District
Flood Enterprise Operating Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget TD</i>
<u>INCOME</u>					
ID1 - Flood Standby	34,965	15,251	29,146	18,473	53%
<u>TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL FUND REVENUE</u>	<u>34,965</u>	<u>15,251</u>	<u>29,146</u>	<u>18,473</u>	53%
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
ACWA/JPIA Program Insurance	550	-		255	46%
Legal Services - General	5,000	-	625	255	5%
Salaries & Wages	8,434	-	1,054	-	0%
Benefits - Medical	1,423	-	178	-	0%
Benefits - CalPERS	1,402	-	175	-	0%
ACWA/JPIA Workers Comp	118	-	15	-	0%
Payroll Taxes	173	-	22	-	0%
<u>TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL FUND EXPENSES</u>	<u>17,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,047</u>	<u>510</u>	3%
<u>Net Income Flood Enterprise Fund</u>	<u><u>17,865</u></u>	<u><u>15,251</u></u>	<u><u>27,099</u></u>		



Borrego Water District
Non-Rate Revenue Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>
<u>INCOME</u>				
OTHER INCOME				
Penalties & Fees	50,000	13,266	5,000	56,797
BSUSD Well Agreement	35,000	-	-	1,500
1% Property Assessments	70,000	11,697	11,345	45,948
Interest Income	35,000	505	2,917	23,020
Sale of Parcels to State Parks		-		4,686
WM Meter Reading Income	3,333	-	550	5,450
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	193,333	25,467	19,811	137,400
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Air Quality Study	36,341	-	3,028	24
TOTAL NON-RATE REVENUE EXPENSES	36,341	-	3,028	
<u>Net Income Non-Rate Revenue</u>	156,992	25,467	16,783	



**Borrego Water District
Consolidated Enterprise Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Projected Jan FY2025</i>	<i>YTD Dec FY2025</i>	
<u>INCOME</u>					
TOTAL WATER RATE REVENUE	4,402,461	392,294	320,246	3,044,487	69%
TOTAL WASTEWATER RATE REVENUE	706,517	95,960	56,763	448,389	63%
TOTAL PEST CONTROL FUND REVENUE	17,150	2,779	393	7,530	44%
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL FUND REVENUE	34,965	15,251	29,146	1,571	4%
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	193,333	25,467	19,811	137,400	71%
GROSS INCOME	<u>5,354,426</u>	<u>531,752</u>	<u>426,360</u>	<u>3,639,377</u>	68%
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE EXPENSES	4,402,461	244,557	278,900	2,740,831	62%
TOTAL WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE EXPENSES	681,848	63,826	54,503	409,783	60%
TOTAL PEST CONTROL ENTERPRISE EXPENSES	7,751	16	-	4,747	61%
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL ENTERPRISE EXPENSES	17,100	-	2,047	510	3%
TOTAL NON-RATE REVENUE EXPENSES	36,341	-	3,028	24	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>5,145,501</u>	<u>308,400</u>	<u>338,479</u>	<u>3,155,894</u>	61%
CONSOLIDATED NET INCOME	<u>208,925</u>	<u>223,352</u>	<u>87,882</u>	<u>483,482</u>	231%



**Borrego Water District
BPA Purchase & Capital Improvements Budget
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025**

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>
<u>BPA Purchase Expense</u>			
Land - Installment Agreement Payment	361,956	143	181,406
Following Expense	124,738	-	65,893
BPA Purchase Expense	<u>486,694</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>246,406</u>
<u>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)</u>			
Water Enterprise CIP			-
Water Projects			-
Upgrade Indian Head Booster Station	118,000	-	119,481
AMI Cash Funded Portion (Prop 68 Grant)	100,000	-	-
ID4-11 Generator Switch	80,500	-	86,089
Well Site Security Upgrades	30,000	-	-
Lugo Building Upgrades (From Water R&M)	-	-	8,030
Emergency System Repairs	66,150	-	-
Total Water Projects	<u>394,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>209,719</u>
Sewer Projects			-
Manhole Refurbishments	52,267	-	-
Lift Station Pump	11,000	-	-
Total Sewer Projects	<u>63,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
CASH FUNDED BPA PURCHASE & CIP TOTAL	<u>944,611</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>456,126</u>



Borrego Water District
Grant Funded CIP Budget Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

	<i>Budgeted FY2025</i>	<i>Actual Jan FY2025</i>	<i>Year to Date FY2025</i>
GRANT FUNDED CIP			
Prop 68 Grant			
AMI	1,200,000	70,344	1,229,173
Component 5	125,000	-	34,617
Grant Administration	75,000	-	3,045
Total Prop 68 Grant Projects	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>70,344</u>	<u>534,318</u>
2023 Appropriations Bill			
BSR Pipeline	928,000	-	48,900
Sungold Pipeline	2,464,000	-	48,900
2023 Appropriations Bill Total	<u>3,392,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,800</u>
TOTAL GRANT FUNDED CIP	4,792,000	70,344	632,117



Borrego Water District
Cash Flow Analysis
01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

	<u>Actual Dec FY25</u>
Cash and Reserves at Beginning of Period	3,483,836
Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
<i>Income Provided by Operating Activities</i>	197,884
<i>Increase in Accounts Receivable</i>	(8,627)
<i>Decrease in Accounts Payable</i>	(103,912)
<i>Increase in Inventory</i>	(3,228)
<i>Customer Deposits Returned</i>	-
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 82,117
Cash Flows from Non-Operating Activities	
Other Income Received	25,467
Debt Service Disbursement	-
Net Cash Provided by Other Income	\$ 25,467
Cash Flows from Capital Improvement Activities	
<i>All CIP/BPA Purchase Activities (Cash + Grant)</i>	(70,487)
<i>Grant Monies Received</i>	-
Net Cash Paid for Capital Improvements	\$ (70,487)
Net Change in Cash	\$ 37,097
Cash and Reserves at End of Period	\$ 3,520,933
Restricted Reserves at End of Period	\$ 1,306,291
Unrestricted Reserves at End of Period	\$ 2,214,642
Water Reserves Portion	\$3,067,439
Sewer Reserves Portion	\$453,480
Non-218 Reserves Portion	\$880,105
Fiscal Year Reserves Target	\$ 6,853,714
Fiscal Year Reserves Surplus/Shortfall to Date	\$ (3,332,781)



ASSETS

	BALANCE SHEET January 31, 2025 <small>(unaudited)</small>	BALANCE SHEET September 30, 2024 <small>(unaudited)</small>	MONTHLY CHANGE <small>(unaudited)</small>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,104,664.76	\$ 4,783,958.92	\$ (679,294.16)
Accounts Receivable - Water/Sewer Charges	\$ 691,740.84	\$ 780,989.50	\$ (89,248.66)
Accounts Receivable - Other	\$ 967,970.22	\$ 953,555.00	\$ 14,415.22
Grant Reimbursements Receivable	\$ 26,473.09	\$ 79,774.81	
Inventory	\$ 233,248.72	\$ 218,634.79	\$ 14,613.93
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 6,255,610.01	\$ 7,036,499.31	\$ (780,889.30)
RESTRICTED ASSETS			
Debt Service:			
Unamortized bond issue costs	\$ 125,185.22	\$ 125,185.22	\$ -
Viking Ranch Refinance issue costs	\$ (120,155.55)	\$ (100,037.55)	\$ (20,118.00)
Deferred Outflow of Resources-CalPERS	\$ 591,442.00	\$ 648,578.00	\$ (57,136.00)
Total Debt service	\$ 596,471.67	\$ 673,725.67	\$ (77,254.00)
Trust/Bond funds:			
Investments with fiscal agent -CFD 2017-1	\$ 803,607.67	\$ 803,607.67	\$ -
Total Trust/Bond funds	\$ 803,607.67	\$ 803,607.67	\$ -
TOTAL RESTRICTED ASSETS	\$ 1,400,079.34	\$ 1,477,333.34	
UTILITY PLANT IN SERVICE			
Land	\$ 4,176,018.05	\$ 4,176,018.05	\$ -
Flood Control Facilities	\$ 4,287,340.00	\$ 4,287,340.00	\$ -
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 4,426,933.68	\$ 4,909,807.01	\$ (482,873.33)
Sewer Facilities	\$ 7,310,085.54	\$ 7,310,085.54	\$ -
Water facilities	\$ 21,701,440.68	\$ 20,596,830.97	\$ 1,104,609.71
General facilities	\$ 1,043,961.09	\$ 1,042,745.18	\$ 1,215.91
Equipment and furniture	\$ 1,151,790.37	\$ 1,151,790.37	\$ -
Vehicles	\$ 840,125.22	\$ 840,125.22	\$ -
Accumulated depreciation	\$ (16,854,759.03)	\$ (16,845,528.73)	\$ 9,230.30
NET UTILITY PLANT IN SERVICE	\$ 28,082,935.60	\$ 27,469,213.61	\$ 613,721.99
OTHER ASSETS			
Water Rights/BPA	\$ 432,334.60	\$ 250,928.20	\$ 181,406.40
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	\$ 432,334.60	\$ 250,928.20	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 36,170,959.55	\$ 36,233,974.46	\$ (63,014.91)



Balance sheet continued

LIABILITIES

	BALANCE SHEET January 31, 2025 (unaudited)	BALANCE SHEET September 30, 2024 (unaudited)	MONTHLY CHANGE (unaudited)
CURRENT LIABILITIES PAYABLE FROM CURRENT ASSETS			
Accounts Payable	\$ 297,131.61	\$ 850,943.88	\$ (553,812.27)
Accrued expenses	\$ 284,196.60	\$ 284,196.60	\$ -
Deposits	\$ 107,425.00	\$ 107,400.00	\$ 25.00
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES PAYABLE FROM CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 688,753.21	\$ 1,242,540.48	\$ (553,787.27)
CURRENT LIABILITIES PAYABLE FOM RESTRICTED ASSETS			
Debt Service:			
Accounts Payable to CFD 2017-1	\$ 803,607.67	\$ 803,607.67	\$ -
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES PAYABLE FROM RESTRICTED ASSETS	\$ 803,607.67	\$ 803,607.67	\$ -
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
2018A & 2018B Refinance ID4/Viking Ranch	\$ 915,000.00	\$ 915,000.00	\$ -
2021 Installment Purchase Agreement	\$ 6,196,800.00	\$ 6,196,800.00	\$ -
Net Pension Liability-CalPERS	\$ 1,273,881.00	\$ 1,113,590.00	\$ 160,291.00
Deferred Inflow of Resources-CalPERS	\$ 70,052.00	\$ 75,095.00	\$ (5,043.00)
TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES	\$ 8,455,733.00	\$ 8,300,485.00	\$ 155,248.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 9,948,093.88	\$ 10,346,633.15	\$ (398,539.27)
FUND EQUITY			
Contributed equity	\$ 9,611,814.35	\$ 9,611,814.35	\$ -
Retained Earnings:	\$ 16,611,051.32	\$ 16,275,526.96	\$ 335,524.36
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	\$ 26,222,865.67	\$ 25,887,341.31	\$ 335,524.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	\$ 36,170,959.55	\$ 36,233,974.46	\$ (63,014.91)

To: BWD Board of Directors
 From: Jessica Clabaugh
 Subject: Consideration of the Disbursements and Claims Paid
 Month Ending January 31, 2025



Vendor disbursements paid during this period: \$ 612,224.83

Significant items:

AT&T Mobility	Cell Phones for Crew	\$ 1,040.77
Babcock	Lab Services	\$ 4,175.07
6279-002	Customer Refund-Leak Adjustment	\$ 3,397.34
CalPERS	Employee Retirement Benefits	\$ 20,198.94
Employee Health Benefits	Medical JPIA & AFLAC	\$ 23,457.92
Grainger	Misc. Tools (Water)	\$ 1,616.75
Ramona Disposal	Garbage Collection	\$ 5,218.30
SC Fuels	Fuel For District Vehicles	\$ 1,381.69
SDGE	Payment on Dec Use	\$ 37,377.02
State Water Resources Control Board	Water System Permit Annual Renewal	\$ 18,264.38

Capital Projects/Fixed Asset Outlays:

American Backflow	Parts for Inventory	\$ 3,834.85
Borrego Auto Parts	Misc Parts for Fleet Vehicles	\$ 1,408.52
Brax Company	Well 11 Transfer Switch	\$ 4,528.24
Brax Company	Indian Head Booster (3) Upgrades	\$ 119,480.82
Control Systems Inc	SCADA WORK Water	\$ 2,406.25
Empire Southwest	Work on 420 backhoe	\$ 4,465.60
Empire Southwest	Vacuum Unit Rental for AMI	\$ 2,647.71
Borrego Springs Watermaster	Pumping Fees - 1st Installment WY25	\$ 32,884.85
Metron Farnier, LLC	AMI Installation	\$ 41,105.00
Parkhouse Tire	Tires for Backhoe and 2017 GMC Sierra	\$ 3,175.12
Xylem Water Solutions	Liftstation Pump Repair	\$ 4,556.20

Total Professional Services for this Period:

Davis Farr, LP	Fees for FY24 Audit	\$ 2,150.00
Interra Inc.	GWM Technical Support Dec	\$ 13,382.50
Raftelis	Financial Consulting - FY25 Rate Study	\$ 6,685.00
Travis Parker	IT Support	\$ 3,690.15

Payroll for this Period:

Gross Payroll	\$ 121,626.60
Employer Payroll Taxes and ADP Fee	\$ 5,457.02
Total	<u>\$ 127,083.62</u>



JANUARY 2025

41657	1109	ABILITY ANSWERING/PAGING SER	01/14/2025	261.89
41680	1109	ABILITY ANSWERING/PAGING SER	02/05/2025	250.00
41706	3035	ACWA / JPIA Finance Dept.	02/14/2025	5,358.41
41669	1266	AFLAC	01/22/2025	1,548.76
41670	9524	AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY	01/22/2025	652.00
41671	10892	ALAN ASCHE	01/22/2025	175.00
41681	1001	AMERICAN LINEN INC.	02/05/2025	644.85
41682	61	AT&T MOBILITY	02/05/2025	1,042.45
41683	9529	AT&T-CALNET 3	02/05/2025	673.71
41707	9255	BABCOCK LABORATORIES	02/14/2025	8,824.92
41708	10884	BEST BEST & KRIEGER ATTORNEYS AT LAW	02/14/2025	14,031.40
41672	UB*00094	BORREGO ART INSTITUTE	01/22/2025	3,397.34
41684	10900	BORREGO AUTO PARTS & SUPPLY CO	02/05/2025	664.31
41685	31	BORREGO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	02/05/2025	300.00
41709	11140	BORREGO SPRINGS HARDWARE	02/14/2025	203.36
41686	9631	CALIF AIR RESOURCES BOARD/PERP	02/05/2025	1,100.00
41673	11099	CONTROL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING INC	01/22/2025	2,406.25
41674	9054	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	01/22/2025	617.00
41711	11190	DAVIS FARR LLP	02/14/2025	3,350.00
41676	1222	DEBBIE MORETTI	01/22/2025	140.00
41658	96	DISH	01/14/2025	100.80
41691	11153	EDDIE LOPEZ	02/05/2025	960.00
41688	9544	FIREFORCE INC.	02/05/2025	1,357.50
41712	1136	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	02/14/2025	2,228.30
41690	9614	HYDROTEX	02/05/2025	2,884.12
41675	9385	JOHNSON CONTROLS SECURITY SOLUTIONS	01/22/2025	394.43
41692	11090	LUPE'S GARDENING MAINTENANCE INC.	02/05/2025	585.00
41615	1000	MEDICAL ACWA-JPIA	12/20/2024	24,732.30
41729	11181	METRON FARNIER, LLC	02/21/2025	51,158.42
41677	11175	NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	01/22/2025	290.92
41693	1489	NORTH COUNTY LAWNMOWER	02/05/2025	2,111.90
41713	1489	NORTH COUNTY LAWNMOWER	02/14/2025	567.58
41694	11114	OCEANUS BOTTLED WATER, INC	02/05/2025	60.25
41695	1208	PACIFIC PIPELINE SUPPLY INC	02/05/2025	7,580.42
41659	11132	PARKHOUSE TIRE, INC	01/14/2025	3,175.12
41696	11083	QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC.	02/05/2025	2,049.00
41697	9633	RAMONA DISPOSAL SERVICE	02/05/2025	5,218.30
41714	11189	RELIANT WATER TECHNOLOGIES	02/14/2025	2,818.96
41689	11087	REX HARVEY	02/05/2025	175.00
41698	1065	SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC	02/05/2025	40,868.18
41660	11067	SC FUELS	01/14/2025	1,381.69
41699	11067	SC FUELS	02/05/2025	1,850.28
41700	11086	SPRINGBROOK HOLDING COMPANY LLC	02/05/2025	726.00
41701	9046	STATE WATER RESOURCE CONTROL BOARD OPERATOR CERT	02/05/2025	60.00
41661	9166	SWRCB	01/14/2025	18,264.38
41702	11193	THE DATA CENTER LLC	02/05/2025	1,100.00
41703	9581	TRAVIS PARKER	02/05/2025	2,685.82
41715	3000	U.S.BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYS	02/14/2025	6,663.05
41704	1023	UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT	02/05/2025	30.35
41716	1100	VERIZON WIRELESS	02/14/2025	123.63
41662	11168	WESTFLEX, INC.	01/14/2025	540.51
41705	11168	WESTFLEX, INC.	02/05/2025	286.74
41717	92	XEROX FINANCIAL SERVICES	02/14/2025	365.28
41718	9713	XL COMPANY	02/14/2025	92.38
41730	9602	XYLEM WATER SOLUTIONS USA,INC	02/21/2025	13,696.62
Report Total (55 checks):				242,824.88

To: BWD Board of Directors
 From: Jessica Clabaugh
 Subject: Consideration of Watermaster related Income and Expenses for FY25



Month	Description	Pumping Fees	Legal Fees	Engineering	Sampling
July 2024	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 449.80		
	Intera			\$ 1,920.00	
August 2024	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 1,324.52		
	Intera			\$ 9,240.00	
September 2024	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 1,606.50		
	Intera			\$ 6,837.50	
October 2024	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 15,880.00		
	Intera			\$ 5,734.53	
	Babcock - Sampling Fees				\$ 1,842.64
November 2024	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 3,057.00		
	Intera				
December 2024	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 3,057.00		
	Borrego Springs Watermaster	\$ 32,884.85			
	Intera			\$ 13,382.50	
January 2025	BBK - Legal Fees		\$ 3,390.80		
	Intera			\$ 4,165.00	
Year To Date		\$ 32,884.85	\$ 28,765.62	\$ 41,279.53	\$ 1,842.64
					Year To Date
					104,772.64