

Borrego Springs Interim Watermaster
Environmental Working Group (EWG) Meeting
February 26, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 Meeting Available by Remote Access Only

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/606936133>

You can also dial in using your phone: United States (Toll Free): 1-877-309-2073

Access Code: 606-936-133

AGENDA

Items with supporting documents in the EWG Meeting Package are denoted with a page number.

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Roll Call
- B. Member Introductions
- C. Committee Meeting Guidelines

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the EWG on items included on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three minutes per commenter. If you wish to comment, please join the meeting five minutes early to request to speak (verbally or via GoTo meeting Chat feature).

III. OBJECTIVES AND OPERATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

Objective: Provide an overview of the EWG’s purview and duties as defined by the Judgment and provide recommended operating procedures for EWG meetings and reporting to the Board of Directors..... **Page 2**

IV. EWG SCHEDULE FOR FY 2021

Objective: Discuss and develop a recommendation to the Board on the approximate meeting date(s) and topics for subsequent EWG meetings in WY 2021 to execute duties as described in the memo included for Agenda Item III of this EWG agenda. Discuss information needed to support next EWG agenda.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (time permitting)

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the EWG on items discussed during the meeting. Comments will be limited to three minutes per commenter, time permitting.

VI. ADJORNMENT

**Interim Borrego Springs Watermaster
Environmental Working Group Meeting
February 26, 2021
AGENDA ITEM III**

To: Environmental Working Group (EWG)
From: Andy Malone, PG (WEI), Lead Technical Consultant
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Objectives and Operation of the EWG

Objectives

The objectives of this memorandum are to: (i) provide an overview of the EWG’s purview and duties as defined by the Judgment, Rules & Regulations, and the EWG Mission Statement; (ii) provide recommended operating procedures for EWG meetings and reporting to the Board of Directors; and (iii) support the discussion for Agenda Item IV of this EWG agenda on topics for subsequent EWG meetings in WY 2021.

Purview and Duties of the EWG

Section IV.H of the proposed Stipulated Judgment provides that:

An Environmental Working Group (EWG) will be established to advise the Watermaster on GDE and any other matters approved by the Watermaster. The EWG budget, which shall be adequate for the EWG to carry out its responsibilities as directed by the Watermaster, will be included in the Watermaster Budget.

Section 2.6.3 of the Rules & Regulations provides that:

An EWG shall be established to advise the Watermaster on GDE and any other matters approved by the Watermaster Board.

The Watermaster budget included in the Settlement Agreement includes \$20,000 for implementation of the EWG in WY 2021 (WY 2021 ends on September 30, 2021).

At its December 2020 meeting, the Board adopted an EWG mission statement:

The role of the Environmental Working Group (EWG) is to advise and further the mission of the Borrego Springs Watermaster to implement the Stipulated Judgment and comply with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by focusing on the protection of human health and the environment. The activities of the EWG shall be approved by the Watermaster Board and will always include a nexus between environmental issues and the sustainable use of groundwater in the Borrego Springs Subbasin. Activities of the EWG could include, but are not limited to:

- *Environmental assessment, monitoring, and habitat restoration or enhancement associated with groundwater dependent ecosystems*

- *Management of fallowed lands and the potential for participating in biological mitigation projects*
- *Addressing improperly abandoned wells*
- *Management of non-native (invasive) species for water conservation purposes*
- *Air quality monitoring*
- *Pursuit of funding opportunities.*

Operation of the EWG and Reporting to the Board of Directors

Watermaster staff recommends the following general operating procedures for the EWG:

- EWG meetings and the associated agenda for discussion will be determined by the Watermaster Board, with input from the EWG.
- EWG meetings and agenda packages will be noticed by Watermaster Staff no less than 72 hours prior to the scheduled EWG meeting. The meetings will be noticed via email to the Watermaster's distribution list and will be posted to the Watermaster's website.
- The EWG meetings will be led by Watermaster's Technical Consultant.
- EWG meetings will be open to the public, with an opportunity for the Public to comment at the start of the meeting on items included on the agenda. Time permitting, the public will also have an opportunity for additional comments at the end of the meeting on items discussed during the meeting.
- During the discussion of EWG agenda items, all non-EWG member meeting attendees must remain in a listening mode unless requested to speak by the EWG members.
- Meeting minutes will be recorded by Watermaster staff, circulated for review by the EWG, and included as an information item on the agenda of a subsequent Regular meeting of the Watermaster Board.
- Watermaster's Technical Consultant will be responsible for documenting the EWG's recommendations to the Board in one or more memorandums following each EWG meeting. The Technical Consultant will prepare a draft memorandum and circulate it amongst the EWG members for review and editing. The final memorandum will be prepared and will document the recommendations of the EWG.