Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy

November 3, 2025

Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Members of the Watermaster Board,

I write today to express confidence that in the very near future it will be clear to all stakeholders that the UCI GDE Study represents the Best Available Science regarding our subbasin's mesquite bosque. Ultimately, the "gravitational force" of truth and scientific rigor proves to be irresistible.

Best Available Science has a long history of struggling for broad acceptance and of being at odds with vested interests. For example, at the dawn of the scientific revolution the Church refused to accept Copernicus's scientific discovery that the earth orbits the sun. It took a while, but eventually we got there.

In modern times, the tobacco industry did everything in its power to squash the scientific knowledge that cigarette smoking increases the risk of lung cancer. But we eventually got there.

More recently, the fossil fuel industry has tried to suppress the scientific knowledge that our climate is changing as a result of human activity. Fortunately, with the sad exception of the United States, most of the rest of the world has gotten there.

I am pleased to report today there is new evidence that we, as a community, are "getting there" as it pertains to the scientific knowledge created by the UCI GDE Study. In a public meeting of the Borrego Water District within the last three weeks, the author of Appendix D4 of the GMP publicly stated the UCI GDE study is the Best Available Science on the Mesquite Bosque. He did not say the study was perfect or infallible. No science claims to be perfect or infallible. The author noted new data has been generated since the conclusion of the study and that additional study of the bosque will improve our understanding even more. But, at present, the UCI GDE study is the Best Available Science, according to the author of Appendix D4.

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I trust this board will absorb the importance of Mr. Driscole's statement. This board would be in an awkward position if it continued to consider Appendix D4 to be Best Available Science on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems … when the author of D4 does not. Such a position would be untenable. Further, continued reliance on D4 would violate the Watermasters Best Available Science policy, at least according to the Author of D4.

Appendix D4, which was created in 30 days with no budget by a hydrogeologist, has been superseded by a robust, million-dollar, three-year study performed by preeminent scholars with profound expertise in the requisite fields. I continue to believe this board will soon avail itself of the scientific knowledge contained in the UCI report, thereby enabling this board to get on with the business of leading our community to sustainable yield. I hope this board will do so without delay and without incurring unnecessary expense.

Sincerely yours,



J. David Garmon, M.D.
President, TCDC

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