Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy

To: Andy Malone, Samantha Adams, Lauren Salberg, West Yost
Borrego Watermaster Directors
Technical Advisory Committee Members
Environmental Working Group Members

Re: Majority Consensus of TAC/EWG Members Regarding UCI GDE Report

Date: April 8, 2026

There are 10 unique members of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Environmental Working Group. **The majority of these members have concluded that:**

1) the UCI GDE Report dated May 15, 2025 is consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice as required by the Watermaster's Best Available Science Policy promulgated February 6, 2025 and therefore represents the currently best available science vis-à-vis the Borrego Valley Mesquite Bosque, and

2) the UCI team has demonstrated, through multiple lines of evidence, that the Mesquite Bosque is a groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE), and

3) that their responses to comments raised during the TAC/EWG/Technical Consultant evaluation process adequately address and rule out alternative explanations.

The six duly appointed committee members who have come to these conclusions are Detwiler, Jorgensen, McCamish, Dice, Peterson, and Wells. Two additional TAC/EWG members, representing BWD and the County, appear to recommend using information from the UCI GDE Report and proceeding "as if" there is a GDE in the Borrego Valley without acknowledging the UCI Report is best available science or acknowledging that the best available science demonstrates there is a GDE in the Valley. The remaining members hired by Agriculture and Recreation remain committed to the conclusion of the now discredited Appendix D4 of the Groundwater Management Plan.

I urge the Watermaster Board to heed the unequivocal recommendations coming from the majority of its prequalified, duly appointed, and trusted advisors of the TAC and EWG. Their signatures are attached herewith.

Sincerely yours,



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

230 West Palm St., San Diego, CA 92103
Phone 858 535-9121 Fax 858 535-9156

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Technical Advisory Committee / Environmental Working Group

We, the prequalified and duly appointed members of the Borrego Springs Watermaster's Technical Advisory Committee and Environmental Working Group, conclude:

1) the UCI GDE Report dated May 15, 2025 is consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice as required by the Watermaster's Best Available Science Policy promulgated February 6, 2025 and therefore represents the currently best available science vis-à-vis the Borrego Valley Mesquite Bosque, and

2) the UCI team has demonstrated, through multiple lines of evidence, that the Mesquite Bosque is a groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE), and

3) that their responses to comments raised during the TAC/EWG/Technical Consultant evaluation process adequately address and rule out alternative explanations.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
James C. Dice	James C. Dice	4/1/2026
Mark C. Jorgensen	Mark C. Jorgensen	4/1/2026
John Peterson	John Peterson	4/1/2026
Michael Wells	Michael Wells Ph.D.	4/2/2026
Russell Detwiler		4/6/2026

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Technical Advisory Committee / Environmental Working Group

We, the prequalified and duly appointed members of the Borrego Springs Watermaster's Technical Advisory Committee and Environmental Working Group, conclude:

1) the UCI GDE Report dated May 15, 2025 is consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice as required by the Watermaster's Best Available Science Policy promulgated February 6, 2025 and therefore represents the currently best available science vis-à-vis the Borrego Valley Mesquite Bosque, and

2) the UCI team has demonstrated, through multiple lines of evidence, that the Mesquite Bosque is a groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE), and

3) that their responses to comments raised during the TAC/EWG/Technical Consultant evaluation process adequately address and rule out alternative explanations.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
Dan McCamish	Dan McCamish	4/3/2026

Printed Name **Signature** **Date**