

Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes
for
January 20th 2026

A. Call to Order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

B. Roll Call

All voting TAC members were present (via Zoom):

- Vice Chair Tony Morgan – Present
- Chair Chad Taylor – Present
- Dr. Bob Abrams – Present

All non-voting TAC members were present (via Zoom):

- Bryan Bondy – Present
- Kim Loeb – Present

Chair Taylor reported that the Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting had a quorum with all three voting members and both non-voting members present.

C. Agenda Review

Chair Taylor reported that an agenda for the meeting was published and notified by the Watermaster. He asked TAC members and members of the public for comments on items on the agenda and none were raised.

D. Public Comments

Chair Taylor offered an opportunity for members of the public to raise items not on the agenda.

Mr. Reddy Pakala addressed the TAC, speaking as a resident of the City of Moorpark and as a former manager of Waterworks Districts 1 and 19, which provide water supply to the City of Moorpark and surrounding areas. Mr. Pakala expressed concerns regarding the United Water Conservation District groundwater model and the associated protective order. He stated that limitations on access to the model are impeding progress on groundwater modeling efforts in the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) and creating obstacles to public review. He urged the Watermaster to take steps to obtain access to the United Water Coastal Plain model to support completion of the Basin Optimization Yield Study analysis with greater confidence.

Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Pakala for his comments and asked whether there were any additional public comments on agenda items. None were raised.

E. TAC Member Comments

Chair Taylor asked the TAC members for comments on items not on the agenda; none were provided.

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting

Chair Taylor noted that minutes from the January 6, 2026 meeting were included in the agenda packet, and asked TAC members for any comments, corrections, or revisions to the draft minutes and indicated that he had the document open and was prepared to make tracked changes.

Dr. Abrams, Mr. Bondy, and Mr. Loeb all noted a minor correction regarding a reference to the Calleguas ASR study group initial meeting. Through discussion they informed the TAC that the initial meeting of the group was held in November 2025. Chair Taylor asked if it would be acceptable to leave the minutes stating that the initial meeting had been held, without specifying a date. The other TAC members agreed.

Chair Taylor asked whether there were any additional comments or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for public comments. None were made. Chair Taylor then asked whether the TAC was comfortable accepting the minutes as edited.

MOTION: Dr. Abrams moved to accept the revised minutes of the January 6 2026 meeting

SECOND: Mr. Morgan seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved

2. Review Discussion: Draft Basin Optimization Yield Study Report (BOY Study)

Chair Taylor opened discussion on the draft Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOY Study), which was initially presented to the TAC at the January 6, 2026 meeting and tabled for further discussion. Chair Taylor noted that this is the TAC's final public meeting before a recommendation report is required and reminded members that formal tabular comments are due by January 23, 2026.

Chair Taylor identified a need for clearer explanation of the rampdown calculation period, noting that while the report refers to fall of 2026 through fall of 2039 as a 14-year period, readers may interpret this as 13 years unless the rationale for including the final rampdown year is clarified.

Dr. Abrams stated that he had several minor comments best addressed through tabular comments and expressed that overall the report was good. He suggested that the discussion of uncertainty related to the boundary between the West and East Las Posas management areas could be improved, emphasizing that despite model limitations, the results support the potential for implementation of projects not requiring rampdown. Chair Taylor agreed and noted that while this point is mentioned briefly, expanding on the adequacy of the work for moving forward would be beneficial for public understanding.

Chair Taylor expressed appreciation for the inclusion of contextual information regarding prior physical in-lieu use and historical groundwater level changes, noting that this background improved clarity regarding modeling assumptions.

Mr. Morgan suggested that the conclusions section would benefit from a summary table consolidating key figures, such as sustainable yield and assumed pumping by scenario and management area, to improve accessibility for stakeholders. He also noted that the conclusions focused heavily on rampdown scenarios and recommended emphasizing that implementation of projects could avoid the need for rampdown. Chair Taylor agreed and noted that a comparative table had been helpful during his own review.

Mr. Morgan further emphasized the importance of presenting key numbers in a single, easy-to-reference location, noting that the volume of data could be overwhelming even for technical readers.

Chair Taylor raised questions regarding the methodology used to identify the uniform rampdown, noting that the 20 percent reduction appeared to be a round number and questioning whether rampdown requirements in the WLPMA could be refined further given remaining inflow/outflow discrepancies. Members discussed whether additional iteration or clarification of assumptions was warranted.

Mr. Bondy commented that reductions applied uniformly to pumping throughout the basin were based on interpretation of the judgment, although technical data suggest there may be a different approach to consider for the Epworth Gravels. He noted that while the volumes involved may be small in some areas, they are significant to affected pumpers.

Chair Taylor observed that total basin-wide pumping under the rampdown scenario is similar to Water Year 2025 pumping but emphasized that the spatial distribution of pumping is critical and should be clearly explained to avoid misinterpretation by nontechnical readers.

Mr. Morgan raised concerns regarding treatment of compliance at a well that remains below minimum thresholds under the modeled rampdown, questioning whether the rationale for deeming this acceptable would align with Department of Water Resources (DWR) expectations. He suggested expanding discussion of dampened water-level responses and how those assumptions affect other wells.

Chair Taylor and other members discussed whether monitoring data and real-world observations should play a larger role in evaluating rampdown volumes and avoiding over-correction. Mr. Bondy emphasized that rampdown estimates represent a snapshot in time and should be evaluated against future monitoring results.

Members agreed that uncertainty in modeling assumptions should be more explicitly acknowledged, particularly in the conclusions and executive summary, to provide context for policy decisions related to both rampdown and in-lieu projects.

Mr. Morgan identified apparent typographical and rounding errors in reported pumping values for the East and West Las Posas management areas. Chair Taylor directed that these issues be included in tabular comments.

Dr. Abrams suggested including discussion of longer-term opportunities to increase operational yield toward the judgment's aspirational 40,000 acre-feet per year, referencing additional projects previously evaluated in the Basin Optimization Plan. Chair Taylor and Mr. Loeb agreed that referencing ongoing project development would be appropriate and informative.

Chair Taylor raised a question regarding whether the modeled rampdown schedule would achieve sustainable conditions by 2040, noting potential ambiguity between achieving a sustainable pumping rate versus achieving sustainable water levels by that date. Members agreed this warranted clarification in the report.

Public comment was received from Richard Cavaletto, who questioned how in-lieu water and rampdown measures should be applied across management areas, particularly where localized impacts are observed. Discussion followed regarding the distinction between targeted project implementation and basin-wide rampdown requirements under the judgment.

Chair Taylor closed the discussion by reminding TAC members that tabular comments are due January 23rd and that a draft recommendation report will be prepared for review ahead of the February 3rd TAC meeting. No further public comments were received.

3. Consultation Request: Draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report

Chair Taylor introduced the new consultation request regarding the draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin, noting that the document was received by the TAC the prior Thursday (January 15, 2026) and included in the agenda. Chair Taylor stated that the TAC has a 30-day review period, with comments due by February 15th, and that the review schedule mirrors that of the BOY Study, with tabular comments due to the TAC Administrator by January 23, 2026. Mr. Taylor noted that this meeting represents the only opportunity for TAC discussion prior to preparation of a recommendation report.

TAC members reported that they had not yet completed a full review. Comments were provided by Dr. Abrams regarding missing values on groundwater elevation maps. Dr. Abrams suggested that the report include explanatory text clarifying why measurements were unavailable for specific wells or time periods and whether problematic wells should be replaced as key monitoring wells. Well 02N21W16J03 which was reported to have a blocked sounding tube preventing monitoring was cited as an example.

Mr. Loeb responded that the monitoring program relies on data collected by multiple agencies and that Watermaster staff are actively evaluating the monitoring network as part of an ongoing monitoring program assessment. He noted that while challenges exist, particularly with data consistency, this broader evaluation effort is intended to address such issues.

Dr. Abrams reiterated that a brief explanation aimed at lay readers would be helpful to prevent confusion regarding missing data.

Mr. Taylor invited additional context from Watermaster staff member Rob Hampson, who explained that well 02N21W16J03 had recently been measured using alternative equipment, though the data fell outside the reporting period and will appear in the next annual report. He noted broader challenges related to measuring active agricultural wells and emphasized that efforts are ongoing to improve data collection and coordination.

Chair Taylor asked whether there were other major comments. Mr. Bondy encouraged members to closely review the change-in-storage analysis, noting that certain polygons driving large storage changes appear to rely on groundwater level data not shown in earlier figures. He questioned the source of those data and expressed concern that they significantly influence reported results.

Mr. Loeb clarified that the change-in-storage estimates are derived from regression relationships based on modeled results and observed water levels. Mr. Bondy reiterated that the absence of reported groundwater level changes for those polygons warranted clarification. Chair Taylor asked that this issue be included in tabular comments.

Mr. Loeb noted that updated groundwater extraction data had been received shortly before publication and that some figures in the report would be revised to reflect those updates. Chair Taylor acknowledged the timing challenges associated with annual reporting and thanked Watermaster staff for their efforts.

No public comments were received.

4. Continued Discussion of Request for TAC Members to Sign Acknowledgement and Agreement to be Bound to the Protective Order Regarding United Water Conservation District Model

Chair Taylor introduced continued discussion regarding the request for TAC members to sign an acknowledgement agreement related to the protective order. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Morgan if the PAC had discussed the matter at its recent meeting. Mr. Morgan informed the TAC that PAC had not discussed the protective order.

Mr. Taylor invited TAC members to share any new thoughts on this item.

Mr. Bondy raised concerns about timing, noting that any intent to facilitate further model review would be impractical given the January 23 deadline for BOY Study comments. Chair Taylor responded that the TAC has not requested model files as part of its current review and is not aware of any requirement to be bound by the protective order in order to prepare recommendation reports.

Mr. Morgan noted that the BOY Study is publicly available, and therefore no longer subject to protection. Chair Taylor agreed and stated that additional discussion is underway regarding possible clarification or expansion of the protective order to better define what constitutes protected model data.

Chair Taylor referenced a set of questions regarding the protective order included in the agenda and noted that these would be submitted to the Watermaster as feedback rather than as part of a recommendation report. TAC members were invited to provide additional input by January 27 for inclusion in the next agenda.

No further public comments were received.

5. Update on Upcoming Committee Consultation Review Requests

Chair Taylor reviewed upcoming consultation requests and asked whether the monitoring network evaluation should be included as a forthcoming item. Mr. Loeb indicated that while no firm date is set, the evaluation is expected in the coming months and does not carry a regulatory deadline. Chair Taylor stated that it would be listed as “TBD” on the next agenda.

No additional upcoming items were identified by TAC members or the public.

6. Schedule for Completing Current Committee Consultations and Recommendation Reports

Chair Taylor summarized the schedule for completing the two active consultation reviews: the draft Basin Optimization Yield Study and the draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report. Chair Taylor reminded members that tabular comments for both documents are due by January 23rd, and that draft recommendation reports will be prepared for inclusion in the February 3, 2026 TAC meeting agenda.

Chair Taylor noted that the Annual Report Recommendation Report is due February 15th and the BOY Study Recommendation Report is due February 16th, and that a special meeting may be required if additional revisions are needed. Chair Taylor clarified that comments on the protective order questions are requested by January 27th.

No public comments were received.

G. Items for Future Agenda

Chair Taylor asked if TAC members or the public wanted to bring items to the TAC's attention for consideration in future TAC meeting agendas. No comments were provided.

H. Adjourn

Chair Taylor thanked the TAC members and public for attending and made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 pm

SECOND: Dr. Abrams seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved