

Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes
for
February 3, 2026

A. Call to Order

Chair Taylor welcomed attendees to the regular meeting of the Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

B. Roll Call

All voting TAC members were present (via Zoom):

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

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

- Kim Loeb – Present
- Bryan Bondy – Present

Mr. Taylor reported a quorum of the TAC was present with all three voting members and both non-voting members present.

C. Agenda Review

Chair Taylor reminded the TAC and attendees that an agenda for the meeting was published on the Watermaster website and that notification of the meeting was provided by the Watermaster. He asked the TAC members and public attendees for comments on items on the agenda. No comments were provided.

D. Public Comments

Chair Taylor offered an opportunity for members of the public to raise items not on the agenda, no comments were provided.

E. TAC Member Comments

Mr. Taylor asked if TAC members had comments on items not on the agenda; none were raised.

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Chair Taylor asked the TAC to discuss the draft minutes from the January 20, 2026 regular TAC meeting, which were included in the agenda packet.

Dr. Abrams, Mr. Bondy, and Mr. Loeb all contributed edits to the draft minutes to refine specific language. Mr. Taylor made changes to the text while in response to these edits.

Chair Taylor offered an opportunity for public attendees to provide comments on the draft minutes; none were raised.

Chair Taylor asked whether the TAC was comfortable accepting the minutes as edited, and no objections were raised.

MOTION: Mr. Morgan moved to accept the revised minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting

SECOND: Dr. Abrams seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved

2. Draft Recommendation Report Review: Draft Basin Optimization Yield Study Report

Chair Taylor turned to discussion of the draft Recommendation Report regarding the draft Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOY Study). The draft Recommendation Report was prepared following TAC discussion of the draft BOY Study in the January 6 and January 20, 2026 TAC meetings and the written comments provided by TAC members. He noted that all written comments from TAC members were included with the draft Recommendation Report. He asked the TAC for comments, corrections, and other changes to the draft Recommendation Report.

Dr. Abrams provided editorial comments correcting typos and other inconsistencies in the draft. Mr. Taylor made these changes in the document as edits were provided.

Mr. Bondy commented that in the introduction of the Recommendation Report the purposes of the BOY Study included identifying the need for rampdown. He questioned whether that was a purpose of the BOY Study. This text was edited for clarification of how rampdown is addressed in the BOY Study.

Mr. Bondy commented on how the Optimization Yield and Operational Yield were presented in the BOY Study. He specifically pointed out that the operational yield identified only the groundwater use and not the in-lieu use. The TAC discussed the relationship between Operational Yield and annual pumping allocations. Mr. Loeb provided that the Recommendation Report and prior TAC discussion identified the need for clarification of the relationship between Optimization Yield, Operational Yield, and pumping allocation. Mr. Taylor offered additional text for inclusion in the Recommendation Report to highlight the need for modifications of the BOY Study relating to these concepts. The TAC collaborated on developing these changes to the Recommendation Report.

Mr. Bondy raised a question regarding the inclusion of no-project scenarios in the BOY Study and suggested that text be added to the Recommendation Report requesting explanation to differentiate pumping reductions in the BOY Study and rampdown as defined in the Judgment. Mr. Loeb reminded the TAC that the no-project scenario was included in the BOY Study in response to previous requests from the TAC. The TAC coordinated in the development of Recommendation Report text requesting clarification of the no-project associated pumping reductions in the BOY Study.

Mr. Bondy suggested that the third recommendation in the Recommendation Report be removed as it was not a significant as the other recommendations. The other TAC members agreed, and Mr. Taylor removed the related text.

Mr. Taylor offered time for members of the public to provide feedback on the draft Recommendation Report to the TAC.

Mr. Rob Grether commented that he appreciated that the TAC decided to remove recommendation three from the draft Recommendation Report. That comment referenced

differential rampdown. Mr. Grether pointed out that while this concept is referenced many times in the BOY Study, it is not allowed in the Judgment. Mr. Grether expressed a concern that including this concept in the BOY Study risks confusing readers who may assume that differential rampdown is an authorized method for managing pumping in the Las Posas Valley basin. He noted that this is an item the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will raise in their review of the BOY Study. He also referenced the provisions in the Judgment that give the Watermaster does the authority to order water rights holders in localized areas to reduce or cease extraction where undesirable results are occurring or likely to occur. This approach preserves allocation rights but restricts pumping in specific impacted locations.

No other public comments were raised.

Mr. Taylor summarized the review process for the TAC and other attendees, noting that the TAC Recommendation Report related to the draft BOY Study was edited during the meeting. He reminded the TAC that the Recommendation Report was due to the Watermaster by February 16, 2026 and there were no other regular TAC meetings before that due date. He asked the TAC if there was the need for additional review and discussion of the revised Recommendation Report. Mr. Bondy indicated that the additional question regarding differential pumping reduction raised by Mr. Grether could be considered to have been handled in Recommendation Report request to clarify rampdown in the BOY Study. Mr. Morgan offered that the differential reduction Mr. Grether referred to is a policy issue that will be addressed by the PAC's comments on the BOY Study. The TAC added language to the Recommendation Report indicating that differential pumping reductions should be considered informational.

Chair Taylor asked the TAC if there were any objections to voting to accept the Recommendation Report as revised during the meeting and none were raised. Dr. Abrams noted that the TAC was aware of all the changes as they were made during the meeting on a copy of the Recommendation Report shared through Zoom.

Chair Taylor asked for additional comments from the TAC and public and none were raised. The TAC voted to accept the revised Recommendation Report. No dissenting opinions were expressed.

MOTION: Dr. Abrams moved to accept the revised Recommendation Report of the draft BOY Study

SECOND: Mr. Morgan seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved

3. Draft Recommendation Report Review: Draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report

Chair Taylor advanced to discussion of the draft Recommendation Report on the draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin. He reminded the TAC and other attendees that this draft Recommendation Report was also circulated in the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Taylor asked the TAC for comments on the draft Recommendation Report.

Mr. Bondy asked if the recommendation to include surface water gaging was appropriate for inclusion in the Recommendation Report as it had not been discussed in detail within the TAC and specific recommendations had not been developed. Dr. Abrams indicated that this recommendation was based on a comment he made in response to discussion of the limited surface water discharge gaging in the Annual Report. The TAC briefly discussed this item and decided to remove the recommendation.

Chair Taylor asked for additional comments from the TAC and public and none were received.

Chair Taylor noted that there were some revisions to the Recommendation Report and if the TAC had reservations accepting the revised report. None were raised and the TAC voted to accept the revised Recommendation Report. Mr. Taylor asked if there were any dissenting opinions that should be captured in the Recommendation Report and none were raised by TAC members.

MOTION: Mr. Morgan moved to accept the revised TAC Recommendation Report in response to the draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin

SECOND: Dr. Abrams seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved

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 reminded the TAC that the question of an signing an acknowledgement to be bound by the protective order agreement for accessing the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) Model of the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) was still under discussion and asked that they resume that conversation. He noted that a list of testing questions was included in the agenda.

Dr. Abrams offered that the testing questions could be introduced with a general summarizing statement in an email that includes short versions of the main testing questions. The other TAC members agreed and authorized the Chair Taylor to send the email to the Watermaster in his capacity as the Administrator of the TAC.

Chair Taylor asked for public comments; none were raised.

5. Update on Upcoming Committee Consultation Review Requests

Chair Taylor reviewed the consultation request table in the agenda and asked Mr. Loeb if the TAC should be aware of any other upcoming requests. Mr. Loeb said there were no other known requests for TAC consultation not on the existing list.

Neither the other TAC members or public attendees raised additional upcoming items for TAC consultation.

6. Schedule for Completing Current Committee Consultations and Recommendation Reports

Chair Taylor confirmed with the TAC that the two active consultation reviews, the draft Basin Optimization Yield Study and the draft Water Year 2025 Annual Report, would be complete with the finalization and submittal of the Recommendation Reports accepted by the TAC in previous agenda items. He committed to submitting these finalized reports to the Watermaster immediately.

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. Dr. Abrams informed the TAC he has schedule conflicts for the April 21, 2026 and May 5, 2026 regular meetings. No other 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 3:12 pm

SECOND: Dr. Abrams seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved