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County of San Diego
BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday December 4, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.
Borrego Springs High School Community Room
2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, California

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Administrative Items

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- A. Chair R. Caldwell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
 - B. Roll Call of Members. All members were present: Tom Beltran, Rich Caldwell, Dr. Sylvia Caldwell, Rebecca Falk, Judy Haldeman, Bonnie Petrach and Sam Webb.
 - C. Approval of the Agenda: Petrach moved to approve the agenda; Haldeman seconded. All in favor.
 - D. Members' review of maps and other printed materials for meeting: 15 minutes
 - E. Consideration and approval of Minutes from the meetings of May 1, October 2, and November 6, 2014: Haldeman moved to approve with one clarification on line 46 of the May minutes to refer to R. Caldwell, not S. Caldwell. S. Caldwell seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
 - F. Public Comment: an opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Sponsor Group on any subject matter within the group's jurisdiction that is not already on today's agenda, with a time limit of three minutes (3:00) per speaker. Deferred to discussion on Borrego Valley Groundwater Status.

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Items G and H were moved to after the discussion of Non-Action Item A to accommodate Lyle Brecht's schedule.

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- G. Correspondence and Chair's Report: Re: FEMA flood mapping in Borrego. R. Caldwell spoke by telephone with Sara Agahi, the flood management inspector for the district, County Dept. of Public Works (DPW), Senior Civil Engineer. The county signed an agreement June 2013 with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding a new flood map. In May 2014 the county completed a geomorphic assessment (to assess terrain shifting with flooding), part of the new flood map. The Corps is working on typology, hydrology and morphology before June 2016 to update the FEMA flood panel.

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R. Caldwell met with the Borrego Valley Association on Nov 20.

The January 8th Sponsor Group meeting will be an organizational meeting including the election of officers.

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- H. Committee reports:
 - a. Study Groups: The DPLO Parks Priority List Committee will meet the night of December 18th.
The Economic Development/Christmas Circle Committee will meet December 15th.

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Non-Action Items

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- A. Informational briefing, discussion, and citizen comment on Borrego Valley groundwater status in light of recent state legislation and actions by the Borrego Water Coalition as they relate to the Borrego Springs Community Plan. Lyle Brecht, Director of the Borrego Water District (BWD) and member of the Borrego Water Coalition, gave a presentation and answered questions. The state legislation makes water use a priority over land use; the county Land Use Plan has to take groundwater sustainable water use into account. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act stipulates that the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) must establish regulations by June of 2016 that will govern water use. If local basins don't comply, there are penalties and the state will take control of the basin.

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The Borrego Water Coalition (BWC), whose members are major pumpers and users (with BWD representing BWD ratepayers) has been in a 2 year process to come up with a plan that will enable the continuation of local control under a plan that would satisfy the legislation that was known to be coming and has now passed into law. The legislation and the BWC Recommendations establish timelines for reductions in water use, among other things.

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The Borrego Water Coalition Policy Recommendations that were released publicly was the first step and the next one is to involve the wider community in discussions about those recommendations. Community agreement to the BWC Policy Recommendations is important to demonstrate that they ought to be implemented.

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BWD and the County are the only agencies qualified to become the local groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) under the new legislation, and the GSA, once formed, will be set the direction for bringing the basin into sustainability. BWC members will continue to have a role once the GSA is established. L. Brecht said that the BWC wants to bring the basin into sustainability as soon as possible, since delays will be expensive for all the water users in Borrego.

49 One of the first steps will be to install meters on wells and they hope to do that soon.

50 L. Brecht said that BWD consulted with many water attorneys and no one recommended adjudication. It is possible
51 that the basin will end up in adjudication but a good faith plan has to be implemented to see if it can work. State
52 legislators are interested in what is happening locally with the BWC proposal and meetings.

53 L. Brecht made these points among others: That the Borrego Valley basin is in overdraft has been established
54 scientifically. There are no nearby aquifers to bring in more water and there are no funds for a pipeline for water
55 coming from elsewhere even if such water were available, which it is not. In 1982 there was a 6,000 acre ft./year
56 overdraft of our aquifer; presently there is a 13,000 acre ft./year overdraft.

57 Brecht also said that some mechanisms are still to be worked out that will enable the water reductions proposed by
58 BWC to end up with enough water for residences, as water that is designated for farmland now will have to be allowed
59 for residential use according to a formula for acquiring that water that does not now exist.

60 Public Comment on Discussion: Ray Shindler made the following comments. Under the BWC Policy
61 Recommendations, farmers want to have their lands purchased and if that doesn't happen, they don't promise to
62 participate or support the policies recommended. Shindler thinks ratepayers will end up paying for farm lands through
63 bonds that BWD will use to raise funds for that purpose. He wanted the recently passed legislation to change that
64 through some farmland purchases funded only by meter fees the legislation allows to be imposed on currently
65 unmetered wells on farms and also through the enforcement of reductions in water use from those currently
66 unmonitored wells, which would make the purchase of farmlands unnecessary or less expensive. Since the legislation
67 allows for some funds for purchase of agricultural lands and for adjudication, he thought those should be used to bring
68 the basin into balance sooner rather than later. He maintained that farmers would lose their water in an adjudication,
69 disagreeing with Lyle Brecht on this point. He also objected to relying on development of lands in Borrego in order to
70 find developers to purchase farmlands when the legislation provides an alternative, which is limiting water extraction
71 without conditions. Developments may or may not occur and may not be desirable for the community.

72 Action Items

- 73 A. Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report
74 discussion and possible authorization of group comment letter.

75 After discussion of the 8,000 page plan, with a public comment period ending in February of 2015, the following
76 motion was made Webb, seconded by Beltran and unanimously approved: The Chair is directed to draft and send a
77 letter to the county identifying the Sponsor Group's concern about dust during construction, a power line expansion
78 through the town or park, and the removal of local input and review.

79 The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m. after R. Caldwell so moved, S. Caldwell seconded, and the motion was
80 approved unanimously. Rebecca Falk, Secretary

81 The next regular meeting will be held January 8, 2015 at 4:30 P.M. at the Borrego Springs High School Community Room, 2281 Diegueno Road,
82 Borrego Springs, CA 92004. **If this Agenda is revised, a revised copy will be posted 72 or more hours prior to the meeting. The final Agenda**
83 **may include additional Administrative or Non-Action items.** For further information contact the Chair at Rich@BorregoValleyInn.com or (760)
84 767-3319. Address all U.S. Mail to: Rich Caldwell, Chair, Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group, P.O. Box 1371, Borrego Springs, CA
85 92004-1371.

86 Public Disclosure

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92 shows the error. If you believe that your personal information is being used for a purpose other than what was intended when submitted, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take
93 reasonable steps to verify your identity before granting access or making corrections.
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