

Bennett, Jim

From: Janet Johnson <fishandwhistle65@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 9:37 PM
To: LUEG, GroundWater, PDS
Subject: Proposed Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Mr. Jim Bennett:

My husband and I have a home at the Borrego Air Ranch. I appreciate the efforts involved in creating a sustainable plan for water in the future of the Borrego Valley and certainly think it is an important issue to tackle. However, I would like to share our thoughts on the fairness of the proposed plan.

First, it seems like those who use proportionally little of the water in the valley are being asked to decrease water usage by the same amount as the higher users who have had a bigger role in the progressive depletion of the aquifer. If the agricultural interests have used 70% of the water in the past, they should reduce their water usage by a higher percentage than residences which have had a much lighter role in decreasing the water table. If golf courses have used 18% of the water in the past, they should also reduce their water usage more than residences, perhaps making a bigger use of grey water to maintain the course. Requiring a 75% water reduction across all segments of the community will do a great harm to the community and hurts those most who have not had the biggest role in depleting the aquifer.

Secondly, The Borrego Air Ranch has its own two wells, which have been drawn from a water table that has not been decreasing. The BAR water levels have been stable for more than 50 years. Having the 75% water reduction over the next 20 years will not affect the rest of the Borrego Valley aquifer. The BAR residents are already very careful with their water in order to maintain this stability. Forced reduction in water usage would have a very negative effect on the air ranch community, would affect health and safety, and would of course decrease property values (as it would in other residential areas of Borrego.)

While applauding that there is a tentative plan, we would urge you to make the mandatory reduction for residents a lower percentage and if possible, to leave the Borrego Air Ranch out of the mandatory requirements. The Borrego Valley is a wonderful place with many exciting, progressive things going on. We hope this unfair water reduction plan will not bring this to an end.

Sincerely,

Mary Janet Johnson