

## **Bennett, Jim**

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**From:** Steve & Debbie Riehle <sdriehle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 11:17 AM  
**To:** LUEG, GroundWater, PDS  
**Subject:** Borrego Air Ranch: Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

Good Morning Mr. Bennet,

My wife and I own a home located at the Borrego Air Ranch, 4211 Cessna Lane, Borrego Springs CA, 92004. The owner's association has had much discussion about the Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan(GSP) and we would like to get our concerns on the record.

There are several issues that are on all our minds however, there are two major ones we wish to address in this email. First is the fact that the Air Ranch water levels have remained stable for the entire time we have been monitoring them, which is more than half a century. The other issue is that we are already a very efficient community from a water conservation standpoint.

As to our first point regarding our stable water levels in our water wells, we will quote one of the knowledgeable resources on the valley's water issues, John Peterson, "Water levels don't lie". His comments maintain that the water levels in the Northern Borrego Basin are being impacted by over usage, which has resulted in dramatic overdraft and therefore the change in water well depths. However, if you look at all the facts, the Borrego Air Ranch is located downstream from the Northern Borrego basin as well as the Borrego sink. Therefore, any change in our usage will not impact water levels upstream. This is evidenced by the fact that our water levels have remained stable while the Northern Borrego basin continues to be depleted. If there was an interaction between the Borrego Air Ranch location and the community of Borrego Springs, logic would dictate that we would have seen some change in our water levels over the years. It has been stated by a few who have studied this issue that the southern basin has either a different source or is so far removed from the northern basin that it would take hundreds of years for any draw down in the Southern Borrego basin to impact the Northern Borrego basin.

As to our second point, we are already an efficient community when it comes to water usage. We don't have lush lawns or tree orchards. All the homes have very modest desert landscaping. Therefore, the only way we can cut back our usage further would be to significantly change our lifestyle and personal hygiene. By forcing a cutback to the level that has been suggested, the GSP will make our properties potentially uninhabitable, destroy our community as well as the value of our property.

If this plan, as we understand it, is implemented throughout the Borrego Springs area the community will sustain significant damage. A more reasoned approach would be to move the agriculture users to a location that can provide the water they need, and require the recreational users install gray water recycling systems that will allow continued watering of their golf courses. These two actions alone would prevent overdraft of the basin.

If you move forward with the plan to reduce the usage by all categories equally, this will not only destroy the future growth of Borrego Valley, It will most certainly negatively impact the current economic renewal that Borrego Springs is experiencing.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter.

Steve and Debbie Riehle