

## **Bennett, Jim**

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**From:** Bill Carpenter <billbar7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 7:38 AM  
**To:** LUEG, GroundWater, PDS  
**Cc:** Bill Carpenter  
**Subject:** Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

c/o: Jim Bennett

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Mr. Jim Bennet,

The Borrego Air Ranch is a residential airport community located in the southern management area of the Borrego Springs Subbasin. The Air Ranch has been in existence since 1945; the subdivision map was created in 1948. There are currently 24 residential units in the community. It has been classified as 'Other' in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). A Baseline Pumping Allocation (BPA) of 12 acre-feet per year has been assigned to the community. It appears the Air Ranch will be required to cut back its usage of water by 75% over the period covered by the Plan. That would result in an allocation of 3 acre-feet per year to be shared by 24 residences or 0.125 acre-feet per residence per year. This would essentially result in the closing of the community and the Air Ranch Airport.

The Air Ranchers have always been good stewards of water usage. The Air Ranchers do not maintain any common property which requires water. There is minimal use of non-native vegetation and external watering has been kept to an absolute minimum at the individual residences. The community elected to be served by a single community owned and operated water system rather than drilling and maintaining individual wells. It should be noted that if the community had elected to source their water by individual wells, they would not be subject to any cutbacks under the GSP. Their well usage would be well under 2 acre-feet per year per residence; they would be classified as de minimus users.

The Air Ranchers have been assigned a BPA of 0.5 acre-feet per year per residence. Air Ranchers are able to live within the BPA. They will, however, not be able to survive cuts of 75% to the Air Ranch BPA. It will likely result in the elimination of a community with a long established tradition of living and working with a minimal usage of water in a desert community. The Air Ranchers wish to continue this tradition and should be exempted from cutbacks to their BPA. Such an exemption will have almost no impact on the goals of the Borrego Valley GSP. Cutting back the Air Ranch allocation from 12 to 3 acre-feet per year will have very little impact on achieving the Borrego Springs Subbasin goal of 5700 acre-feet per year of water usage but it would almost certainly result in the elimination of this unique community. The Air Ranch should be exempted from cutbacks to their assigned BPA.

Willard (Bill) Carpenter & family  
Borrego Air Ranch (full time resident)