

Bennett, Jim

From: Bill Haneline <desertwrx15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 7:54 AM
To: LUEG, GroundWater, PDS
Subject: GSP Borrego Basin Comments

We've been to many Advisory Committee meetings and have heard a lot over couple years. I'm also a board member of the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group and a member of the Rate Payer Group.

My concerns are over...

Building on available lots. It appears that there will not be enough water in the plan for building out all lots. There needs to be a way to keep most of these lots unbuilt for the rest of us Borrego residents to have water for the future.

Keep developments from being built. Do not let developments like Rams Hill and Borrego Springs Resort from building hundreds of new homes, which they have said they would. We cannot support this extra burden on our aquifer. Also do not let developers build their neighborhoods on virgin deserts or anywhere for that matter. Our aquifer cannot support development and the current residents will sacrifice for these new homes.

Golf courses are very wasteful of water. Using our precious drinking water so golf course owners can make money is just not right. Golf courses boast how their customers keep our community running. They have never shown proof that they do this. Most of our visitors are here for the State Park and the desert. There are 6 golf courses here in the valley and they don't need our water, the residents do!

Agriculture is basically the biggest enemy of the basin. They overdraft us a tremendous amount. The reason why... they want to make money off our aquifer. This water in our aquifer is what us residents need to keep living in the land we love. Agriculture hires a small amount of Borrego residents and the owners don't even live here.

Agriculture has been in the valley for many years and with the GSP it does not look good for them. The history of agriculture in our valley consists of thousands of acres of former farmlands. For decades they have been growing and leaving. Evidence is everywhere you look when you travel our roads. If most of these farms leave and fallow the land, then they will be just like the farms that came before them. Nothing new there. If it wasn't this water issue, then the same thing could happen to them from an insect invasion.

Water transfers and water credits. Water credits seem to be off the table, but water transfer isn't. There are concerns that wealthy owners can buy water and keep pumping as much as they want. Could there be a future issue with "Wall St." coming in here to make money off our water in a larger scale? Water will turn into a money game between agriculture and golf.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The valley's economy relies on the State Park. A large majority of the valley's visitors come for the park and the beauty of the desert. Large areas of the Park are affected by the large scale pumpers. Again, these agriculture and golf pumpers are using our water to make a profit off it at the expense of the ecology of the Park.

What it comes down to is most of our overdraft has been created from businesses using our water for their profit. The residents really need to be protected and still be able to have our present quality of life in the valley.

Thank you,
Bill Haneline