

May 18, 2019

County of San Diego
Planning & Development
% Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist
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San Diego CA 92123

PDS.groundwater@sdcountry.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Concerning the Borrego groundwater plan, it is apparent to me the State and County will basically arrogate unto themselves all the groundwater. This will be a violation of basic property rights extending deep into the history of the the USA. The reason for this action will be the popular will. People want what is not theirs. They want to have what others bought, inherited or earned through legitimate use.

Current water usage is measurable, and maybe we know how much is used. We can learn more and then decide what is a reasonable maximum allowable per year. The State and County can determine this usage and offer it for sale. Some kind of equitable limit, aimed at long-term stability, can be set and reset as the more information becomes available.

Since the State and the County will be deciding who gets the water, there must be a plan to allocate the amounts of water used. Based on the law of supply and demand, there will inevitably emerge an equilibrium price, a market price, if the users are required to bid dollar prices in a Dutch auction for water use units per year. Units would be fungible.

To my mind, imagining a market for water, there will be one primary beneficiary: the current owners of large water rights who will bid for water like everyone else. They will try to optimize their water use, will have money to spend and cash flow from compensation payments to sustain bidding.

Secondary beneficiaries will be small users, who will have incentives to pay a lot for small amounts of water. It is possible for households to cut water usage to low levels.

The intention of a market price system is to raise the cost of purchase, thus driving down usage.

Of course, assuming a high price, there will also be auxiliary providers, trucking water in to anyone willing to pay the price.

Borrego is a beautiful peaceful place to live and work. It has a future for agriculture and residential use if water is continuously available. It is in the County's interest to maintain population and business here.

Please adopt my plan for your solution.

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