

Bennett, Jim

From: BorregoSue <lakes138@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 5:43 PM
To: LUEG, GroundWater, PDS
Subject: Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin

To Jim Bennett,

As a Borrego Springs ratepayer I am concerned about the proposed GSP. Borrego Springs ground water supply has dropped drastically the past 30 years. Resident ratepayers use 10% of the water supply and have reduced their use over the last 10 years from 2400 acre feet/year to 1700 acre feet/year, but their water bills have increased 3 times. Agriculture uses 70% and golf courses 20% and neither have reduced water use appreciably. Therefore, REDUCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE PROPORTIONAL and should take into consideration our Severely Disadvantaged Community status. The municipal user allotment should be no less than 1700 af/yr.

MANDATORY METERING of all water users, including agriculture and golf courses must be part of the plan and implemented immediately on approval of the GSP.

Water quality is also of great concern as our water supply dwindles. Mandatory water quality monitoring of wells, including agriculture and golf courses must be included in the GSP.

Borrego Springs is a desert community that attracts many visitors and retirees. We benefit from the state park and all it offers, as well as a thriving arts community. When Jim Desmond came to town to promote the Borrego Springs Revitalization Committee there were great ideas but none of them will come to fruition unless the GSP enables people to continue to live here and maintain their businesses here. Municipal ratepayers must be treated fairly. Perhaps a solution is for the revitalization committee and the county staff assigned to it to first find a way to come up with the approximately 20 million dollars needed to buy out the farmers.

Susan Boutwell, Borrego Springs ratepayer