

## **Bennett, Jim**

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**From:** Elena Thompson <elenathompson@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 9:13 PM  
**To:** LUEG, GroundWater, PDS  
**Subject:** 4-29-19 Borrego Springs, CA., Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) - Public Comment

**Importance:** High

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/SGMA/borrego-valley.html>

By mail: County of San Diego Planning & Development Services  
C/O: Jim Bennett  
5510 Overland Avenue Suite 310  
San Diego, CA 92123

To Whom It May Concern,

Our public comment is as follows:

1. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment as a Borrego Springs resident, property owner and stakeholder, keen on seeing a stable and steady supply of potable residential water supply continue in our town.
2. In our view, the groundwater sustainability in Borrego Springs must be achieved before the mandated 2040 deadline seeing as Borrego Springs is in a "critical overdraft" situation TODAY (2019) and water is being used in a way by growers that fully risk depleting the entire water supply long before 2040.
3. Sustainability should be advanced to the earlier year of 2021, if not sooner.
4. Agricultural pumping of all water must begin to be measured starting in 2020 without exception. The agricultural sector is using 70% of all water in addition to polluting the water table with chemicals used in its operations. The growers/agricultural use in the valley poses the biggest risk to sustainability, both short and long term, and must totally stop in order to save the town of Borrego Springs and the ABD State Park.
5. The visuals and graphics in your presentation are shocking, to say the least. With plummeting water tables and water supply, deteriorating water quality, a radical approach must be taken immediately, now. No more waiting.
6. All water and wells must be protected and serviced to ensure potable drinking water and suitable water for residential use, without exception.
7. Municipal water supply must be the priority followed by golf courses (economic development). Agriculture is no longer sustainable in the Borrego Valley. Growers must go. Crops must be fallowed. There are few permanent jobs in this business. Those that are lost will find other opportunities in the valley.
8. Time is of the essence here. This matter has been studied over the decades without proper resolution as the aquifer continues to drop annually.
9. Residential real estate prices will all plummet without a reliable source of water. They have already been suppressed due to this ongoing and urgent crisis.
10. Stepped-up water conservation cannot increase amongst municipal users. These users cut back water usage years ago. There is no further opportunity for water reduction other than NOT to consume water or bathe. This is unacceptable.
11. Water increases cannot continue on municipal, residential users. Continual rate hikes are extremely harmful to municipal users, especially when growers get water for free and use 70% of it. It's unreasonable to expect municipal users to subsidize the growers and be punished with higher rates for unlimited grower usage, depleting the aquifer of its precious water supply.

Respectfully,

Elena & John Thompson  
Residents and property owners, Borrego Springs  
4-29-19