

## **A Comment to the Borrego Water District Board and San Diego County**

As a ratepayer very interested in the water situation, I would like to state the following: First, I appreciate the Borrego Water District Board has an important and challenging task to ensure that the ratepayers in the community are well served. I also appreciate they are efforting to do what they think is best.

With SGMA, there is the need to come up with an acceptable plan in the relatively near future to resolve the aquifer's critical overdraft. This is, of course, challenging.

The data are clear: Ratepayers, who use only about 10% of the water, have made significant reductions in their water use in the recent past.

It is also clear that Agriculture has overwhelmingly been the major pumper consuming approximately 70% of the water, thus principally causing the overdraft. Furthermore, agriculture's water use in recent decades has increased.

I am not privy to meetings between the BWD Board, Ag representatives and the recreational water use representatives. There has been very little disclosure as to what has been and is transpiring. However, from what I have learned to date, I do not believe that ratepayers' wishes are being well represented at these meetings.

Whereas it is understood we all have to reduce our water use to deal with the problem and the demands of SGMA, I and many of the ratepayers I have spoken with, feel that the ratepayers should not be asked to reduce the same proportional amount as the Ag people who through their 70% use of the water have been a principal cause of the problem.

If ratepayers were to reduce 45-50% instead of 75% as has been rumored, we would appreciably increase the water available to us... and would need to purchase less in the future. Further, that increase of 25- 30% would have relatively little impact on the available water for the 20-30 Ag pumpers.

Three additional comments: 1. Clearly, the aquifer is severely stressed. The sooner Ag is made to reduce their intense pumping the better it is for preserving water quality and quantity.

2. In addition, every effort must be made to create some rules to limit hoarding. Without rules, it is conceivable certain interests with deep pockets could purchase excessive amounts of water.

3. It has been suggested it will be very expensive to refurbish and maintain the existing water infrastructure in the future. The BWD Board suggests that money will be available to buy whatever water we need in the future AND to maintain the aging infrastructure. Yet no clear plan has been articulated as to where this money will come from.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Respectfully,

Saul L. Miller Ph.D.

## **Bennett, Jim**

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**From:** Dr.Saul L.Miller <drmiller@saulmiller.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 9:04 AM  
**To:** LUEG, GroundWater, PDS  
**Subject:** Borrego Springs significant overdraft (SGMA)  
**Attachments:** A Comment to the Board of the Borrego Water District.docx

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