

County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
c/o Mr. Jim Bennett
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

May 17, 2019

EXPRESS U. S. MAIL

Re: Borrego Springs Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have been a Borrego Springs snowbird and BWD ratepayer for 30 years. I have a small home at Rams Hill. Though I appreciate and use the golf courses in Borrego, including the ones Rams Hill and Borrego Springs Resort, I am concerned about the water overdraft caused primarily by extensive citrus farming and golfing in Borrego.

We ratepayers have reduced our use over the last 10 years from some 2700 acre feet/year to 1700 acre feet/year and in the process have seen their water bills increase three times! I have served on the board of my neighborhood association during the same period of time, and our neighborhood association has gone to great effort to significantly reduce landscaping water use. **Neither agriculture nor golf courses have significantly reduced their water usage.**

Change is hard but we must all work together as a community to save Borrego Springs. I attended as many of the ratepayer meetings as I could when I was in Borrego this year. I agree completely with the four well stated and well documented concerns, beliefs and objectives of the group led by Gary Haldeman:

- BWD/Ratepayers should be allocated an initial minimum of 1700 AFY; this allocation should be excluded from any further reductions.
- The 20-year implementation period set out under SGMA should be shortened.
- Water quality should be addressed immediately, and if/when water quality issues are determined, the parties responsible are held to account for any remediation that might be necessary.
- GDEs must be considered in the overall water allocation calculus.

BPA's are one of the most important elements in the implementation process. The timeframe in the GSP – 2010 to the end of 2014 – is the worst possible interval for BWD ratepayers. BWD began reducing its usage in 2003, when it pumped 3926 AF and has responsibly reduced its water usage to 1700 now. During this same period of water reductions by BWD, water storage in the basin was reduced by approximately 160,000 AF. The only conclusion possible is that farms and golf courses are responsible for the overdraft. **Thus, choosing 2010-2015 as the baseline years to determine unquestionably favors farmers and golf courses over the ratepayers and is patently unfair, arbitrary and manipulative.**

I respectfully request that:

- **BWD/Ratepayers be allocated an initial minimum of 1700 AFY and that this allocation not be further reduced**
- **The 20-year implementation period be shortened**
- **Water quality be addressed immediately**
- **Consideration be given to GDEs in the overall water allocation.**

Sincerely,



Mary Susan Leahy
9 McKinley Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2700

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