

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

May 14, 2019

Ref: Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin
Borrego Springs Sub-basin

Dear Mr. Bennett;

I am a year-round resident of Borrego Springs, and I really appreciate your hard and long work in crafting the GSP. I would like to share with you some of my main concerns for our town. Water, water, and water!

The Borrego Valley aquifer has been drastically over-drafted for many years. We must comply with state law, the California Groundwater Sustainability Act, and come into compliance by 2040. Current and historic water use in the basin has been as follows:

- Municipal pumpers (Borrego Water District) - 10%
- Recreational pumpers (Golf courses) - 20%
- Agricultural pumpers (Citrus, palm trees, herb and vegetable farms) - 70%

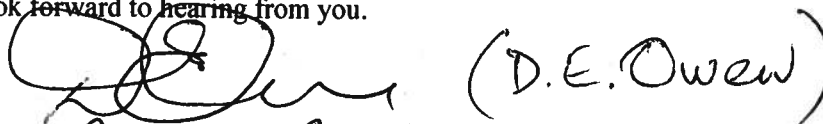
The current Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) seems to recommend an across the board reduction of 74%, which would maintain the current distribution percentages. The residential water use has already been cut from a reported historic high of 3500 acre feet/year to the current level of 1700 acre feet/year, a cut of 50%. Our community has done this through the conscious effort of removing fountains and swimming pools, grass and water intensive landscaping, and converting to low-flow toilets.

The recreational and agricultural users have been slow or completely unwilling to make similar reductions, continuing to deplete our aquifer. Clearly the major contributor to the aquifer overdraft has been and continues to be agriculture. Although agriculture has been an important part of our community, it is unreasonable to assume that farming should continue to use 70% of the allocated water.

Therefore, we have identified some objectives that must be included in the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

- The municipal allotment should be no less than the 1700 acre feet/year which is currently being used by the BWD. This is our only source of drinking water, which should be a priority for our community. This would allow for some limited growth of homes and businesses.
- We believe that sustainability should be achieved sooner than the mandated 20 year period. The sooner we can become sustainable, the better chance we have to maintain the water quality of our aquifer. This will also have a beneficial impact on some of the endangered ecosystems in the basin.

I look forward to hearing from you.

 (D.E. Owen)
Robert A. Owen (R.A. Owen) 5-25-2019

Dr. R. Owen
P.O. Box 1666
Borrego Springs
CA 92004

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2019

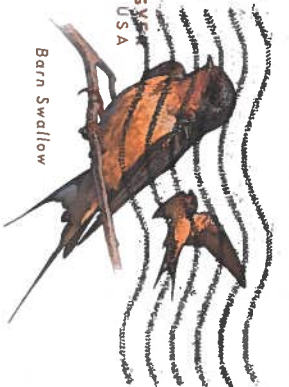
Planning Services
Development Services

SAN DIEGO, CA 920

28 MAY 2019 PM 2 10

USA

Barn Swallow



County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services,
c/o Jim Benet
550 Diezland Avenue, Suite 30
San Diego, CA 92123

925381233 0001

