

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;

As the Ratepayer Representative for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan we've drafted under SGMA, a plan currently under public review, I'd like to briefly outline what we, the ratepayers of Borrego Springs, wish to see implemented in our process towards water sustainability:

- We, the ratepayers, who use 10% of the water available in the basin and are the only pumpers who have reduced our water usage significantly over these last few years. We therefore believe that the burden of all mandatory reductions should fall proportionately on the other pumpers in the valley. BWD should be allocated a minimum of 1700 AFY as soon as implementation is to begin.
- We strongly believe that a 20-year implementation period is much too long. Our aquifer has already dropped dramatically over the last 30 years. Prolonging this implementation can only affect the quality of our water and the cost of its extraction.
- The valley's native flora and fauna communities have been severely affected as a result of the long-term overdraft of the basin. In order to preserve the remaining ecosystems, two things must happen: first, there must be a set-aside for them; and second, the implementation period must be drastically shortened so as to ensure the survival of the remaining communities.

Although I do know that the position taken by the GSA is that proportional reductions and a 20-year implementation period, along with a hands-off position regarding GDEs, are currently the intended approaches to the GSP, what I would like to hear from you is, if you were in our shoes, what Projects and Management Actions would you utilize, and how would you go about implementing the above four objectives we, the ratepayers, wish to see implemented.

Thank you so much for your unrelenting efforts over these last few years. The GSP for the Borrego Basin is truly a benchmark piece of work that has laid the groundwork for all future efforts towards implementing the sustainable use the groundwater in our valley.

Best regards,

  
WILLIAM E. BENNETT

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