



# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
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June 23, 2020

Geoff Poole  
General Manager  
Borrego Water District  
806 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Delivery via E-Mail  
([geoff@borregowd.org](mailto:geoff@borregowd.org))

## **Watermaster Board Appointment Notification – Borrego Springs Subbasin**

Dear Mr. Poole:

The County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) held a hearing on June 3, 2020 to determine the level of County participation in groundwater management of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). Based on Board direction, this letter serves as notification of the County's intent to participate on the Watermaster Board along with a representative and alternate from each of the following: Borrego Springs community, municipal sector, agricultural sector, and golf courses.

On January 31, 2020, the Borrego Water District (BWD) filed a stipulated agreement in the Superior Court of California (Court) to comprehensively adjudicate groundwater rights in the Basin. Subsequently, BWD provided the stipulated agreement to the California Department of Water Resources to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Included in the stipulated agreement is a proposed Watermaster Board that will be tasked with ensuring that water is allocated according to the established water rights as determined by the Court. It is understood that the parties to the stipulated agreement have requested County participation on the Watermaster Board.

Consistent with Board action and as requested by the parties to the stipulated agreement, the County hereby appoints the Planning & Development Services Water Resources Manager as the County Representative on the Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster Board. At this time, the County Water Resources Manager is Jim Bennett. Leanne Crow, Sr. Hydrogeologist, will serve as the alternate.

The Board further directed staff to limit the County's liability and strengthen the indemnification as necessary for the Watermaster Board participation. While County staff discuss indemnification with the stipulating parties, County appointees will attend Interim Watermaster Board meetings that have already commenced. However, County appointees

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will abstain from Watermaster Board voting that implements substantive measures of the stipulated agreement, related draft judgment, or impact non-stipulating parties unless and until the Court issues a judgment for the Basin or approves groundwater management by the Watermaster Board. Additionally, County appointees are not authorized to make binding decisions on the County and may abstain from voting on items deemed to conflict with their roles as County employees. Contact information for the County appointees is provided below:

Representative

Jim Bennett  
Water Resources Manager  
County of San Diego  
Planning & Development Services  
5510 Overland Avenue, Third Floor  
San Diego, CA 92123  
[Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Alternate

Leanne Crow  
Sr. Hydrogeologist  
County of San Diego  
Planning & Development Services  
5510 Overland Avenue, Third Floor  
San Diego, CA 92123  
[Leanne.Crow@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Leanne.Crow@sdcounty.ca.gov)

The County looks forward to continued cooperation and collaboration with BWD, the Watermaster Board, and the entire Borrego Springs community to successfully implement SGMA and sustainably manage the Basin. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jim Bennett, Water Resources Manager, at (858-694-3820).

Sincerely,



MARK WARDLAW, Director  
Planning & Development Services

cc. (via E-Mail)

Jim Bennett (County) [Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Leanne Crow (County) [Leanne.Crow@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Leanne.Crow@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Justin Crumley (County Counsel) [Justin.Crumley@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Justin.Crumley@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Steven Anderson (BWD Counsel) [Steve.Anderson@bbklaw.com](mailto:Steve.Anderson@bbklaw.com)  
Dave Duncan (WM Municipal Representative) [dave@borregowd.org](mailto:dave@borregowd.org)  
Kathy Dice (WM Alternate Municipal Representative) [kathy@borregowd.org](mailto:kathy@borregowd.org)  
Mark Jorgensen (WM Community Representative) [mjorgensen1951@gmail.com](mailto:mjorgensen1951@gmail.com)  
Martha Deichler (WM Alternate Community Representative) [mdeichler@bsusd.net](mailto:mdeichler@bsusd.net)  
Shannon Smith (WM Golf Course Representative) [SSmith@considinecos.com](mailto:SSmith@considinecos.com)  
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