

Bennett, Jim

From: Pat Hall <path@told.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2019 4:30 PM
To: LUEG, GroundWater, PDS
Subject: RE: Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Attachments: Borrego Valley Water Basin .pdf

County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

c/o: Jim Bennett

I am the owner of a home located at Borrego Air Ranch, 2756 Airstrip Borrego CA, 92004. The owner's association has had much discussion about the Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan(GPS) and I would like to get my comments and thoughts on the record.

There are several issues that are on all our minds however, there are two major ones I wish to address in this email. First is the fact that the Air Ranch water levels have remained stable for the entire time we have been monitoring them, which is more than half a century. The other issue is that we are already a very efficient community from a water conservation standpoint.

As to my first point regarding our stable water levels in our water wells, I will quote one of the knowledgeable resources on the valley's water issues, John Peterson, "Water levels don't lie". His comments maintain that the water levels in the Northern Borrego Basin are being impacted by over usage, which has resulted in dramatic overdraft and therefore the change in water well depths. However, if you look at all the facts, the Borrego Air Ranch, which you can see by the attached diagram, is located downstream from the Northern Borrego basin as well as the Borrego sink. Therefore, any change in our usage will not impact water levels upstream. This is evidenced by the fact that our water levels have remained stable while the Northern Borrego basin continues to be depleted. If there

was an interaction between the Borrego Air Ranch location and the community of Borrego Springs, logic would dictate that we would have seen some change in our water levels over the years. It has been stated by a few who have studied this issue that the southern basin has either a different source or is so far removed from the northern basin that it would take hundreds of years for any draw down in the Southern Borrego basin to impact the Northern Borrego basin.

For the record the following is the complete quote from Mr. Peterson: "Water levels don't lie. It is comparable and equivalent to looking at your banking account, and seeing whether or not you've got more money coming out of your account than going in. That's an overdraft and the balance is going down," Peterson said. "We're pumping out a lot more water than is being naturally recharged."

This condition is clearly not the case for the Borrego Air Ranch. Therefore, I request that you not include us in your GSP recovery plan. We are not part of the problem and therefore any change in our current usage will not impact the required solution.

As to my second point, we are already an efficient community when it comes to water usage. We don't have lush lawns or tree orchards. All the homes have very modest desert landscaping. Therefore, the only way we can cut back our usage further would be to significantly change our lifestyle and personal hygiene. By forcing a cutback to the level that has been suggested, the GPS will make our properties potentially uninhabitable, destroy our community as well as the value of our property.

If this plan, as we understand it, is implemented throughout the Borrego Springs area the community will sustain significant damage. A more reasoned approach would be to move the agriculture users to a location that can provide the water they need, and require the recreational users install gray water recycling systems that will allow continued watering of their golf courses. These two actions alone would prevent overdraft of the basin.

If you move forward with the plan to reduce the usage by all categories equally, this will not only destroy the future growth of Borrego Valley, It will most certainly negatively impact the current economic renewal that Borrego Springs is experiencing.

Best Regards,

V. PAT HALL

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