

Ratepayer Gathering Notes

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 The Arches at Borrego Springs Resort 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**In attendance: Mitch Mossay, Hans Hoeffler, Jennifer Edwards, Lee Scharf
Roger Ries, Ray Shindler, Laara Maxwell, Saul Miller, Gary Haldeman**

These will be brief notes and commentary that lead to our plan to craft a Ratepayer Position Statement that addresses five principal Ratepayer Concerns:

- Minimum Water Allocation (MWA) of 1700 AFY
- Quick implementation of water reduction plan
- Water quality
- Encourage BWD to immediately locate funds to purchase more water
- Protecting the basin's GDEs (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems)

Also, at the end of this note, I'll post questions, comments raised that need further consideration.

I want to thank all of you for a lively, productive session; I realize how difficult it can be to open up among folks we are not familiar with. Think we managed to leap over this hurdle.

- Although I still believe 1700 AFY is a good starting point, this group generally feels that a higher figure is a better choice as it leaves us some room to negotiate.
- All in agreement that an implementation period of less than 20 years is important.
- We are concerned about water quality, but there are questions that need to be answered about contaminants in the N portion of the aquifer, and concerns about the arsenic issue in the S portion.
- Did not spend much time talking about the purchase of additional water.
- The issue of GDEs seems to be a special interest, although there were a few stories of how the mesquite bosque has disappeared.

Comments & Questions:

- How will we – the Ratepayers – be able to influence the outcome of the GSP?
- It would appear that BWD has not been very supportive of the Ratepayers in this process.
- We believe that all pumpers should be metered, including De Minimis pumpers, to ensure they are not exceeding the 2 AFY max.
- The perceived threat of a lawsuit should not enter into the calculus or the decision-making process.