

Ratepayer Gathering Notes

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

The Library – Letter-writing campaign

In attendance: Jim Roller, Bill Bonnell, Heather Davidson, Jennie Edwards, Gary Edwards, Lee Scharf, Ray Shindler, Ginger Dunlap-Dietz

Our four main concerns, beliefs, objectives:

- We believe that BWD/Ratepayers should be allocated an initial **minimum** of 1700 AFY; this allocation should be excluded from any reductions.
- We believe that the 20-year implementation period set out under SGMA should be shortened; by doing so:
 - we will greatly increase the probability of reasonably priced water of better quality –ongoing monitoring for water quality is essential for our population;
 - we will minimize the ongoing decimation of our groundwater dependent ecosystems, which consist of flora and fauna whose success must be considered in the overall water allocation calculus.

Future scheduled meetings:

Thursday, May 23 5-6:00 pm The Library **Jim Wermers**

Wednesday, May 29 5-6:00 pm The Library **Joint BWD-Ratepayer meeting**

So, my current tally of letters to Jim Bennett on the Draft GSP is 29, but I know there were more. Please drop me a line to let me know you sent a letter; I think it will ultimately be important to have this figure, just as it will to have the figures for our future letters.

Thanks so much for taking this on. Together we will ultimately make an important difference to the future of Borrego Springs. In this venture, every voice, every letter, every meeting attended, every conversation had with your neighbor will count.

Important dates:

Tuesday, May 21 was the last day of the Draft GSP Public Review Period.

Today, **May 23**, marks the last day of the three-day public auction of the Borrego Springs Resort (I hear there was lots of interest, but have no details. If you do, please share. Following will be the Due Diligence period, which I believe is 30 days. We should know something by the third week in June, if not sooner.)

Wednesday, May 29 is the Joint BWD-Ratepayer meeting here in the library. This will be an important meeting: the BWD attorney (Anderson) and finance person (?) will be present to answer any questions we may/should have. Will send out suggestions about prepping for this meeting in a few days ... any suggestions, please send them my way and I'll add them to the e-mail I send out.

This gathering focused on the last ditch effort to get as many folks to write to Jim Bennett as possible. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to recruit people at the RR Club, from a couple of other organizations in town, some of your neighbors, and the Rickards as well, who wrote from Ireland.

There are two more phases to our campaign:

Letters to BWD – will draw up a sample letter and ask those of you who were involved in our first letter-writing gathering to work on a letter as well. More details to follow this weekend.

Letters to government officials – will probably schedule the last summer meeting the second week in June to gather our thoughts and formulate a summer strategy, which will involve more letters.