

## Ratepayer Gathering Notes

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019 Library Community Room - 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**In attendance: Jim Roller, Linda Roller, Jack Sims, Joanne Sims, L. Chan, Lee Scharf, Ray Schindler, Tony Rutigliano**

These notes consist of reflections on the gathering and, most probably, an incomplete recollection of the issues discussed, but with a focus on our ultimate goal: **Ratepayer statements, to be submitted to the GSA during the Review Period, concerning our view as to how the GSP should address our particular concerns**

Following are our four main concerns and beliefs:

- We believe that BWD/Ratepayers should be allocated an initial **minimum** of 1700 AFY
- We believe that the 20-year implementation period set out by SGMA should be shortened significantly
- We believe that water quality is an important concern and should be addressed immediately
- We believe that the GDEs (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems) should be considered in the overall calculus

### Future scheduled meetings:

Wednesday, March 6	5-6:00 pm	The Library	1700 AFY Minimum Water Allocation
Thursday, March 14	5-6:00 pm	The American Legion	Shortening implementation period
Wednesday, March 20	5-6:00 pm	The Library	Water quality concerns
Wednesday, March 27	4:30 - 5:30 pm	Rams Hill Restaurant	Provisions made to protect GDEs

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We covered a lot of ground at this meeting and came up with a few important matters. First, as you'll see, per my suggestion to drop the "fundraising" item from our list, we're now at four issues we want implemented in the GSP.

Please note that each of our four March meetings is dedicated to one of these four issues. My hope is that each one of you will come prepared to present your reason for supporting the item at that meeting. If you cannot attend, please e-mail me a brief statement, preferable in the form of bullet points, relating your reasoning as to why this matter is fair and right.

So, for example, with respect to your belief that BWD/Ratepayers should be allocated an initial minimum of 1700 AFY, you might say:

- Ratepayers have already reduced their consumption of water from an historical average of 3500 to a current 1700 AFY. In addition, the ratepayer is now paying in the neighborhood of three times what water cost just a few years ago. It stands to reason and is fair that the Ratepayers should not undergo any further reductions.

We all have our own beliefs about this. Please provide one or two reasons of your own so that I can represent you when I draft the letter on this item to the GSA.

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One question raised during the meeting involved increased water usage by BWD during the peak snowbird season: How does this affect our ability to handle the increased usage? Our current usage reflects this increase so that the 1700 AFY includes year-round and seasonal usages.

Another interesting suggestion, probably one that should be addressed further and, perhaps, outside of the realm of our current efforts, is that our local tamarisk population could be removed and partially replaced with native mesquite.

In general terms, we reviewed SGMA, the GSA and GSP; spoke briefly about the process involved in drafting the Plan, and where we stand now regarding the Plan.

The Draft GSP should be completed at some point in March. We all will be able to access it through the BWD website (<http://www.bvgsp.org/>) Once the draft is out, there will be a 60 day review period, during which we will submit our four points, separately, in writing. The GSP then will provide a response to each one of our questions/comments within this period of 60 days.