

Ratepayer Gathering Notes

Friday, March 1, 2019

Jack & Joanne Sims' home

In attendance: Jack Sims, Joanne Sims, Hugh Dietz, Judy Haldeman, Rex Burrows, Gretchen Grawunder, Betty Feathers, Chan, Heather Davidson

These notes consist of reflections on the gathering and, most probably, an incomplete recollection of the issues discussed, some matters that occurred to me after the gathering, but all with a focus on our ultimate goals: *First: Ratepayer statements, to be submitted to the GSA during the Review Period, concerning our view as to how the GSP should incorporate our particular concerns* *Second: Our ongoing efforts to ensure the implementation of these four objectives once the GSP process begins.*

Following are our four main concerns, beliefs, objectives:

- We believe that BWD/Ratepayers should be allocated an initial **minimum** of 1700 AFY
- We believe that the 20-year implementation period set out under SGMA should be significantly shortened
- We believe that water quality is an essential concern, it should be addressed immediately, and if water quality issues are determined, the parties responsible are held to account for any remediation that might be necessary
- We believe that the GDEs (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems) must be considered in the overall water allocation 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
Wednesday, April 3	5-6:00 pm	The Library	
Wednesday, April 10	5-6:00 pm	The Library	
Wednesday, April 17	5-6:00 pm	The Library	
Wednesday, April 24	5-6:00 pm	The Library	

First, thanks so much Jack and Joanne for arranging this gathering and sharing your home with us. The venue was perfect, the food and beverages excellent, and the company, even better.

Spent the first part of the gathering describing the history and purpose of the SGMA process, and defining such things as GSA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency,) GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan,) and SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) itself.

We discussed Rams Hill's approach of purchasing three farms to mitigate their assigned reduction under SGMA, and how RH is in a unique situation given that there are both pumpers and ratepayers under its umbrella.

There was clear agreement that BWD should be purchasing land/water now, and probably should have been doing so as soon as the GSA was formed. How is it that Rams Hill figured this out and BWD did not? Why have we not heard clearly and loudly from BWD that they are in the process of raising funds, negotiating with the farmers, and actually purchasing land/water. We ask BWD to be more transparent.

Gretchen raised the matter of writing letters to our government representatives. We'll get together at some point to work on a letter-writing campaign.

Our District 5 Supervisor is **Jim Desmond**: <mailto:Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov>

And his website is: <http://www.supervisorjimdesmond.com/>

Phone: 619-531-5555

Senator **Kamala Harris**

<https://www.harris.senate.gov/contact>

Phone: 202-224-3553

Senator **Dianne Feinstein**

<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me>

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Brian Jones 38th Senate District

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Randy Voepel, 71st Assembly District

<https://ad71.asmrc.org/>

Duncan Hunter, 50th Congressional District

<https://hunter.house.gov/>

Hugh also raised an interesting and compelling idea to add to our narrative in support of the 1700AFY. We have so far argued that an important factor in the way we have handled our water usage is the fact that we have for a number of years now sought ways to be better stewards of our water by finding ways to reduce our personal use. Our intention is to continue to do so. We are now using 1700AFY, we can probably use less over time as we continue to find ways to do so. This will be part of our narrative: it reflects our beliefs and our practices as well.

Please go to the BWD website (<http://www.bvgsp.org/>), click on the Ratepayer Gathering tab, and access schedules and notes from each gathering.

Please follow upcoming issues of the Borrego Sun. We will be featured in various ways. Your concerns will now be a regular part of our local paper.

Thanks again for your involvement. Come to our meetings. Voice your concerns. Help us further clarify and draft our objectives. Bring a friend to the next gathering.