

Ratepayer Gathering Notes

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 The American Legion - 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

In attendance: Laara Maxwell, Robert Gazerro, Mary Watkins, Lee Scharf

These notes consist of reflections on the gathering and, most probably, incomplete recollection of the issues discussed, with a focus on our ultimate goal: a **Ratepayer Statement of Concerns and Beliefs**.

Following are our five main concerns and beliefs as expressed so far

- 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
- We are concerned about water quality
- We are concerned and would like information about the fundraising efforts being undertaken for land/water purchases
- We are concerned about how the GDEs (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems) will be addressed in the Plan

Future scheduled meetings:

Tuesday, February 19. 5-6:00 pm. Library Community Room

Wednesday, March 6 5-6:00 pm. Library Community Room

Wednesday, March 20 5-6:00 pm. Library Community Room

Less well attended than I had hoped, but we nevertheless had a lively discussion that took us through the hour without a problem.

We continue to debate the matter of the AFY we want to propose as our minimum initial allocation. Although 1700 is the number we started with – my suggestion based on current BWD water usage – there are legitimate reasons for standing behind a larger number. 2400 AFY is one

figure, a number the Sponsor Group presented to the AC on December 31, 2017.¹ Currently, it appears that the BPA (Baseline Pumping Allocation) for BWD will be closer to 2100 AFY.

A key point regarding the BPA is that once reductions begin, they begin from this baseline figure; thus, in our case (BWD/Ratepayers,) if proportional reductions are instituted, BWD will begin its annual 4% reduction in water use from this point. Since our current usage is 1700 AFY, we would see no immediate effect from the reduction; but as you can appreciate, the reductions will catch up with us once the reductions have brought us down to 1700 AFY.

It is becoming clearer, as we march on, that our top priority is BWD fundraising, and that this take place immediately and be ongoing until sufficient funds have been raised to ensure the sustainability and modest growth of our community (Ratepayers.)

Robert has agreed to bring this matter up with Geoff.

Have asked those in attendance to:

1. For each one of our five concerns/beliefs write out the reasons you believe that support them.
2. Promote our meetings in every possible, and please bring a friend/neighbor to the next one.

Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group
P.O. Box 1371
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

December 31, 2017

Advisory Committee, Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Borrego Springs

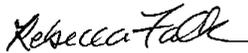
Dear Members & Core Team,

The Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group would like the representatives for the Agricultural Sector to show good faith toward the town of Borrego Springs by agreeing at the January 25, 2018 meeting that the Municipal Sector of water users in the Borrego Valley will have no reductions made from the Municipal Baseline Water Allocation when reductions in water use are agreed to under the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. This would mean that the Municipal Sector's Baseline Pumping Allocation (estimated at 2461 acre ft/year as the highest year use in the five year period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014 in Dudek's, "Working Draft Technical Memorandum", Table 1, p. 2, in the November 2017 AC-GSP agenda packet) would be both the assumed beginning allocation for the Municipal sector before scheduling of deductions in water use are made, and also that with zero deductions of water for Municipal pumping, that same number of acre feet per year (approximately 2461 af/yr) would be the amount of water allowed to be pumped by the Borrego Water District after all deductions are made by all sectors under the Groundwater Sustainability Plan in order to reach basin-wide sustainability. The water the town needs to survive would therefore be assured under the GSP as a step prior to reductions in water use that would be scheduled for the remaining sectors of agricultural and recreational pumpers.

As the representative from the Sponsor Group to the GSP Advisory Committee, I brought up for a vote at the December 7, 2017 Sponsor Group meeting the method for calculating the Baseline Pumping Allocation proposed at the November GSP meeting. The Sponsor Group refused to consider this without first mandating that I ask the Agricultural Sector to agree to the statements in the above paragraph to show the Agricultural Sector's good faith in wanting Borrego Springs to continue as a viable community with room for modest growth, since that community will be threatened by a reduced water allocation and costs of water should water have to be purchased from other sectors. The Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group unanimously expressed its strongly held view that the Municipal Sector of residences and businesses who receive their water from the Borrego Water District cannot have any reductions, and should not have to bear the cost of fixing a water overdraft primarily caused by agricultural over-use of water.

As tasked by the Sponsor Group, I will be challenging the Agricultural Sector representatives at the next AC meeting to show their sector's goodwill and support for the continuance of the town of Borrego Springs by agreeing that zero Municipal pumping reductions from the Municipal Baseline Water Allocation will be made in the plans to bring our basin into sustainable use.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Falk

Representative to the GSP Advisory Committee for the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group