

Borrego Water Coalition Meeting

July 11, 2013

8:00 – 12:00

Borrego Chamber of Commerce

Attendees

Agricultural Representatives –	Dennis Jensen - Oasis Ranch Management Company Jim Seley – AAWARE, Seley Ranches Mike Seley – Seley Ranches Ryan Hall – Borrego Farms
Recreation -	Jim Wermers – De Anza Country Club Dan Wright – Road Runner Club Bill Berkley - Rams Hill Golf Course Jim Moxham – Borrego Springs Resort Derek Downey – La Casa del Zorro Resort and Spa
BWD & District Ratepayers -	Beth Hart – BWD Board Member Lyle Brecht – BWD Board Member Jerry Rolwing – BWD
School District -	Martha Deichler – Borrego Spring Unified School District
Commercial Businesses -	Linda Haddock – Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Watershed and Desert Ecosystems -	Kathy Dice – Anza Borrego State Park Ralph Singer – Anza Borrego Foundation
San Diego County -	Jim Bennett, Staff Geologist
CA Dept of Water Resources -	Laura Peters, Senior Engineer, WR

General Business

The June meeting notes were approved without additional comments. The notes will be finalized and posted on the website, along with the November 29, 2012 notes.

A press release will be developed based on the BWC accomplishments to date in an effort to keep the community abreast of BWC status and activities.

June 19 Adjudication Workshop

Several BWC members attended the June 19 workshop sponsored by the Save Our Aquifer Coalition (SOAC). Thomas Bunn, III, an attorney specializing in adjudication from the law firm Lagerlof, Senecal, Gosney, & Kruse, explained the adjudication process. Adjudication is the legal process by which a court reviews evidence set forth by parties using groundwater to come to a decision that determines rights and obligations among the parties involved. This court-directed process can be lengthy and costly, or resolved with a court-approved negotiated settlement among water users themselves.

By California law, managed basins must have a means for fairly allocating costs among all users of the basin. Adjudication is just one means to accomplish this fair allocation of costs among all users of the basin that is in overdraft.

UCI Update

Members of the BWC participated in a scoping session at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) on June 14. The UCI team is now in the process of drafting the National Science Foundation (NSF) proposal and will circulate to the BWC in August for review and comment prior to submission to the NSF by September 10th.

All BWC members present signed a letter in of support of the UCI-NSF proposal.

Groundwater Management Plan

The BWC members unanimously agreed to participate as the Policy Committee in the formal public process to update the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin groundwater management plan (GWMP) developed in a public stakeholder process, approved by the Borrego Water District (BWD) Board in 2002 and accepted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a qualifying AB3030 GWMP. This update and policy work will begin in earnest in September. One possibility for funding this effort is to apply for a grant with the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.

There was discussion about the need to develop a vision of what the community will look like when the basin is in equilibrium. It was noted that the County's changing interpretations of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) building standards for the floodplain may impact future growth scenarios.

Action Items

1. Beth will finalize the press release.
2. Linda will circulate information about the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.
3. Laura will contact Steve Macauley for recommendations on advisors other than Tom Bunn who may have experience establishing GWM authorities and funding implementation of plans to manage a groundwater basin other than through adjudication means.
4. BWD members will discuss the BWC's interest to participate in the public process to update the 2002 GWMP at the BWD Board meeting in August and ask if the BWD Board is willing to hold the required public hearing on this intent to update the 2002 GWMP at one of their September Board meetings.
5. Laura will find out the status of the GWMP guidance document and post if available.
6. Jim B. will look into the floodplain requirements and how they may impact development in the Valley.