

Borrego Water Coalition.txt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: New Borrego Water Coalition has been formed, Borrego Springs, CA (March 21, 2013)

Growing concern over groundwater use in the Borrego Valley exceeding groundwater replacement from rain and runoff known as overdrafting has united major stakeholders toward a common goal of a locally managed and sustainable water supply.

BORREGO SPRINGS, CA (March 21, 2013): Last fall, staff from the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) met with a number of significant water users in Borrego Valley and encouraged the groups to meet to determine whether a coalition could be formed to find common ground to address the overdraft. The message from DWR was clear, in order to maintain local control of Borrego's water supply, all major stakeholder groups must participate in a collaborative process or there would be little hope for federal, state, or local assistance to reverse the declining trend of the groundwater basin.

Local leaders from the Chamber of Commerce, agriculture, Borrego Water District, education, golf, lodging, State Park and recreation agreed to participate in an open and nonjudgmental dialog with the goal of finding common ground toward sustaining the Valley's water supply. The DWR agreed to facilitate the meetings and arranged for presentations by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, DWR and the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development Services to further clarify the state of the Valley groundwater basin.

The newly named Borrego Water Coalition (BWC) members agree there is an overdraft, and intend for their findings and recommendations to be made public in the near future for widening stakeholder and interested party involvement. The DWR agrees to continue supporting the BWC as long as there is measurable progress. A memorandum of understanding is beginning to take shape, different mechanisms and other regions water management strategies are being reviewed, and expert advice continues to be sought out without bias.

A wonderful coming together for a common goal: Water for the future!

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