

BORREGO WATER DISTRICT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE OVERDRAFT

ESTIMATED ANNUAL WITHDRAWALS

Category of Withdrawal	Percent Usage	Business-as-Usual Withdrawals (acre-feet/year)
For agricultural purposes	70%	14,000
For recreational purposes	20%	4,000
For residential purposes	10%	2,000
Total annual withdrawals		20,000

What the charts illustrate is that if the overdraft continues at about 16,100 acre-feet/year (total withdrawals beyond the average natural recharge rate), then the present estimate for the dewatering of the upper aquifer of the basin by around 50-years from now may likely reflect a probable reality.

DATA	VALUE	SOURCE
What are the average annual withdrawals from the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin	20,000 acre-feet/year [af/y] (April 7, 2010 Town Hall meeting USGS presentation of preliminary data).	This will be presented in the final USGS report.
At present annual withdrawal rates, approximately how many years before the upper aquifer is dewatered?	50 years, subject to many variables* (April 7, 2010 Town Hall meeting USGS presentation of preliminary data). The final report will discuss this estimate in detail.	*Variables include: water quality changes, well depth, well density, fallowing of agricultural land, golf course water conservation, crop prices, etc.
What is the average annual recharge rate of the basin?	4,800 af/y (April 7, 2010 Town Hall meeting USGS presentation of preliminary data).	This will be presented in the final USGS report.
What is the groundwater flow out of the basin?	The simulated groundwater underflow out of the basin is 900 acre-ft per year.	This will be presented in the final USGS report.
How long has the basin been in overdraft (rates of ground water extraction exceed rates of recharge)?	The basin has been in overdraft since 1945 and continues to be in overdraft today. The 1982 USGS report indicated an overdraft of, on average, 9,400 af/y between 1945-1980.	January 26, 1993 letter from David Huntley, PhD., San Diego State University Department of Geological Sciences to John Peterson, San Diego County Planning Department

Strategy of Previous General Manager & Board to Address the Overdraft circa 2008-2010:

- The technical water management projects undertaken by the previous General Manager and Board of Directors largely focused on imported water programs, not on the management of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin. These included: (1) focusing the United States Geological Survey (USGS) work on storage programs rather than on the optimization of the existing water source, (2) participating in a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) investigation of imported water and storage opportunities, (3) development of the Clark Lake water source and (4) designing a pipeline to Highway 78 to access potential groundwater sources from the San Felipe Creek drainage system. Some of these projects were funded by grants and some were paid directly from BWD reserves.
- The 2002 Groundwater Management Plan's directive to fallow agricultural lands was implemented by purchasing agricultural lands to fallow to create water credits for resale to developers. \$1,000,000 has been spent; approximately \$6,500,000 obligated or promised.

Proposed Strategy of Present Board to Address the Overdraft - as of March 2011:

The present Board is currently investigating a new strategy to address the overdraft that is based solidly on California water law and that includes the following objectives:

- Return the District to fiscal stability and creditworthiness by January 31, 2013. This is absolutely necessary to implement any strategy to address the overdraft;
- Determine the various viable legal options for establishing rights of all pumpers to withdraw water from an overdrafted basin and determine the costs to ratepayers for each practicable option. By April 30, 2014;
- Perform the necessary legal, policy, and economic work not performed by the previous Board to determine how the District's water credits program may be used to facilitate the County's Groundwater Mitigation requirements for new development in the Valley without placing the District and its ratepayers at undue financial risk. By December 31, 2011;
- Work closely with the USGS and Reclamation teams to ensure that the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin is fully defined and that options for managing the basin and for importing water for storage, recharge, and supplemental supply are evaluated on a timely basis. The Board has chosen to extend the due date of the USGS work so that the District will have time to complete its financial analyses and to select basin management alternatives to be applied and documented in the final report. The final USGS report is expected to be available by the first quarter 2012. The Reclamation report will include economic analyses of the cost for importing water from viable regional sources. The Reclamation report should be completed by December 2012;
- Determine how the investigations of Clark Lake aquifer and the San Felipe Creek groundwater sources as sustainable and affordable sources of potable water might continue and at what cost to the ratepayers. By December 31, 2011.