

# **BORREGO WATER DISTRICT NEWS**

**SEPTEMBER, 2010**

## **JOB NUMBER 1: SOLVE THE WATER ISSUE**

Everyone in Borrego Springs is aware of recent findings regarding the water supply for our community, specifically:

1. The U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Study for the Borrego Aquifer reported in April, 2010 that the productive portion of the groundwater table that provides *our drinking water supply is likely to be expended within 50 years.*
2. It often *takes twenty to thirty years* to plan, design and construct major water supply improvements in California due to the competition for scarce supplies and potential environmental impacts which must be addressed.
3. Eliminating all the agricultural use in the Valley *does not* reduce water use enough to solve the problem.

**THEREFORE**, there is no time to waste in working towards a solution to our water supply situation. Towards that end the District has taken the following steps to create a multi-pronged program to address the issues:

- Use *demand management* measures such as tiered rates and the Agricultural Fallowing Program to minimize importation needs.

(OVER)

- Address *short-term supplemental water needs* through importing high quality water from adjacent groundwater basins (Clark Lake and San Felipe Basins) to support domestic water needs in the community and create additional time to develop opportunities for the study and implementation of the long-term solution to the area water supply.
- Participate in the recently funded Southeast California Regional Basin Plan Study with the Bureau of Reclamation, Imperial Irrigation District and the Coachella Valley Water District to develop and analyze ways to utilize the Borrego Aquifer as a "water bank" to help optimize water management in our desert region while providing for the recovery of the Borrego Aquifer through *long-term supplemental water deliveries* to the Borrego Springs area.

## **JOB NO. 2: AN AFFORDABLE SOLUTION...**

The best plans are useless ink on paper unless the project can actually be implemented in an economical fashion. Towards that end the District is developing the following programs:

- ✓ Commissioned a *rate design study* which in part will evaluate and recommend a fair method of having undeveloped properties share in costs to insure the future water supply.
- ✓ Obtaining *Federal and State grants* and low interest loans to offset the cost of interim and long-term water supply augmentation projects.
- ✓ *Partnering with adjacent large water agencies* who can benefit from water storage in the Borrego Aquifer, and having them contribute proportionate to their benefit.