

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023  
5:30 - 7:00pm

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# ANNUAL MEETING

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Borrego Valley Stewardship Council

# AGENDA



**5:30 PM Welcome and Organizational Development Updates**

**5:40 PM Board of Directors Elections**

**5:50 PM What Makes Borrego Springs so Unique**

**6:00 PM Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan Implementation  
Funding**

**6:10 PM Regional Decarbonization: Borrego Springs Impacts**

**6:20 PM Borrego Health Update**

**6:30PM Creating and Communicating a Vision**



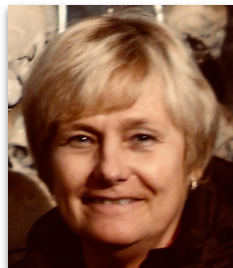


# Borrego Valley Stewardship Council

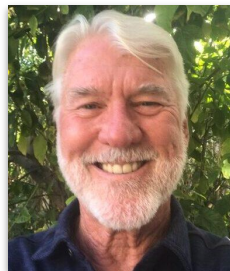
“To celebrate, promote, and protect the unique character, irreplaceable resources, and economic vitality of the Borrego Springs Community and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.”



**Bri Fordem**  
*President*



**Diane Johnson**  
*Secretary*



**Jim Wermers**  
*Treasurer*



**Ramien Shalizi**  
*Director*



**Alicia Ramirez**  
*Director*



# Organizational Development Updates

- Progress on achieving 501(c)3 status
- Grant funds from The San Diego Foundation and Department of Water Resources Proposition 68
- Growing membership
- More opportunities for regular community engagements

# BVSC Signatories



Community Groups	Signatory
ABDNHA	Betsy Knaak
ABF	Bri Fordem
American Legion	Dale Jones
BAI	Steve Fisher
BASIC	Nidia Meza
BMA	Mateo Mamea
Borrego Fire Dept.	Brice Weaver
Borrego Health	Sandy Hansberger
Borrego Outfitters	Ben Nourse
Borrego Sun	Patrick Meehan
BS Chamber	Francoise Rhodes
BS Film Fest	Fred Jee
BS Home Association	Dave Duncan
BS Performing Arts Ctr.	Dick Helvig
BS Sr. Center	Dan Wright
BS Water District	Kathy Dice
BSEd Foundation	Polly Macuga
BSEd Foundation	Mark Stevens
BSUSD	Martha Deichler
BVA	Jim Dion
BVEF	David Garmon
CA Employee Association	Deb Vanasdlen
CA State Parks, CO Des.Dist	Ray Lennox
Calif. Overland	Joe Raffeto

CandlewoodArts Festival	Kris Kuramitsu
Christmas Circle	Jim Wilson
Civic Foundation	Jim Dice
Club Circle E. HOA	Ivan Drechsler
Coldwell Banker	Sylvana Meeks
de Anza Country Club	Ramien Shalizi
de Anza Villas HOA	Lee Rogers
Desert Shadows HOA	Kari Koskinen
El Patio	Charles Steidtmann
Hammerheads	Bill Hill
La Casa del Zorro	Jack McGrory
OLAX	Alicia Ramirez
Rams Hill	Harry Turner
Rams Hill Casitas HOA	Kerin Shugart
Rams Hill Comm. Assoc.	Pauline Longmire
Rams Hill Vallecitos HOA	Nancy McRae
Rotary Club of B.S.	Diane Johnson
Santiago Estates	Noe Garcia
Seley Ranches	Mike Seley
Soroptimist International	Sally Theriault
Springs/Roadrunner	Rich Pinel
The Mall and Center	Jim Wermers
Tubb Canyon Desert Cons.	Rob Staehle
U.C Irvine	Travis Huxman
Women Business Owners	Jessica Simpson



## New Coordinator Position

The Borrego Valley Stewardship Council (BVSC) is seeking for a qualified individual to serve as a **Coordinator** and assist the BVSC Board of Directors in:

- Developing and implementing a communitywide public involvement program.
- Building community consensus on issues (water, environment, economic development, housing, etc.) which are central to the future for the Borrego Valley, and
- Preparing a vision document(s) summarizing the results.

***This is a part-time position for 18 months.***

The full notice is available on our website  
**[borregovalleystewardshipcouncil.com](http://borregovalleystewardshipcouncil.com)**



# Board of Directors Elections



**Bri Fordem**  
*Anza-Borrego  
Foundation*



**Martha Deichler**  
*Borrego Springs  
Unified School  
District*

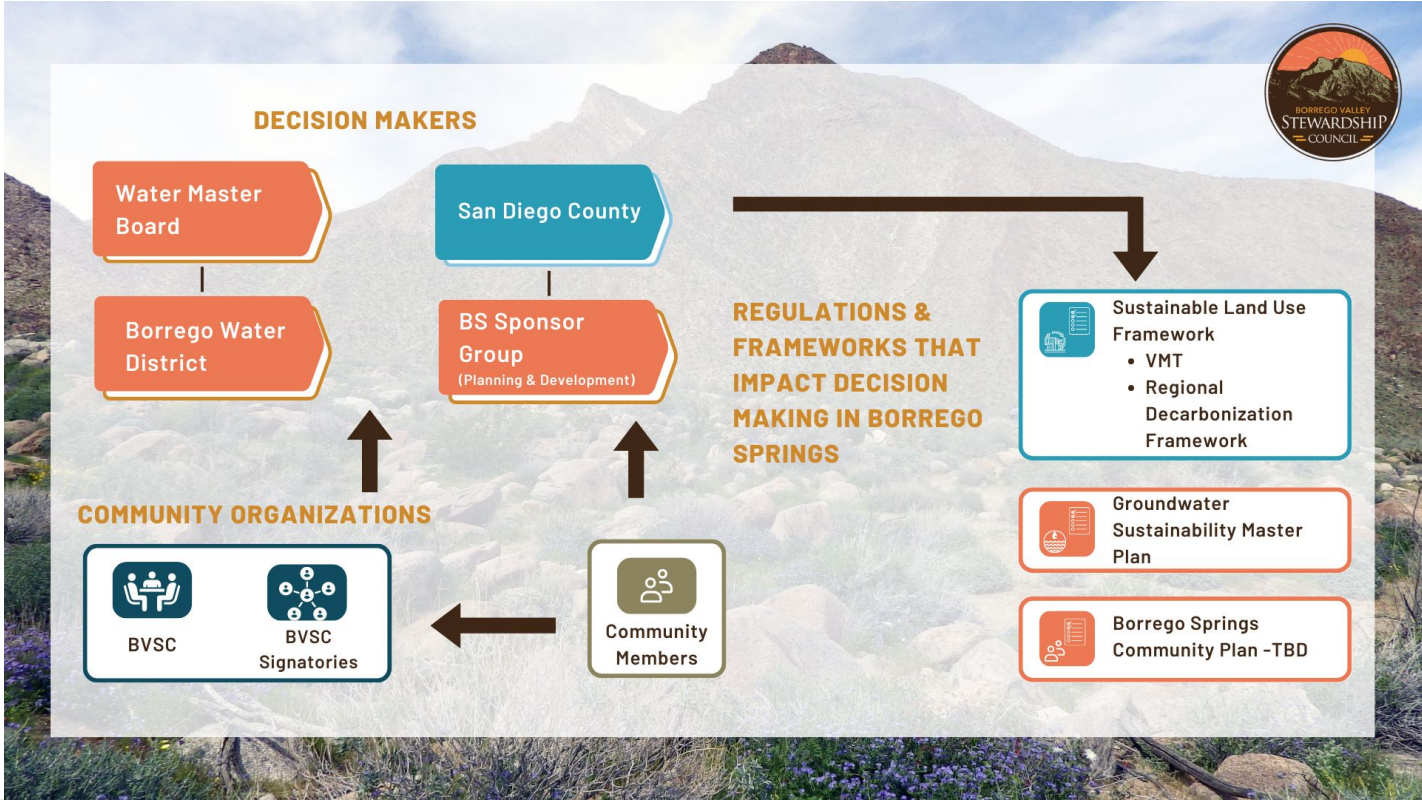


**James Dion**  
*Borrego  
Village  
Association*



**Dale Jones**  
*The American  
Legion Post 853*

# Where BVSC Fits into the Borrego Springs Landscape?

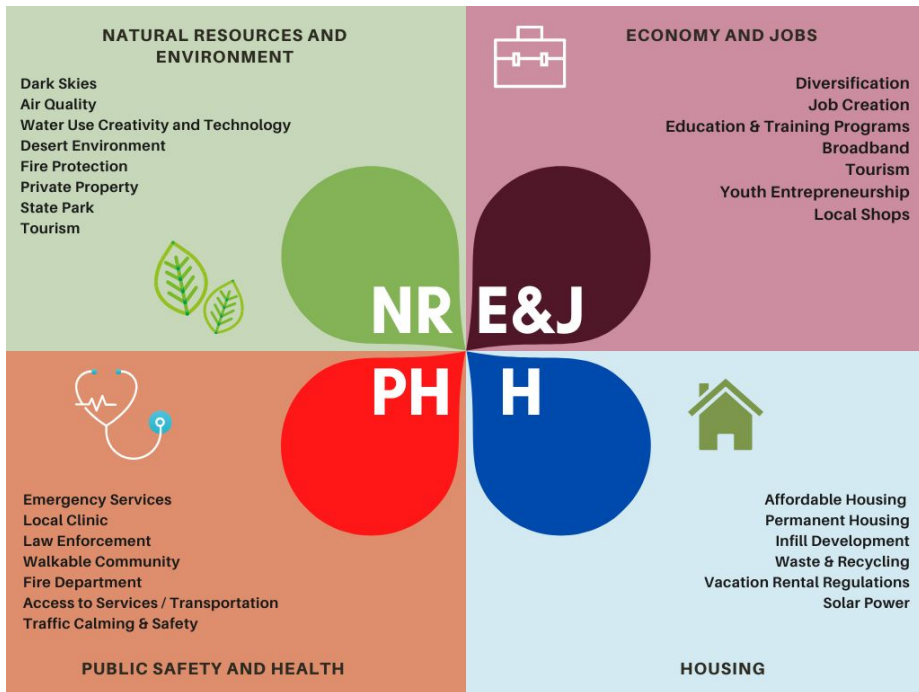








# Borrego Dreaming: What We Learned



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY AND JOBS	PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH	HOUSING
DARK SKIES	DIVERSIFICATION	EMERGENCY SERVICES	AFFORDABLE & LOW-INCOME HOUSING/RENTALS
AIR QUALITY	JOB CREATION	LOCAL CLINIC	PERMANENT HOUSING
WATER USE CREATIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY	EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS	WALKABLE COMMUNITY	INFILL DEVELOPMENT
DESERT ENVIRONMENT	FUNDING FOR FOOD, MATERIALS & TEACHERS	LAW ENFORCEMENT	WASTE & RECYCLING
ACCESS TO HIKING TRAILS & CAMPING SITES	BROADBAND	MEDICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES	SOLAR POWER
FIRE PROTECTION	TOURISM	SCHOOL COUNSELING	MOBILE HOME PARK
FLOWER SEASON	SMALL-TOWN FEELING	FIRE DEPARTMENT	MID CENTURY DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE
PRIVATE PROPERTY	YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP	INNER/OUTER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	VACATION RENTAL REGULATIONS
STATE PARK	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES & RIDESHARE	TRAFFIC CALMING & SAFETY	
TOURISM	LOCAL SHOPS, BUSINESSES & RESTAURANTS		



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan Implementation Funding

## **Borrego Springs Community Education, Empowerment, & Visioning for a Resilient Community Strategy**

*Timeframe: 3/10/2023 - 4/30/2025*

### **Goals:**

- Improve community understanding
- Increase the community's ability to engage in decision-making
- Ensure community members' vision is shared with decision-makers



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan Implementation Funding

## Borrego Springs Community Education, Empowerment, & Visioning for a Resilient Community Strategy

### *Tasks:*

- Identify and prioritize basin challenges and opportunities
  - Basin characterization document
- Water/Groundwater education
  - Public access to research and data
- Community visioning process
  - Community participation
  - Survey and engagement





# Regional Decarbonization: Borrego Springs Impacts

David Garmon

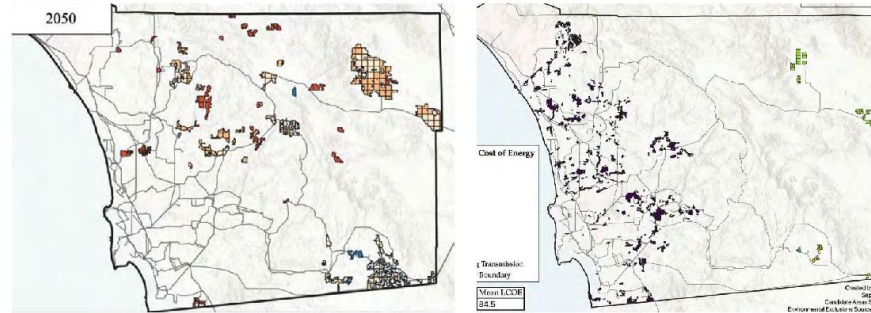
# San Diego County's Regional Decarbonization Framework—a classic “Who done it?”

- The County Board of Supervisors (BOS) identifies climate change as an existential threat caused by human activity.
- In January 2021 the BOS directs staff to develop a framework for a zero carbon sustainability plan.
- The plan aims to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2035
- The County hired UCSD Prof. David Victor to lead the technical analysis of the Technical Memorandum.
- The Technical Memorandum was published in late 2022.

# Borrego's Problem with the Technical Memorandum

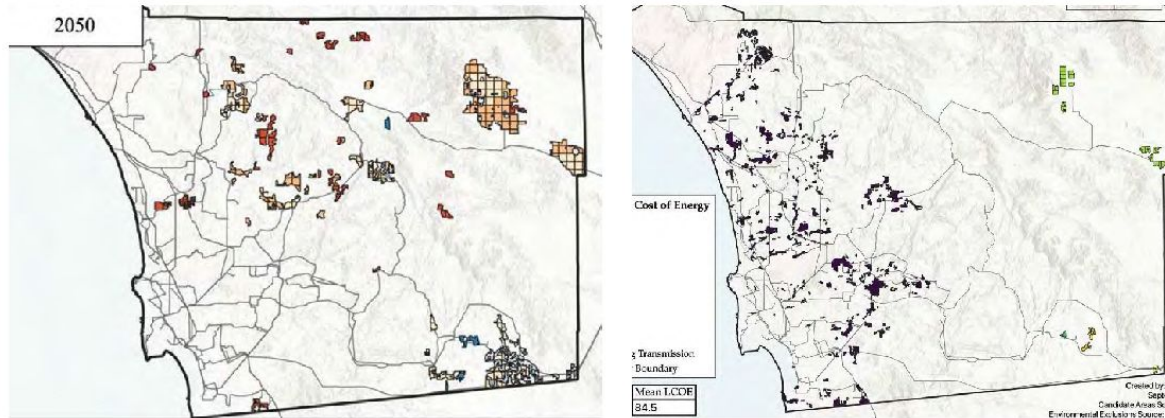
**RDF: 1) lowest-cost solar & wind development &  
2) avoiding lands with high conservation value**

source: 1) RDF, p. 42 and p. 44.



## RDF: 1) lowest-cost solar & wind development & 2) avoiding lands with high conservation value

source: 1) RDF, p. 42 and p. 44.





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## **RDF uses the wrong transmission cost to assert that remote wind and solar is least-cost**

source: Final RDF, Table 2.F (Transmission Upgrade Options and Costs), p. 63; and Table 7.1 (Electricity Generation), p. 267 (“CAISO estimates necessary transmission network upgrades for San Diego - Imperial - Baja - Arizona to be \$3.9 billion . . .”)

The RDF identifies two transmission expansion projects needed to support decarbonization:

- \$89 million - internal San Diego reconductoring primarily to support expanded energy storage in the local area
- \$3.9 billion – transmission line(s) from Imperial County to enable up to ~2,000 MW of solar/wind imports

However, only the \$89 million transmission cost is used in the RDF to calculate a minimal transmission cost adder for remote solar and wind imports.

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## **RDF identifies large rooftop solar potential but uses much smaller value for calculations**

sources: 1) RDF, pp. 35-36 [“Using publicly available building footprint spatial data published by Microsoft, the GIS analysis of public and private rooftops in the San Diego region identified approximately 2.7 billion square feet (61,000 acres) of usable roof area.”]; and Southern California Edison, California Public Utilities Commission A.08-03-015, Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Program Testimony, p. 32 [“Generally, a 1 MW array employing crystalline modules will require 125,000 square feet (2.87 acres) of roof space.”].

The RDF gives two values for rooftop solar potential: 1) 61,000 acres, which translates into more than 20,000 MW, and 2) 3,360 MW, a small fraction of that. The high value is supported with documentation. The lower value is not.

Only the much lower value is used in the RDF to assert rooftop solar would at most be a minor contributor, 12 percent, to County decarbonization in 2050.

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## **RDF uses high and obsolete commercial rooftop solar cost of \$92/MWh – and fixes it for 30 years**

source: RDF, p. 25, footnote 27, U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). (2020). Index | Electricity | 2020 | ATB | NREL (“2020 ATB spreadsheet”): <https://atb-archive.nrel.gov/electricity/2020/data.php>

- RDF relies on the respected National Renewable Energy Laboratory “Advanced Technology Baseline” (ATB) database for remote solar and wind cost, but ignores the commercial rooftop cost in the same ATB spreadsheet.
- RDF uses 2018 solar pricing for a 2022 report, even though the referenced ATB spreadsheet in the RDF includes both 2018 and 2022 solar cost forecasts.
- Solar pricing is declining steadily - the “gap” between the cost of remote solar and commercial rooftop solar is closing as well (see table in next slide).

## **\$48/MWh is the 2022 cost of commercial rooftop solar, about one-half the value assumed in the RDF**

source: RDF, p. 25, footnote 27, U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). (2020). Index | Electricity | 2020 | ATB | NREL (“2020 ATB spreadsheet”): <https://atb-archive.nrel.gov/electricity/2020/data.php>.

“Advanced” = Highest annual energy production and lowest capital cost among “Advanced” “Moderate” “Conservative” options in the 2020 NREL ATB spreadsheet.

Year	Utility-scale solar, California desert (Daggett), “Advanced” (\$/MWh)	Commercial rooftop solar, coastal SoCal (LA), “Advanced” (\$/MWh)
2018	29	70
2022	21	48
2035	10	21
2050	8	15



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**Parking lot solar is ignored in the RDF clean energy strategy.  
Photo: San Diego County Office of Education parking lot solar**

source: Google Earth, B. Powers overlays.



**And those were just the problems associated  
with the Financial Cost calculations**

The Technical Memorandum completely  
ignores the Economic Costs

# Financial Cost vs Economic Cost

- The Financial Costs of RDF's Scenario 1 are the cost to acquire land, build industrial-scale generating capacity, and build sufficient infrastructure, e.g. high voltage transmission lines, to transmit electricity from Borrego Springs to primarily costal communities.
- The Economic Costs of Scenario 1 are the hard dollar costs that would accrue to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and its Gateway Community, Borrego Springs, if Scenario 1 were implemented.
- The current draft of the RDF ignores Economic Costs and focuses exclusively on Financial Costs.

# Borrego Springs is the Gateway Community to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP)

ABDSP spans three counties and more than 1000 square miles

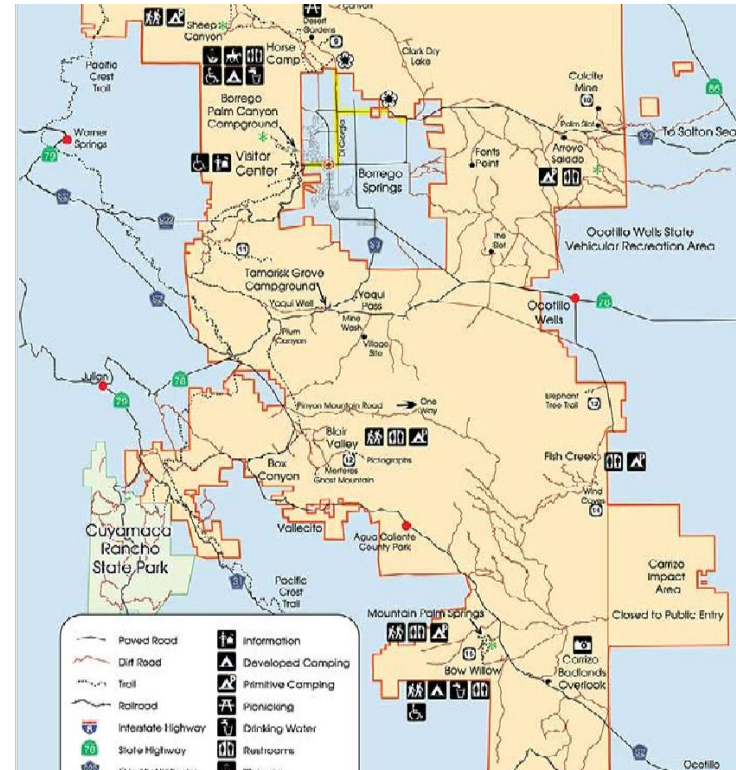
ABDSP contains 12 state designated wilderness areas, comprising 85% of California's state designated wilderness

ABDSP is California's largest State Park

ABDSP is the largest continuous State Park in the lower 48 states

ABDSP is designated a National Natural Landmark and a World Biosphere Reserve

ABDSP is part of the University of California's Natural Reserve System



# The RDF ignores the **Economic Costs** of Scenario 1

- Impacts on Tourism to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
- Impacts on property values and property taxes
- Impacts on TOT
- Impacts on jobs
- Impacts on recreational value of the Park and Community
- Impacts on limited groundwater
- Impacts on Air Quality and Human Health
- Social Justice impacts on a Severely Economically Disadvantaged Community

# What is the source of all these errors and omissions, i.e. Who done it?

- The electric utility industry has long opposed rooftop solar, fearing a “death spiral” as their increasing rates make rooftop solar more financially attractive and feasible.
- The electric utility industry makes money building long-distance transmission lines, e.g. Sunrise Powerlink.
- The electric utility industry has pushed the idea that rooftop solar could never generate more than a small fraction of needed electricity.



## Traditional model does not accommodate rooftop solar & batteries at customer site

- **Edison Electric Institute (EEI), IOU trade association**

EEI on distributed solar, 2012/2013:<sup>1</sup> *“prospect of declining (1) retail sales and earnings; (2) financing of major investments in T&D [transmission and distribution] . . . potential obsolescence of existing business and regulatory models . . . adverse impact to utility investors.”*

- EEI is architect of the NEM solar cost shift attack strategy.
- CA’s IOUs each give about \$2 million/yr to EEI.<sup>2</sup>

1) Environment America, *Blocking the Sun - 12 Utilities and Fossil Fuel Interests That Are Undermining American Solar Power*, October 2015, p. 12: [https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/EA\\_BlockingtheSun\\_scrn\\_0.pdf](https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/EA_BlockingtheSun_scrn_0.pdf).

2) Most recent IOU GO-77 executive compensation and contribution reports on dedicated CPUC webpage, accessed June 13, 2021: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=6442454119>. SDG&E 2019 GO-77, p. 38 and p. 56, SDG&E paid EEI \$1.843 million in dues and contributions in 2019; PG&E 2018 GO-77, p. 118, PG&E paid EEI \$2.263 million in dues and contributions in 2018; SCE 2018 GO-77, p. 92, SCE paid EEI \$1.871 million in dues and contributions in 2018.

# Protect our Communities Foundation files suit against SDG&E and UCSD (follow the money)

- In 2021 SDG&E contributed \$843,411 to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the research arm of Edison Electric Institute.
- In 2021 and 2022 EPRI contributed \$900,000 to UCSD's School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) to "support the research of David Victor."
- In July 2021 the County entered into a "single source," no bid contract with GPS.
- Victor oversaw the creation of the Technical Memorandum and did not disclose the money, his years-long ties with EPRI, and the fact that he wrote SDG&E's "decarbonization pathway" report.

# What TCDC is doing ...

- Visit the Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy website for links and information. ([www.tubbcanyondesertconservancy.org](http://www.tubbcanyondesertconservancy.org))
- Launched a petition at the TCDC website.
- Spreading the word about the petition and encourage others to do so.
- Emailing Supervisors and asking the RDF be delayed until the Technical Memorandum is corrected.
- Planning to attend the BOS Hearing in San Diego on 5/24/23



# Borrego Health Update

Sandy Hansberger

# Borrego Medical Clinic

4343 Yaqui Pass Road, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

**(760) 767-5051**



## WHO IS SERVED

- All patients are welcome at Borrego Health, regardless of their ability to pay.
- Borrego Medical Clinic serves individuals without insurance, those with Medi-Cal, Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and a long list of private insurances.
- For individuals without insurance, Borrego Health offers a sliding fee scale program for services.

# PHYSICIAN COVERAGE AND SERVICES

**Dr. Manfred Ramos, DO : Primary  
Care, Mondays through Thursdays**

**Dr. Jose Hernandez Rivera, MD :  
Primary Care, Fridays**

**Dr. Figuero: Pediatrics, once per  
month on a Thursday.**





## Services (cont'd)

- ➔ **Primary Care**
- ➔ **Pediatrics (1x a month)**
- ➔ **Behavioral Health--TeleHealth**
- ➔ **Labs—Tuesdays; Thursdays**
- ➔ **Other: TeleHealth services;  
Vaccines (COVID and others)  
COVID test kits**

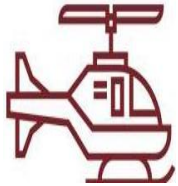


**Pharmacy:** Medications are provided by a full pharmacy inventory at our Borrego Pharmacy located in the center of town.

Pharmacy Hours: M-F 9 AM – 5:30 PM; Closed Saturday and Sunday

Phone: [\(760\) 767-3047](tel:(760)767-3047)

[Address:](#) 590 Palm Canyon Drive suite 230204, Borrego Springs, CA 92004



### **Air Transport:**

- Mercy Air provides air transportation to nearby hospitals for emergencies.
- Steps away from our clinic doors ensures that patients who have emergent medical needs are transferred expeditiously to a higher level of care.



### **Woolcott Dental Clinic:**

- Dental care services to children and adults for the communities of Borrego Springs and surrounding areas.
- Services are available, regardless of ability to pay. We accept most insurances.
- Sliding fee scale is available for those who are uninsured or underinsured. Hablamos español

[Address:](#) 590 Palm Canyon Dr Suite 212 · (760) 767-5112

Concerns about care, access or anything else can be reported anonymously

[Click here to access Patient Relations Information](#)

24/7 call center assistance [\(855\) 436-1234](tel:855-436-1234)



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[Fraud, Waste & Abuse: 844-965-3523](tel:844-965-3523)

# Short Term Goals

**Physician Recruitment**

**Bringing back services:**

**Women's Health**

**More pediatrics**

**Dermatology**

**XRays**

**Transportation**



# **TRANSFER OF OPERATIONS AND ASSETS TO DAP HEALTH**

- **How did this come about?**
- **When does it take effect?**
- **How will this impact health care in Borrego Springs?**



# Creating and Communicating a Vision

Howard Blackson