

Borrego Springs Community Resiliency Strategy Community Survey Analysis Report January 2025

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Executive Summary

In an effort to better understand the needs and preferences of the Borrego Springs Community, The Borrego Valley Stewardship Council as funded by the Sustainable Ground Water Implementation Grant and the Department of Water Resources, conducted a community survey. This community survey of Borrego Springs reveals a mature, predominantly white residential community facing significant challenges with healthcare access, water sustainability, and affordable housing, while benefiting from strong community bonds and amenities of being surrounded by the protected natural landscapes of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The survey gathered responses from 168 participants, providing insights into community demographics, needs, and priorities.

Introduction

This report presents the findings from a comprehensive community survey conducted in Borrego Springs to inform the development of a community resiliency strategy. The survey addressed various aspects of community life, including housing, infrastructure, public services, and economic development.

Survey Methodology

- Total Respondents: 168
- Survey Period: 2024
- Response Format: Multiple choice and priority selection questions
- Coverage: Residents, property owners, and visitors

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Key Demographics

Relationship to Community

- 75.6% live in Borrego Springs
- 53.0% own property
- 17.3% work in the area
- 7.1% are visitors

Residency Status

- 57.1% year-round, full-time residents
- 26.8% seasonal residents (primarily winter)
- 0.6% seasonal residents (primarily summer)
- 5.4% non-residents

Age Distribution

- 53.6% aged 65+
- 30.4% aged 46-64
- 6.5% aged 25-45
- 9.5% under 25

Racial/Ethnic Composition

- 73.2% White/Caucasian
- 18.5% Hispanic/Latino
- 3.0% Asian
- 1.8% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0.6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

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MAJOR FINDINGS

Community Satisfaction

Quality of Life Indicators

- 80% report strong sense of community
- 79.5% satisfied with quality of life
- 71.9% feel safe at night
- 84.3% agree there are sufficient public parks and open spaces

Primary Community Attractions

1. Access to nature (76%)
2. Quality of life (68%)
3. Rural atmosphere (66.7%)
4. Sense of community (60%)

Critical Challenges

Healthcare Services

- 74.7% prioritize healthcare access
- 70.3% concerned about insufficient medical services
- 78.4% support medical care development
- Healthcare ranks as top desired industry (76.3%)

Water Sustainability

- 92.9% aware of aquifer as sole water source
- 84.5% aware of required 70% reduction by 2040
- Water Costs:
 - 46.6% pay \$50-100 monthly
 - 43.6% pay \$100-200 monthly
 - 9.8% pay over \$200 monthly

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MAJOR FINDINGS

Community Satisfaction (con't)

Housing Affordability

- 73.2% perceive housing shortage
- Affected Groups:
 - 92.9% Low/moderate income families
 - 45.1% Senior citizens
 - 40.7% Assisted living needs

Infrastructure Priorities

1. Natural resource protection (59.5%)
2. High-speed internet access (55.4%)
3. Sustainable water management (41.9%)
4. Reliable public utilities (36.5%)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Healthcare Development

- Prioritize healthcare provider recruitment
- Develop telemedicine infrastructure
- Explore public-private partnerships
- Create medical facility development plan

2. Water Sustainability

- Implement comprehensive conservation programs
- Develop tiered water pricing
- Launch public education campaigns
- Explore water-efficient housing solutions

3. Housing Strategy

- Develop mixed-income housing
- Focus on senior/assisted living facilities
- Encourage multi-family development
- Implement sustainable building practices

4. Infrastructure Development

- Secure high-speed internet funding
- Create sustainable infrastructure plans
- Develop integrated trail systems
- Support EV infrastructure

5. Economic Development

- Focus on sustainable tourism
- Encourage R&D industries that also protect the priority of natural landscape conservation
- Support healthcare/tourism businesses
- Develop workforce training programs

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LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS

Sustainability

- Balance development with water restrictions:
- Preserve natural resources
- Maintain rural character
- Support sustainable tourism
- Update Community Plan and zoning recommendations

Community Development

- Focus on age-diverse design
- Improve essential services
- Protect natural amenities
- Enhance community connectivity

END OF SURVEY