

**From:** [webmaster@noreply.sbid.us](mailto:webmaster@noreply.sbid.us)  
**To:** [public-comment](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 3:15:43 PM

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## Public Comment

### Speaker's Request Form

*All public comment submissions must be received 1 hour in advance of the meeting and will be read aloud to the Board during the appropriate portion of the meeting with a reading limit of 3 minutes for each comment. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should direct such request to the Board Secretary at (619) 409-6703 at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting, if possible.*

*For best results, compose your comments in your favorite word processing software and use the copy/paste function to place your comment in the form.*

First Name	Michael
Last Name	Garrod
Address	<span style="background-color: black; color: white; font-size: 8px;">REDACTED</span> loping lane
City	Bonita
State	CA
Zip Code	91902
Meeting Date and Time	May 13, 6:00 pm
I wish to speak under public comment:	Yes
Action Item Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Enter Your Comments	<p>The following comments were made at the SBID today, but they are being read into the record at the Sweetwater Authority Board meeting for benefit of those not in attendance at the SBID meeting.</p>

My name is Michael Garrod and I'm a retired employee of the Sweetwater Authority and a rate payer for nearly 30 years. I retired in 2018 as the Engineering Manager in charge of Water Resources. I have worked with the USGS for nearly 20 years as an employee of the Sweetwater Authority and as a volunteer member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for SIGMA regarding groundwater management in the region.

I have an in depth knowledge of the value that USGS has brought to the Sweetwater Authority over these 20 years. The following are just a few examples:

1. Their estimate of the sustainable yield of the San Diego formation was used in the EIR for the expansion of the Groundwater Desalination Facility.
  2. They have drilled several multi-depth monitoring wells that are crucial to monitoring depth to groundwater and seawater intrusion in the San Diego formation. Both of these are critical to reporting in SIGMA and a requirement of the EIR.
  3. They were instrumental in the placement of SDF Production Wells #7-11. Without USGS's reports, the Authority would have had to spend nearly \$1 million dollars to site the production wells.
  4. They have set-up a subsidence monitoring network that is state-of-the-art and is a requirement of the EIR. No network, no production at the Desal facility. Or best case, limited production.
- I could go on with several more examples, but it would take much more than 3 minutes.

The final thought I would like to leave with the Board is this, the final USGS report, that should be completed in the next few months, should be fully funded and must be completed. The completion of this report is critical for these three reasons:

1. If there is ever a law suit against the Desal Facility, the report could be used to defend continued production at the facility.
2. The report could be used during the creation of the groundwater management plan for SIGMA.
3. The report would be vital if the Authority wanted to construct a groundwater desalination facility in our service area in the Otay River Basin. A feasibility study was completed on a Desal Facility in the Otay River basin that could produce 4 million gallons per day. this could be worth several million dollars to the Authority over the life of the project. It is my opinion that such a facility should be constructed in the next 10 years.

These are just some thought from an old retired Water Resource Engineer with nearly 40 years in the business. It would be sad to not complete the final USGS report because of funding issues. The quote, "penny wise and pound foolish" comes to mind. I'm sending all of you good thoughts and good health during this pandemic and I'm ready to continue/expand my volunteer service to the Sweetwater Authority community at anytime.