#### **Our Local Watershed**

An underground aquifer sustains Borrego Springs and its surrounding natural beauty, fed by streams and rainwater from protected land. These water sources come from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which protects 70% of the local watershed and recharges our community's aquifer. Borrego Springs thrives because it is surrounded by state protected lands.

#### Our Water is Precious

We all rely on the underground aquifer for our water, but we have consistently used more than the ecosystem can replenish. Alarmingly, Borrego Springs has used about 16 trillion gallons more water than what can be recharged naturally! To ensure a sustainable future, we must take active steps to reduce groundwater pumping and other water uses, since there is no other resource to rely on.

#### What Can You Do

As a community, we've arrived at a plan to create a sustainable future for our water, in line with the **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.** Together, we can reduce water usage and maintain the quality of our aquifer. Here's what you can do:



## Avoiding pollutants that contaminate groundwater

(e.g., residential septic tanks, agricultural chemicals)



## Working with a Water Wise Certified gardener

who adheres to water irrigation best practices



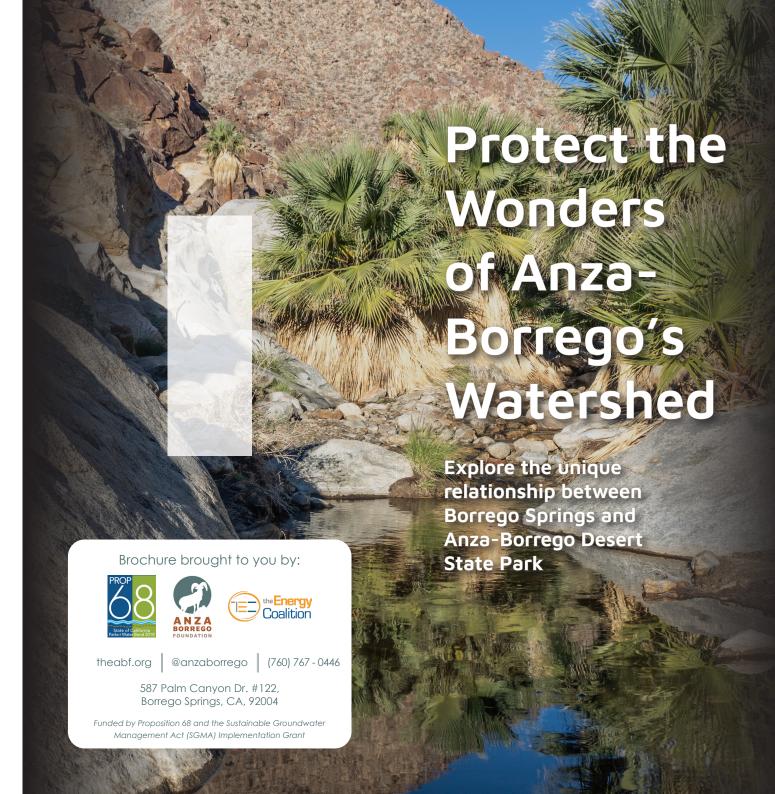
#### Using native plants

or low-water gardens around your home



#### Supporting local businesses

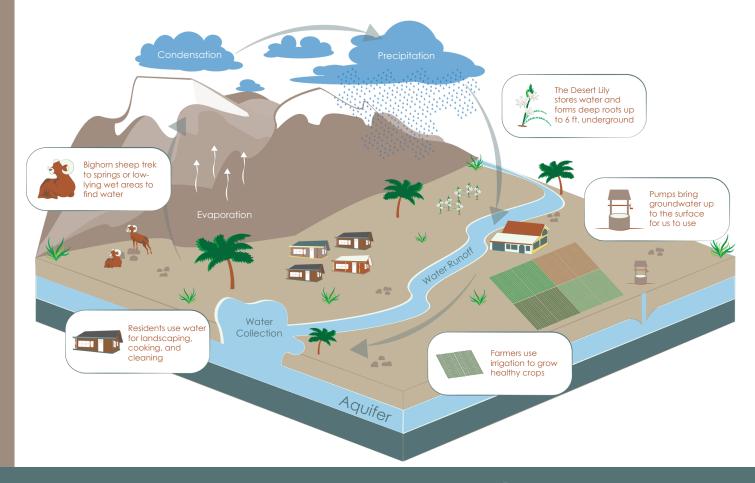
that use less water in their operations (e.g., local tour companies)



# Get to know the Borrego Valley Water Basin

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the largest state park in California, surrounds the **community** of Borrego Springs and together they create a special natural system.

Our incredible watershed system is the single water source for our community, wildlife habitat, and the natural landscape. Water is captured in the surrounding mountains and flows through snow melt and rivers into the Borrego Valley. A healthy watershed in harmony with nature supports our economy, environment, and quality of life.



# How are you protecting Anza-Borrego's watershed?



Sgt. Carina Hammang

Supervising State Park Peace Officer, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

"It is my civic duty as well as my duty as somebody who is a resident of Borrego and loves Borrego to do my part in conserving the water for future use. I'm just one person, but I have a significant impact over time in this community."



Francisco Ramirez

CTE Digital Media/Photography Teacher and ASB Director, Borrego Springs Unified School District

"We need to be a little more mindful of how the water is being used, and how to conserve it and how to save it. I grew up in Borrego and I think of future generations."



Mike Seley
Business Owner, Seley Ranches

"We care about the community and the environment. We've been in Borrego as a family for 50 generations. We're trying to do everything we can to keep a sustainable business and provide food and keep closer ties with the community and provide jobs for the people indefinitely."