

Los Angeles  Department of Water & Power

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January 4, 2016

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Ms. Marcus:

Subject: Comments on Proposed Regulatory Framework for Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation (Emergency Regulation)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Emergency Regulation. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) appreciates the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) commitment to collaborating with California water suppliers in amending its Emergency Regulation.

LADWP understands the importance of reducing water use to address this drought and the need to embrace conservation as a way of life in California. Since June 2015, LADWP has reduced water use by 17.1 percent cumulatively (through November 2015), which exceeds our State mandated target of 16.0 percent. This was accomplished through multiple programs and strategies; including conservation rebates, outdoor watering restrictions, and extensive public and business outreach. In particular, LADWP's Turf Removal Rebate Program has been a great success, removing over 32 million square feet of turf to date. This is over half the 50 million square feet of turf removal targeted by the Governor Jerry Brown in Executive Order B-29-15.

LADWP welcomes the SWRCB proposal of a climate adjustment based on an agency's evapotranspiration (ET) relative to statewide average ET. This adjustment will help address significant climate differences throughout the State and assist LADWP with continuing to meet the State's conservation mandate.

In relation to the Proposed Regulatory Framework, LADWP would like to submit the following comments for SWRCB's consideration:

Los Angeles Aqueduct Centennial Celebrating 100 Years of Water 1913-2013

111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com

Continue To Track Compliance Cumulatively Since June 2015

LADWP suggests the SWRCB continue its policy of tracking water agency compliance cumulatively since June 2015. LADWP and the majority of water agencies throughout the State have exceeded their conservation mandates and as a result the State is tracking above its 25 percent conservation target. Continuing to track compliance cumulatively since June 2015 will give credit to agencies for extraordinary conservation achievements accomplished early during this drought. Cumulative tracking will also provide a good indicator of an agency's trending usage since the Emergency Regulation was first enacted.

In addition, cumulative tracking since June 2015 will also help account for monthly variability from multiple factors, such as climate variations. For example, each California agency experiences differing periods during the year when they encounter their hottest and driest or coldest and wettest months. Therefore, the highest conservation potential period will differ from agency to agency. Cumulative tracking helps dampen impacts from monthly variability.

Evaluate Emergency Regulation After April 1, 2016, Snow Survey

As California continues to be in drought conditions, LADWP understands the importance of SWRCB extending the Emergency Regulation to continue the statewide momentum for water conservation. Because the current Emergency Regulation expires in February 2016, it is understandable the extension needs to occur prior to the California Department of Water Resources' April 1 snow survey in order to prevent a lapse in drought response. LADWP suggests SWRCB add a clause to the Emergency Regulation stating SWRCB will reevaluate the Emergency Regulation at the end of the water year (on or about April 1, 2016) based on updated State water supply conditions.

On December 30, 2015, the California Department of Water Resources conducted the winter's first snow survey, which measured 136 percent of average for this time of year. Overall initial readings for the Sierra Nevada snowpack is 108 percent of average for this time of year. Of course, this preliminary reading does not indicate that California is out of the drought. But, it highlights the need to add flexibility to the Emergency Regulation in order to adjust mandated conservation levels based on water supply needs at the end of the water year.

During this drought, Californians have dedicated significant resources to heeding the Governor's call for conservation resulting in major reductions in water use statewide. With final water year supply conditions still several months away and strong El Nino weather events expected, LADWP's customers and Californians across the State are

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eager to understand if water supplies will improve this water year and how the State's drought mandates will be influenced by these conditions. In order to maintain public trust and keep Californians' willingness to make long-term, permanent lifestyle changes towards a more sustainable future for California, it is important that State mandated conservation targets be adjusted to reflect final water year supply conditions.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Penny M. Falcon, Manager of Conservation Policy, Legislation, and Grants, at (213) 367-4647 or by e-mail at penny.falcon@ladwp.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin L. Adams".

Martin L. Adams
Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System

RL:vf
By e-mail
c: Ms. Penny M. Falcon