



April 13, 2014

Dear Ms. Bean,

I am writing this letter for the City of Twentynine Palms in response to Governor Brown's 25% water reduction mandate.

The Twentynine Palms Water District serves the City of Twentynine Palms as well as outlying areas by pumping and distributing local ground water - the only available water supply. The District serves a population of approximately 18,000 residents within an 87 square mile area. It maintains approximately 8,000 meter services, 200 miles of pipeline and 17 million gallons of water storage capacity.

We are situated in the Mojave Desert and water conservation is a way of life. In the past four years, the Water District has educated the local population on drought tolerant landscape and conservation. Many of the local residents have responded to their advice including the City of Twentynine Palms.

In general, our city is considered in the very moderate to low income range. Many of our citizens use water only for cooking, drinking, basic hygiene and evaporative coolers. Evaporative water coolers by their very name use water and the hotter and drier it is the more water that that they use. The only other option is air conditioning which is cost restrictive to local citizens with the initial cost of purchase, installation and then the monthly electrical usage. SCE has a program where they have money available to replace your home air conditioning system with an evaporative water cooler. I chuckle thinking that the Water District would come up with a similar program offering the reverse.

The City of Twentynine Palms is also home to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. This is important since they move thousands of troops at any time, either in or out. Depending on the historical information that is used to baseline the starting point from where reduction would begin it could be when our numbers were high or low. At this time, our housing rentals

have been down 50 percent with the reduction of a full battalion. Just released information informed the City that 1,100 Marines will return during the next year with their families.

For our economy, we are very pleased for our water consumption and we are now very concerned. Our water source is 100% from local underground aquifers; no water is piped or pumped in from outside agencies. Our per person daily usage estimate is 80 gallons. The City and Water District are in discussion at this time looking for solutions to meet this requirement. Education of course is at the top of the list.

The 25 % reduction will be hard for our community and other communities that are similar to our desert environment. There are limited options other than cutting back on our basic daily needs. We feel there should be some consideration for the way of life in the desert. Every community is different and should be looked at or given the opportunity to devise a plan that will reduce as much usage as possible. What will work in some communities won't work in others. We are looking at some very creative thoughts as I write this letter but we are unsure of they will have any significant impact on the situation.

Given the short time frame in which to respond I have just covered a few issues. We want to be on the record as having concerns and would like the opportunity to be a part of a well thought out solution.

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