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SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL

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July 14, 2014

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State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE: Proposed Emergency Water Regulations

- M. Javade Chaudhri
- Berit N. Durler
- Clifford W. Hague
- Nan Katona
- Patricia Roscoe
- Steven G. Tappan
- Judith Wheatley
- David Woodruff, Ph.D., D.Sc.

San Diego Zoo Global is very concerned about the proposed emergency regulations that will be considered at the July 15 meeting. They would greatly impact our two facilities, the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

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We pride ourselves as being a leader in the water conservation area, and the City of San Diego has used us as an example of making good choices that are shared with the members of our community. One example of our water conservation is the wetlands habitat designed to be a biofiltration system for managing and reusing water at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. This new wetland habitat demonstrates how natural wetland filtration improves water quality. The water officials who attend our unveiling hoped that it would inspire our guests to conserve water and protect precious wetland habitats.

We have concentrated on drought tolerant planting since we are recognized as a botanical garden, automated irrigation systems that can be regulated during drought periods, and the widespread use of mulch. However, we have concerns about additional water restrictions impacting our ability to care for our collection and members of the public who visit us.

Health and Safety:

Our visitor experience is mainly an outdoor experience.

Tables and patios, as well as walkways and benches require daily cleaning, to ensure a healthy environment for employees and guests. Bird droppings and feces generated by other wild species living at both facilities as well as spills created by our guests need the direct application of water to clean the hard surfaces to avoid unhealthy conditions. Many of our hard surfaces are not smooth enough to clean properly by mopping or sweeping.

Animal Collections:

Providing our animal collections with a safe environment is a critical part of our mission and daily activity.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO
Post Office Box 120551 San Diego, CA 92112-0551 USA Telephone (619) 231-1515



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Clean enclosures are key for disease prevention. Perches, sleeping areas, pools, and rocky exhibit areas all require daily cleaning.

Our animals need water to drink, to swim and to bathe in.

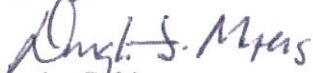
Botanical Collection:

We are always evaluating all the areas we are able to cut water, as well as those areas where we cannot do so. Our browse sites (plants grown to feed our animals) which include approximately 14 sites, some on grounds and some off, would need to maintain the current level of irrigation in order to provide the necessary food for the animals. Primates, koalas and giant pandas are a few of the many species reliant on our browse program.

There are also valuable collections that cannot do without irrigation. We propagate rare and endangered plants from around the world. These collections are significant both scientifically as well as monetarily.

It is our hope that you will consider our concerns when reviewing the proposed conservation regulations. We would be glad to provide more specific information if needed and our conservation specialists are always ready to discuss our issues.

Sincerely,


Douglas G. Myers
CEO/President