



April 13, 2015

Ms. Jessica Bean
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Email: Jessica.Bean@waterboards.ca.gov

Transmitted via Electronic Mail

RE: Comments on the Proposed Regulatory Framework for Mandatory Conservation City of San Bruno, California

Dear Ms. Bean:

The City of San Bruno is submitting this letter to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to address the Proposed Regulatory Framework (Proposed Framework) issued on 7 April 2015 in response to the Governor's Executive Order B-29-15 (Executive Order). The SWRCB is soliciting feedback on the proposed regulatory concepts as well as other ideas on how a 25% reduction could be structured per the requirements of the Executive Order which states:

"These restrictions [to achieve a statewide 25% reduction] should consider the relative per capita water usage of each water suppliers' service area (emphasis added), and require that those areas with high per capita use achieve proportionally greater reductions (emphasis added) than those with low use.

The Proposed Framework contains four different tiers based on September 2014 residential per-capita water usage as follows:

Category	Sept 2014 R-GPCD Range	# of Suppliers in Range	Conservation Standard
1	Under 55	18	10%
2	55-110	126	20%
3	110-165	132	25%
4	Over 165	135	35%

While we appreciate the SWRCB has attempted to adjust the cutbacks to reflect relative per-capita water usage, we believe the Proposed Framework does not adequately reflect the disproportionate impacts that this approach would have on already low water users.

Specifically, out of 433 agencies listed in the [SWRCB's Table](#), the City of San Bruno ranks 20th in lowest per-capita water consumption (e.g., 58 GPCD for September 2014) and is in the lowest 5th percentile of per-capita water use. Furthermore, as is shown in the following table, based on reporting to the SWRCB, San Bruno's average residential per capita water use in the months since June 2014 has been **48 GPCD**, and has been as low as **35 GPCD**.

Jun-14	July-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Ave.
60	58	51	58	44	49	35	41	41	48

Even with this extremely low per capita water use, San Bruno has been placed in a Tier that requires us to achieve 20% conservation savings relative to use in 2013. By our accounting, we have already achieved a 14% cutback relative to our 2013 use, as compared to the 9% shown in the [SWRCB Table](#). Per the Proposed Framework, San Bruno would be required to reduce per-capita water use by another 11%, which would bring us down to well below 50 GPCD.

To accomplish the objective of the Executive Order without penalizing agencies with already extremely low per-capita water use, we strongly encourage the SWRCB incorporate the following.

- (1) **Modify the Basis for the Tiering.** It appears that the Tiers have been determined based upon GPCD values for a single month (i.e., September 2014). To better reflect the actual water use patterns within agencies, we recommend that the Tiering be based upon the average per capita demand over the full reporting period.
- (2) **Increase the Number of Tiers and Provide Additional, Incremental Target Cutbacks:** The range in GPCD in the 20% Tier is 55 to 110 GPCD. There is a significant difference in the amount of "discretionary water use" that can be reduced when someone is using 110 GPCD as opposed to when they are using 55 GPCD. We believe the Conservation Standards should better reflect this reality. San Bruno requests the SWRCB adjust the Conservation Standards to start at 5% and increase the percent cutback in smaller increments (e.g., by 5% increments) for low per capita use tiers.
- (3) **More Equitably Distribute the Percent Cutback to Users with Greater Opportunity for Water Use Reductions.** We feel strongly that if water suppliers like San Bruno have already reached levels of efficiency such that residential per capita water use is as low as 35 GPCD in some months, it is unreasonable to ask their customers for significant additional reductions in water use. Similar to tiered water rate pricing, which is intended to provide a financial disincentive to excessive water use, we strongly urge the SWRCB to adopt a non-linear structure to the Conservation Standard. This will place the responsibility of water use reduction onto those that have the greatest opportunity to reduce water use.

We thank you for consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (650) 616-7179 or jburch@sanbruno.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jim Burch
Deputy Public Services Director, Maintenance and Operations
City of San Bruno

Cc via Electronic Mail:

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