

Hi,

I was told to contact you if I had input on the new proposed conservation regs for California.

I am the General Manager for the Callayomi County Water District in Middletown (Lake County), and I am a part time (former full time, 11 years) employee of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC).

In Middletown we are fortunate enough to be in an area with a very large aquifer in Long Valley and Callayomi Valley. We do not have a water shortage. As a matter of fact, in the summer we sell bulk water to people whose wells have gone dry in the south Lake County area. We are their only avenue for safe drinking water.

I have no problem promoting conservation, especially when it comes to landscaping. However, I believe that there should be some leeway given to public water systems that are not experiencing a water shortage. Requiring us to conserve 25% from 2013 usage, and most likely discontinue helping those who have no water, will be a financial hardship on the District. The loss of income would most likely lead to a rate increase, which would be a hardship on our customers. The Middletown area has been established as a disadvantaged area due to the MHI.

As an RCAC employee I have been in contact with the Board President of the Hiouchi Community Services District in Del Norte county. Del Norte is not experiencing a water shortage, they have had plenty of rainfall this year. To require them, or any public water system that is not experiencing a water shortage, does not seem prudent. It affects our finances, which will ultimately affect our customers.

As a side note, I believe that vineyards, or any other nonfood crop, in California should be required to conserve water. Here in Lake County they are still installing massive grape vineyards as though there was no drought. I personally know people whose wells have gone dry due to the vineyards utilizing all of the water in the aquifers in their area. They have no recourse. If anything, they will be turning to water systems like ours that are fortunate enough to have water, but if this regulation goes into effect I will be required to turn them away, even though I have the water. None of this is right.

Please consider placing a clause that limits restriction on public water systems that are not experiencing a water shortage. I have also spoken to many people in the industry that feels that nonfood crop farmers should also restrict or cease water consumption until this drought is over.

John

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