

Jessica,

I am writing in connection with the State Board's proposed framework for meeting the Governor's mandate of a 25% water reduction. I am the General Manager of the Los Alamos Community Services District (LACSD), a small public agency in Santa Barbara County that provides water service from 3 metered wells to its primarily residential customers through 604 metered connections within its 1 square mile territory. LACSD overlies and extracts water from the San Antonio Groundwater Basin. Approximately 80% of the water taken out of the basin is used for agriculture, and approximately 19% is used for other domestic needs.

For the past 22 years LACSD has kept daily water production records. The District operates through a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. One feature of the SCADA system is that it provides continuous information on static and pumping depths within LACSD's wells. LACSD also has Variable Frequency Drives that allow it to control pumping rates at the wells and adjust accordingly to the town's water needs. In order to encourage water conservation, LACSD implemented a tiered water rate structure in 2006. In addition, as required by the regulations adopted by the State Board on July 15, 2014, LACSD has adopted an ordinance requiring all of its customers to limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water to no more than two days per week. LACSD is in the process of extending that ordinance for an additional 270 day period as required by the action taken by the State Board on March 17 of this year.

LACSD believes that, because of its small size, its location in a rural area, and the fact that it uses only 1% of the water that is extracted from the San Antonio Groundwater Basin, it should not be required to adopt additional conservation measures. Further, the District does not have the financial resources to implement costly water conservation measures, and any reductions it is able to achieve will have a negligible overall impact because of the small quantity of water it provides. LACSD requests that it continue to have the option to satisfy applicable water conservation requirements by restricting outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnard
General Manager
Los Alamos CSD
P.O. Box 675
Los Alamos, Ca. 93440
(805) 344-4195 phone
(805) 344-2908 fax
kbarnard@dock.net
www.losalamoscsl.com