



**HESPERIA**  
Recreation & Park District

... Serving the Community Since 1957

Post Office Box 401055 • Hesperia, California 92340-1055 • (760) 244-5488

April 20, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

**Re: March 17 - 18, 2015 Board Meeting**

Dear Clerk of the Board:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the proposed water usage regulations. The Hesperia Recreation and Park District is located in the Mojave Desert where our average local rainfall is less than 6 inches. Our residents, community partners, and local governing agencies have worked hard to manage our region's groundwater supply. We realize that conservation is an important tool during this drought; I would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns.

Our agency provides for the recreational needs of our community by providing parks that allow our residents a place to congregate and play. Over the years our current park system has been established through local community efforts and state grant funding, which have allowed us to develop 360 acres of active park space (excluding golf course) for our residents. Under your current restrictions we would only be allowed to water twice a week in the evening hours. We are unable to complete necessary irrigation at many of our facilities in the allotted timeframe due to flow and pressure limitations.

We are requesting that turf used for public recreational spaces, such as our parks, be made exempt from the two day per week watering requirement. Without this provision much of our existing turf would become stressed and damaged to the point that it will require replacement, exacting a heavy financial cost to our agency. In addition, one can only imagine the potential detriment to the health and wellbeing of the children and adults in our community if the turfed areas of our parks are lost. It would be years before our agency would be able to replace these turfed areas, if at all, when taking into consideration that newly installed turf requires even more water than established turf.

We are in support of our residents' continued conservation. Since we live in a desert, many of our residents have already reduced their landscaping to the point that our facilities are the community's backyard or access to turf. With as many parks, facilities, and landscape streetscapes as we operate, our fiscal responsibility is to already be water conscious;

consequently, we take water conservation seriously. This is reflected in our agency's development specifications and standards. The District has shown our commitment to water conservation by:

- Using Calsense irrigation controllers, state of the art "smart" irrigation controllers that provide us with information about our water usage, including alerts to excessive water use (which may indicate a leak) and ground moisture conditions. This aids us in determining and delivering the correct amount of water to preserve plant health and proper landscape conditions.
- Increasing our irrigation inspections to look for inefficient water use/leaks, thereby eliminating any irrigation runoff or wasteful activities.
- Implementation of low-water-use plants.
- Working with the City of Hesperia and the Victor Valley Waste Water Reclamation Authority as recycled water systems are being developed in Hesperia.

An example of our commitment to water conservation is the reduction of water usage at our golf course. In 2010 the District took over the operation of the local golf course, which was using approximately 650 acre feet of water annually to irrigate this 18 hole course. Through water management we have been able to reduce our water usage to 430 acre feet per year. Further reductions will most certainly be devastating to this facility, which was once on the PGA tour.

On any given day we have thousands of residents using facilities and programs throughout our District. Please remember the impact parks and recreational facilities have had on each of you, your families and communities. Parks are a vital service to communities throughout California and every effort should be taken to preserve them for the betterment of all Californians.

Hesperia Recreation and Park District respectfully requests that you keep these facts in mind as you consider your decisions may impact communities throughout the state.

Sincerely,

HESPERIA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT



Lindsay D. Woods  
General Manager

cc: Sharon Runner, Senator  
Jay Obernolte, Assemblyman