



California Legislature



April 30, 2015



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

Dear Chair Marcus:

It was with disappointment that we learned that the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) proposed final mandatory water use restriction regulations do not adequately address and balance the value of local and regional investment in drought-proof water supplies. The prolonged drought crisis that we are facing as a state provides an opportunity to reinforce the importance of local communities developing greater water supply self-sufficiency, improving resiliency to drought within communities, and reducing reliance on the fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The SWRCB should acknowledge the value of developing local water supplies, and that local supplies can protect against drastic cuts in water delivery to key business sectors.

Please consider a more active approach to local water supply investments in your final water use restriction regulations. **We request that SWRCB regulations provide that any new drought-proof water supplies developed after 2013 be credited against process water consumption by commercial and industrial customers**, consistent with the proposal crafted by the San Diego County Water Authority (attached).

The SWRCB has synthesized complex information in a very short period of time, and has begun developing a path forward to assist Californians through this prolonged drought. Nevertheless, additional focus is needed on balancing water use restrictions with the reality that California's \$2 trillion economy requires a reliable water supply for its businesses and industries to thrive. A water supply cut of 25 percent across-the-board to California's commercial and industrial customers would have a devastating impact on our state's economy. We are concerned that the SWRCB's proposed final regulations focus on reducing all commercial, industrial, and institutional use, which would include process water and other essential water use necessary to support business in California.

San Diego's diverse and thriving technology sector is one of many industries severely threatened by additional across-the-board water cuts that do not credit the responsible and forward thinking work that has already been done in our region. For years, rival states have lured California businesses elsewhere using tax and other incentives. We are concerned that the lure of reliable water will provide an additional incentive for California businesses to relocate to other states.

The San Diego County Water Authority's proposal addresses two important concerns: lack of recognition for development of drought-proof local water supplies and potential impacts to the business, industrial, and manufacturing sectors. Modifying the final regulations to provide a greater emphasis on local water supply development to support the local economy would provide a catalyst for a new era of local water supply investment and development.

We strongly urge you to modify the proposed final regulations to incorporate the concept of crediting any new drought-proof water supplies against process water consumption by commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. This action would go a long way toward acknowledging the wise local and regional investment in new water supply development, and provide an important signal to the business and manufacturing communities that their concerns are being heard and that we, as a state, value their continued contribution to our thriving economy.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Joel Anderson
Senator, 38th District



Patricia C. Bates
Senator, 36th District

cc: Members, State Water Resources Control Board

Attachment