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Assembly California Legislature



MARIE WALDRON
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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: PUBLIC EMPLOYEES,
RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HEALTH
RULES

(5/5-6/15) Board Meeting- Item 6
Emergency Conservation Regulation
Deadline: 5/4/15 by 10:00 am

May 4, 2015

LATE COMMENT

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



Dear Chair Marcus:

I was disappointed to learn that the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) proposed final mandatory water use restriction regulations did not adequately address and balance the value of local and regional investment in drought-proof water supplies. This 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 Bay-Delta. I'm concerned that the SWRCB is possibly missing an incredible opportunity to provide important signals to local water supply development and business community protection with one action it could still take.

I request that you and your colleagues consider a more active approach to local water supply investments in your final water use restriction regulations. Specifically, **I request that your regulations acknowledge and provide that any new drought-proof water supplies developed after 2013 should be credited against process water consumption by commercial and industrial customers**, along the lines of the proposal crafted by the San Diego County Water Authority.

I applaud the efforts that you and your colleagues have undertaken in a very short period of time to synthesize complex information and develop a path forward to assist Californians through this prolonged and devastating drought. At the same time, I believe more needs to be done to balance the water use restrictions with the reality that California's \$2 trillion economy cannot survive without a reliable water supply for its business and industry. A water supply cut of 25 percent across the board to California's commercial and industrial customers would have a devastating impact on the State's economy. That being said, I strongly encourage a focus on reducing discretionary outdoor water use in all sectors, including the commercial, industrial, and institutional sector. However, I am 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.

The San Diego County Water Authority's proposal is a creative approach to addressing 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 an increased emphasis on new local water supply development to support the local economy would provide an unprecedented catalyst for a new era of local water supply investment and development.

I 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 valuing the wise local and regional investment in new water supply development that is occurring, and provide an important signal to the business and manufacturing communities that its 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,



Marie Waldron
Assemblywoman, 75th District

cc: Members, State Water Resources Control Board