

July 14, 2014

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812



Re: 7/15-16/14 BOARD MEETING (Emergency Regulations for Water Conservation), San Diego Coastkeeper's support comments for State Water Board's Proposed Emergency Regulations: Prohibition of Activities and Mandatory Actions During Drought Emergency (Water Conservation)

Sent via email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

San Diego Coastkeeper is the leading watchdog organization in San Diego County exclusively dedicated to the protection and restoration of fishable, swimmable, and drinkable waters in San Diego County. San Diego Coastkeeper has a long-standing involvement in, and commitment to, water quality and quantity in our region, including conservation, capture and use, and recycling efforts aimed at reducing our reliance on imported water and the harmful environmental impacts associated with importing and other high-energy water sources.

San Diego Coastkeeper strongly supports the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed emergency water conservation regulations. As witnessed by recent media stories and supporting documentation, water use in San Diego has actually increased 10% over the same months last year. Unfortunately, voluntary conservation and education measures alone have not proven adequate to meet Governor Brown's stated short-term conservation goals throughout the state and in our region. These emergency water conservation regulations are a good first step towards long-term water conservation and sustainability. San Diego Coastkeeper understands that if drought conditions continue, additional actions by the State Water Board, local water suppliers, and our fellow California residents will likely be necessary to further increase conservation.

Coastkeeper supports the application of these restrictions to both urban water wholesalers and as retail water suppliers. Wholesalers can play an important role in shaping local water use and supply, and can offer incentives-based and other conservation programs on a region-wide basis that individuals water suppliers may be unable to offer due to their limited resources.

Coastkeeper looks forward to working with local residents towards realizing far greater conservation in the San Diego region through education and other partnership opportunities. Furthermore, Coastkeeper looks forward to working with water suppliers to ensure their Water Shortage Contingency Plans are in compliance with the SWRCB's requirements, and is confident that with these regulations we will begin to see great progress in San Diego towards far greater conservation.

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ONE ORGANIZATION PROTECTING 100% OF THE COAST

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on these important and necessary measures, and for considering these comments on behalf of our organization and its many members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. O'Malley".

Matt O'Malley
Waterkeeper
Legal & Policy Director