



820 Coventry Ct.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087.
July 13, 2014

Honorable State Water Resources Control Board:

I am just an ordinary citizen who cares about sustainability and environmental stewardship. I wish to thank the Board for establishing emergency regulations for urban water conservation. I hope that these first steps will be followed by plans to achieve the water conservation and efficiency potential envisioned in the recent report by the Pacific Institute and Natural Resources Defense Council [1].

I am concerned that the emergency regulations may not be enforced by local governments.

Prohibited activities (a) 1-2, and a more lenient version of (a)3, already exist in the ordinances of the city where I live. Yet I know there is no enforcement. For instance, every morning I pass by wet sidewalks and puddles in the road, caused by over-watering of outdoor landscapes. It is not the task of public safety officers, or neighborhood preservation staff, to enforce water conservation regulations.

So I hope that the emergency regulations will require documentation of a city government's plan, as well as actions taken, to enforce water conservation regulations. I do think that enforcements of regulations are needed, and education alone cannot do the job. I also hope that a time will be set to review how well the regulations are working.

Beyond the present regulations, I wonder if one way towards progress in urban water conservation is to require that water conservation is included in real estate transactions. For example, a house should satisfy requirements for high-efficiency toilets and appliances and water-wise landscaping before it is sold.

However, there is a fundamental barrier to water conservation. Our city government will get less revenue if water conservation is successful. I hope the Board will convene financial and water experts to come up with ways to decouple income and the volume of sale.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mei-Ling Shek

[1]

<http://pacinst.org/news/new-report-drought-stricken-california-could-save-up-to-14-million-acre-feet-of-water-enough-to-supply-all-the-states-cities-annually/>