



The Public Trust Alliance wholeheartedly supports the proposed regulations, but we have grave concerns that if several long-standing deficiencies in California Water Allocation Law are not addressed or considered, the proposal will have little actual effect in reducing significant new developing sources of waste, unreasonable use and unreasonable diversion of public water in California. We are particularly concerned about unreasonable commitments of public resources that are now being made to constructing unnecessary desalination facilities for augmenting urban water supplies while at the same time publicly subsidizing an unreasonable and perhaps even already currently illegal extent of agricultural irrigation use. Such a situation could be regarded as willful negligence and breach of public trust by the Board considering these good but seriously inadequate regulations.

Groundwater and surface water are not separate entities and neither are "agricultural" or "urban" water supplies. Focusing on "urban conservation" separately from the far greater amount of public water used for agriculture is "unreasonable" when smaller relative changes in agricultural use could "solve" many problems much more "easily." Current law and the public interest actually point in this direction, but for a number of reasons, many unknown or unacknowledged, this is not how California water problems are discussed. Our organization urges frank, open and comprehensive discussion and public solution of public water supply questions. Smaller, artificially segmented discussions designed to protect some limited private interests at unreasonable public cost cannot contribute substantially to public problem solving. The scope of the present discussion should be adjusted to reflect historic public interests protected by the California Public Trust Doctrine. We would be glad to contribute to such a process if it might be engaged.

Sincerely,
Michael Warburton
Executive Director
Public Trust Alliance
A Project of the Resource Renewal Institute
187 East Blythedale Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
michael@rri.org