



County Administrative Office

Gregory C. Devereaux
Chief Executive Officer

(2/2/16) Board Meeting- Item 7
Conservation Extended Emergency Reg
Deadline: 1/28/16 by 12:00 noon

January 28, 2016



Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
By email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: 2/2/16 BOARD MEETING (Conservation Extended Emergency Regulation) – San Bernardino County’s Comments on Proposed Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The County of San Bernardino (“County”) appreciates the opportunity to submit to the Honorable Members of the State Water Resources Control Board (“Water Board”) its comments on the proposed amendment and re-adoption of the Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation released January 15, 2016 (“Proposed Extended Emergency Regulation”).

The County has previously submitted comments on the Mandatory Conservation Proposed Regulatory Framework Released April 7, 2015; the draft Drought Emergency Water Conservation Regulations and Approach released April 18, 2015; the Proposed Text of Emergency Regulation issued April 28, 2015; and the Proposed Regulatory Framework for Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation released December 21, 2015.

First, the County would like to support the Proposed Extended Emergency Regulation’s inclusion of recommended adjustments of urban water supplier conservation standards to account for water efficient growth since 2013 and climate. The County and many urban water suppliers in our county previously requested a growth adjustment. Many water suppliers in our county had also requested consideration for climate. If the Water Board approves the climate adjustment, the urban water suppliers in our mountain and desert communities will benefit from a 3 percent to 4 percent reduction in their conservation targets.

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The Proposed Extended Emergency Regulation does not appear, however, to address the County of San Bernardino and County of San Diego's previous technical comments – submitted throughout the drought-related conservation emergency regulation process – that requested that cities and counties be provided an opportunity to separately account for water conservation at their facilities using a credit system.

The County recognizes it is a significant end-user of water and has conserved where it can. The County has complied with the water use restrictions imposed by its numerous water suppliers, which have primarily focused on outdoor water use. Water usage at some County facilities was reduced more than 70 percent during the months of July, August and September 2015 compared to the same period in 2013. While other County facilities with minimal outdoor water usage conserved less than 10 percent.

The proposed credit system would permit the County to apply credits earned for excess conservation at some facilities toward essential facilities, such as our jails and hospital, that may not be able to achieve their water suppliers' conservation targets because the County must comply with specific health, safety, sanitation and hygiene requirements regarding water use. Without the proposed credit system, other customers of the urban water suppliers serving the County's essential facilities may have to conserve more than their fair share.

Please note that the County Board of Supervisors has not adopted an official position on the Proposed Extended Emergency Regulation. However, to assist the State Water Board with its efforts to implement the Governor's Executive Order B-36-15, the County Administrative Office provided the above comments.

We are available to provide any further assistance so that the State Water Board and its staff clearly understand the concerns raised by the County. Also, should you wish to discuss the County's comments, I can be reached at (909) 387-4384. Additionally, Josh Candelaria of the County Administrative Office's Legislative Affairs Unit may be reached at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Page".

Bob Page
Principal Management Analyst, Special Projects
County Administrative Office
County of San Bernardino