



February 3, 2017

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via e-mail to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Comment Letter on February 8 Board Meeting – ITEM #9 (Consideration of extension and potential modification of current drought-related emergency regulations)

Dear Chair Marcus:

On behalf of Padre Dam Municipal Water District, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the extension and potential modification of the current drought-related emergency regulations. Padre Dam provides water, waste water, recycled water and recreational services to a population of 100,000 people in East San Diego County.

Padre Dam strongly proposes that the statewide drought-related emergency regulations be allowed to expire in February 2017. Much of the State is not experiencing drought conditions or water supply shortages. On the contrary, many counties are in a State of Emergency related to severe winter storms and flooding.

Considering current supply conditions throughout the state, sending a message to the public that the State remains in a drought emergency undermines our credibility with the public and hurts the effectiveness of future conservation messaging that would be needed during actual emergency conditions. The State Water Board should focus its efforts on those communities that are truly facing supply shortages and are unable to meet the water demands of their community.

Conservation will not go away with the rescinding of the emergency regulations. Padre Dam continues to promote and encourage water conservation to our customers through drought-tolerant landscape classes, conservation device incentives and online learning resources. We are also considering a water reuse project, our Advanced Water Purification Program, which would produce up to 30 percent of our water supply locally – ensuring increased water reliability for our customers.

We are particularly concerned that the continuation of “emergency” regulations will be received negatively by our customers who stepped up and conserved during the true emergency. If the state continues to impose emergency regulations on them after the emergency is over, how will they trust us the next time we have a true drought emergency? You were agile in the implementation of these regulations. We ask you to repeat the same agility and fairness in the rescission of the regulations.

In addition to the comments provided in this letter, Padre Dam supports the comments provided in the letter from the San Diego County Water Authority, the District’s wholesale water provider.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the extension and potential modification of the current drought-relates emergency regulations. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure a reliable water supply future for California.

Sincerely,



Allen Carlisle
CEO/General Manager

CC: Assemblyman Randy Voepel
Senator Joel Anderson
Padre Dam Board of Directors