



2-7-17 Board Meeting-Item 9
Urban Water Conservation to Implement EO B-29-15
Deadline: 2/6/17 12 noon



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Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
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California Water Research supports the decision by the Board to continue the requirement that water agencies have enough supply to get through a repeat of the recent drought.

Although California is experiencing a very wet year, it remains to be seen whether this year will be a repeat of 2011 – a very wet year followed by a series of below normal, dry, and critically dry years. Groundwater reserves have been severely depleted in many areas. This is particularly of concern for San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Lake water agencies that rely on groundwater.

One example of a vulnerable region is the Tule River sub-basin in the Tulare Lake Groundwater basin. As the attached excerpt from California Water Research's 2015 shows, the city of Porterville used 250 gpcd in 2001. The city contains some large landscapes, including the Porterville golf course. Although the city of Porterville has a new well, given the problems experienced by the city and adjacent areas, it may be important for the city to continue to conserve to allow groundwater to recharge. Flood irrigation of nearby orchards might also help.

Domestic well failures in the region continue to be an issue. Although the state of California is paying the estimated \$10,000 per home to connect homes in East Porterville to Porterville's water distribution system, there are other domestic water supply wells that are affected. As of

January 30, 2017, Tulare County reported 1,549 cumulative domestic well failures. The County reports 327 unresolved domestic well failures, and there were 3 new well failures.

Groundwater recharge should also be a concern for retail water agencies supplied by Metropolitan Water District, since there is currently about a 50% chance that Lake Mead could fall low enough in 2018 to trigger a shortage, and a 60% chance in 2019. (See Metropolitan Water District, Water Supply Outlook, available at http://www.mwdh2o.com/PDF_About_Your_Water/2.2.4_water_supply_conditions.pdf.)

In sum, the Board's decision is supported by California's severely depleted groundwater conditions and uncertainty about future water supply from the Colorado River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Des Jardins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deirdre Des Jardins
Principal, California Water Research