

From: Justin Kennerly
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter - Urban Water Conservation Workshop
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TO: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 24th floor Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Justin Kennerly, Resident of Southern California

I realize that I missed the deadline for comments on this issue, but I only discovered the matter via an announcement on local radio. As a lifelong resident of southern California, I am in favor of continuing mandatory water restrictions beyond the anticipated expiration date. Lifting the restrictions will only continue the boom and bust, reactionary approach to our longstanding water issues. Yes, we are experiencing tremendous amounts of rain and snow and the reservoirs are filling up. Snow Pack is substantial. However, as we know from our time here in California, as well as climate models, the current situation could be transient. We would then have to resort to another cycle of water restrictions again in the future. We really need to develop solutions that put us in more of a steady state of water use, conservation, and storage.

I'm not opposed to removing the restrictions, but would like to see the state base this not upon current precipitation, reservoir storage and water content of the snow pack. I would prefer that the state identify a set of standards that water agencies across the state must meet prior to lifting restrictions for that agency. Standards would reflect infrastructure that would a net annual water savings of a certain percentage, going forward. That savings could differ between agencies/areas, but at least there would be an incentive to prepare infrastructure to stabilize our water supply and delivery system. We, in southern California in particular, need to live like we live in an area that averages 11-15 inches of rainfall / year (and less in recent years), and not like we live in a region that receives 30 inches of rain / year.

Perhaps the standards could be establishing a certain percentage of annual water independence, using a combination of local water stores, reclaimed water, etc. Perhaps a standard could be conversion of a certain percentage of streets/sidewalks/alleys, etc. to permeable pavement/sidewalks/streets/alley. Perhaps, agencies could demonstrate a certain percentage of residents that use ultra low flow showerheads, toilets. Perhaps a certain percentage of parcels, where appropriate. Standards could reflect reduction of property run-off using permeable surfaces, cisterns, French drains, or even a percentage of local stormwater /run-off collection.

I would prefer the state get infrastructure in place, not proposed infrastructure, prior to reducing mandatory conservation. Let's use the past 7-9 years as a learning moment and prepare a more stable water future. A future that does not simply react to reservoir levels and rainfall.

As an example, in Los Angeles County, we are receiving near normal rainfall for a typical year, yet we have lost many 10's of billions of gallons of water due to proliferative hardscape designed to treat water as a waste product, and not a resource. Yes, Los Angeles has managed to collect approx. 15 billions of gallons in that past few weeks, but has lost twice that amount to run off not directed into catchment basins.

I hope you will consider these recommendations while you decide on this measure.

Respectfully,
Justin Kennerly
La Crescenta, CA