

February 3, 2017



State Water Resources Control Board
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via e-mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: February 8, 2017 BOARD MEETING (Conservation Extended Regulation)

Dear Chair Marcus and Commissioners of the State Water Resources Control Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments for the Board meeting on February 8, 2017 in regards to proposed adjustments to the Emergency Conservation Regulations for 2017. In regards to the proposed extension to the Emergency Regulations, the following responses are provided:

1. As the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) considers extending the emergency regulation in February 2017, they must consider that many parts of the state are not experiencing emergency drought conditions due to improved hydrologic conditions, development of drought resilient supplies, or both. The SWRCB should rescind the emergency conservation regulations for those areas with adequate supplies, such as San Diego area, and only focus on those communities that require assistance in meeting the water demands of their community.
2. Given that the climatic and hydrologic conditions are at historic levels in rainfall, each region needs to have the latitude and ability to address their specific conditions, and do not require an emergency regulation at this point. In fact, given the current conditions, it is hard to justify having "emergency regulations" when many can argue the state is no longer in short term emergency conditions. It is disingenuous of the SWRCB to propose mandatory emergency regulations given that this water year is already producing record rain and snowfalls across the state, which has eliminated the possibility of another dry winter.

We support that long-term conservation aspects continue to be addressed through prudent development of programs and projects. Local water agencies and the state need to develop mutually supportable limited conservation regulations and demand reduction methods to address potential impacts of climate change, that should also be balanced with increasing supply storage, developing alternate sources of supply, and assessing the potential impacts to the economy of all these actions. We've done our part over the last 18 months, now it's time to do yours without crippling the local economy or over-reach of regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please feel free to contact me at _____ or _____ for any additional comments or clarifications to these comments.

Sincerely,