

Feb. 3, 2017



State Water Resources Control Board  
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA Email: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

**RE: 02/07/17 to 02/08/17 BOARD MEETING/HEARING/WORKSHOP – ITEM #9 Comment Letter**

Dear Ms. Townsend,

On behalf of Carlsbad Municipal Water District (CMWD), thank you for the opportunity to provide the State Water Resources Control Board with input on the extension and potential modification of the current drought-related emergency regulations. CMWD provides 86,596 customers in northern San Diego County potable water, desalinated ocean water, recycled water, wastewater, and hydroelectric services. **Approximately 20 percent** of our potable water is **desalinated ocean water** and we supply **more than 90 percent** of our commercial, institutional and industrial users **recycled water for irrigation**.

Much of the state is no longer experiencing drought conditions or water supply shortages. In our region, we have made major investments in drought-resilient water sources. This has provided us with more than sufficient supply and storage, and conforms to stress test parameters set by the State Board. The San Diego County Water Authority recently declared, through resolution, the end of the drought in San Diego County. With these considerations, CMWD strongly advocates the statewide drought-related emergency regulations be allowed to expire.

CMWD has remained at a drought alert level since the emergency regulations were enacted. Now that our region is no longer in a drought, we plan to implement a continuous **drought watch**. We will ask our customers to continue to implement water efficient devices and practices, minimize outdoor watering, and avoid water waste. Our message will be: our water supplies are healthy now, but a drought may be right around the corner.

**We suggest that the State Board allow the emergency regulations to expire and transition to a statewide drought watch.** Continuing a drought emergency and related restrictions in the face of substantially improved water conditions – not to mention flood emergencies throughout the state – undermines the credibility of water agencies, particularly during actual supply emergencies.

CMWD strongly believes that our water agency, and the state as a whole will best be served through the thoughtful application of the drought rules to those areas that currently continue to experience supply or groundwater sustainability issues. The regulations should be allowed to expire for agencies that can prove they have sufficient supply.

If you have any questions please contact me at 760-438-2722.

Sincerely,



Wendy Chambers  
General Manager