



January 5, 2016

Cathy Frevert
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Frevert:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Proposed Regulatory Framework for Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation. The City of Indian Wells appreciates the opportunity to be involved in this process through the technical working group and to provide feedback on staff's recommendations.

The City of Indian Wells is committed to helping its residents achieve the State's water reduction mandate and we remain committed to do our part to manage the water supplies in a long-term, sustainable manner. The City and our residents take the drought restrictions very seriously, and we are continuing to evaluate areas where business can be done differently to help with this conservation effort. We stress that there is a unique climate situation here in the lower desert of the Coachella Valley. We appreciate the staff's attempt to try to create equity to mitigate our situation; however, we feel that the proposed framework falls short of doing so.

We have reviewed the Proposed Framework and offer the following comments:

Non-potable Recycled Water Use Credit:

Staff Recommendations state that the "Under the current Emergency Regulation, non-potable recycled water is not counted in total potable water production. Suppliers' conservation standards are based on residential use of potable water." The Coachella Valley Water District has provided an opportunity for their users to connect to this non-potable water source for the specific use of landscape irrigation. The City is exploring options to assist privately maintained Landscape and Lighting Maintenance Districts to re-plumb their irrigation systems to utilize the non-potable irrigation water.

Because there is a strong likelihood that additional customers will use non-potable water to irrigate landscaping, the City supports the proposal submitted by stakeholders that allows suppliers to reduce their 2016 monthly potable water production by the ratio of non-potable water use to total potable water production, multiplied by their total water production and

their conservation. We see this as a way to incentivize the use of alternative water to conserve potable water.

Seasonal Population is not Counted in Census:

The Coachella Valley economy relies very heavily on seasonal residents with second homes and the tourism industry. The homes in our area use landscape water year-round despite their owners only being present a few months each year. Additionally, many of the second homes in our area serve as vacation rentals. Vacation rentals also use landscape water year round, whether they are occupied or not. Neither seasonal residents nor visitors are included in census calculations for our area, despite the fact that local cities estimate they increase local population by up to 43%. Thus, our Residential Gallons Per Capita Per Day calculation is skewed. For the sake of accuracy, this needs to be addressed.

Our region, through CVWD, previously submitted data to demonstrate this which was reviewed by the SWRCB staff. Despite demonstrating that the water is used year round, staff informed us we could only include our non-permanent residents when they are physically here. We have no way to document their presence in a scientific way and, as previously mentioned, their homes use landscape water regardless of the occupancy. Approximately 80% of the urban water used in the Coachella Valley is used outdoors.

We are not asking for special consideration for our seasonal residents, in fact, a change to this process would likely not change our conservation standard. We are simply asking that our population be counted accurately.

Conclusion

In summary, we ask that the SWRCB staff reconsider the following:

1. Allow the Recycled Non-Potable water use credit and expand it to include non-potable water in general.
2. Allow for the inclusion of seasonal residents in the R-GCPD calculation.
3. Remove the cap on credits and adjustments.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Ken Seumalo, P.E.
Director of Public Works