

# City of Visalia

425 E. Oak Ave., Ste. 201, Visalia, CA 93291



# Natural Resource Conservation

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January 5, 2016

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair  
and Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
c/o Kathy Frevert (submitted via email)  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Proposed Regulatory Framework for  
Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

The City of Visalia appreciates the opportunity to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board's Proposed Regulatory Framework for Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation.

When the Emergency Regulations were first proposed, the City provided comments objecting to the inequity of not recognizing the significant effect climatic differences across the state have on water use. The City is pleased to see the State Water Board is looking to address this to some degree in the Extended Emergency Regulations.

State Water Board staff proposes a one-time climate adjustment of up to 4% reduction in the mandated "Conservation Standard" tier based on the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) Mapped ET Zone for the months of July, August, and September. The City agrees with this approach, however, we believe the methodology proposed by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in its November 30 letter to the State Water Board would provide a more equitable application. Rather than capping the adjustment at 4%, ACWA's proposed approach would deduct the percentage of the actual deviation from the statewide average.

The City also agrees that a growth adjustment is necessary, however, again we believe that the approach proposed by ACWA would be more equitable than that proposed by State Water Board staff. This is because the staff proposal arbitrarily assumes occupancy of 3 persons per new residential connection and arbitrarily applies the increase for only 270 days per year. The City believes the adjustment should be based on the actual housing occupancy according to the most recent census and should assume 365 days of occupancy. Certainly the average Visalia resident does not take 95 days of vacation each year.



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Lastly, State Water Board staff recommends a cap of 4% on all credits and adjustments. The City does not believe this cap is appropriate as it discriminates against areas that have both a high ET and rapid growth.

The City commends the State Water Board and staff for recognizing some of the limitations and inequities in the application of the mandated Conservation Standard tiers in the Emergency Regulations and their efforts to address these in the Extended Emergency Regulations, however, we encourage the Board and staff to reconsider the recommendations submitted by ACWA and other experts when drafting the revised regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimball R. Loeb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimball R. Loeb

Natural Resource Conservation Manager