

From: Blaine Michaelis
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comments regarding Proposed Water Board Regulations - restricting watering Turf in Street Medians and parkways
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:09:40 PM

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board



Please accept some comments regarding new watering prohibitions on irrigating turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscaped areas between the street and sidewalk except where the turf serves a community or neighborhood function.

Two thoughts – first of all, ‘community or neighborhood function’ needs some clarification. In actuality, all landscaping in these areas serves a community function. That is why those areas are publicly maintained landscaped in the first place. Since the current median water restrictions were implemented, we have received consistent community complaint and public concern with the appearance and consequence of not watering turf in medians. Turf controls weeds and dust, erosion, and keeps absorbed water in the median for other plant material and trees. All landscaping including turf serves a community function.

Second – medians and parkways include other bushes and trees besides turf. Those bushes and trees need water. Removing turf does not lessen the water volume needed to keep these trees, bushes and plant material healthy. We appreciate the appearance of water waste from errant sprinklers in turfed median islands; but please know that a median or parkway without turf, is not always resulting in water savings because of trees and other plant material. Therefore public landscape areas are decimated and water use remains unchanged. We encourage some careful thought or at least more research on this water saving strategy.

The last comment relates to universal restrictions where potable water cannot be directly applied to driveways and sidewalks at all. We understand the theory and concept. Could the Board consider that there are times when public sidewalks and areas need to be steamed cleaned, or properly washed, or disinfected, or that somethings just need water to be properly and effectively cleaned?

Thank you.

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