April 13, 2016

Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board

Comment Letter: 4/19-20/16 BOARD MEETING – ITEM #10

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the SWRCB’s consideration of the appropriateness of the current emergency drought regulations given the hydrologic conditions and availability of sustainable water supply in many regions of California.

Truckee Donner PUD has submitted previous comment letters detailing the short and long-term adequacy of our water supply in the Martins Valley Groundwater Basin and the need for the SWRCB to treat sustainable groundwater resources equitably with surface water resources. The Truckee region has experienced a normal winter with average precipitation and near average snowpack and our water supply situation remains stable and sustainable.

The adequacy of our water supply is validated by stable well levels (CASGEM), decades of supply of stored water in the aquifer, and state-of-the-art groundwater and climate change modeling funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation. In addition, the current and projected water use in Marti’s Valley Groundwater Basin represents less than 1% of the water available in the Truckee River Basin. The balance goes to interests in the State of Nevada.

Truckee Donner PUD has not experience a water supply shortage nor emergency throughout the drought and the costs to comply with a 28% (now 25%) SWRCB’s Conservation Targets has and is creating a hardship for our rate payers. The SWRB needs to consider this winter’s regional precipitation, along with the adequacy of ALL water supply resources, and exempt water agencies that are not experiencing a water supply shortage from emergency conservation targets.

Truckee Donner PUD welcomes the opportunity to provide the data and scientific justifications to support the statements that have been made above. We appreciate your consideration of our comments and request to be exempted from emergency conservation targets.

Sincerely,

Michael Holley
General Manager

Cc: Daniel Blacet (California Municipal Utilities Association)
    Mike Staudenmayer (Northstar Community Services District)
    Tony Firenzi (Placer County Water Agency)
    Eric Oppenheimer (State Water Resources Control Board)
    Felicia Marcus (State Water Resources Control Board)