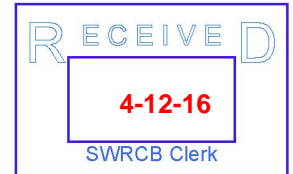




April 12, 2016

STEPHEN F. MACK, *General Manager*

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Comment Letter – Urban Water Conservation Workshop

To Whom It May Concern:

Sweetwater Springs Water District is respectfully requesting that the State Water Resources Control Board rescind the application of emergency drought water conservation regulations for water suppliers in the Russian River Watershed, including Sweetwater Springs Water District. This past winter has seen rainfall above normal for much, if not all, of the watershed, the Russian River reservoirs have supplies encroaching into the flood pool, and we experienced flooding in March in some locations in the watershed. The drought was not severe in this watershed last year and our residents know that a drought, however it may be defined for this area, is not happening now.

Emergency restrictions such as our Water Shortage Contingency Plan should only be used when appropriate for the water users. Over use of mandatory restrictions or water savings goals because of drought may mean that that these plans won't be followed when really needed - we have to be concerned about "crying wolf". We don't know what the backlash of overuse of drought restrictions might be, but it could result in a lack of response some time in the future when we really need the savings.

Getting rid of drought restrictions will not mean a return to unwanted water use practices. This area has long valued water conservation, has implemented drought plans when required locally but not Statewide, has followed wise water use habits, and our District has generally low residential water use - 63.1 gallons per capita per day for Calendar Year 2015.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.F. Mack".

Stephen Mack, General Manager
Sweetwater Springs Water District