April 13, 2015

Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
Cal/EPA Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento
Sent via email to Jessica.Bean@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: 25% water reduction structure

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

I am writing on behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors to express concern about the State Water Resources Control Board’s recent mandate that has some communities required to conserve 25 percent and others 35 percent. Our belief is that this action will likely have an unintended effect that is in direct contradiction to your true goals.

The past three years of drought have brought water agencies, environmental groups and governmental bodies together for a common cause. New infrastructure projects are in the process of benefitting multiple areas, more efficiency has been accomplished and creative ideas and rebates for water savings have been implemented. All of this has bonded regions together.

In Placer County, we have larger water agencies in the west and multiple smaller water providers in the east. Each has responded to reach the goals set in years past and we believe that they will reach the original 25 percent mandate for this drought year by working together.

The proposal of different mandates has the potential to cause those agencies to no longer work together, but instead act on their own to reach what they deem necessary – or even begin competing against each other. The Board’s decision could set us back. We need to move forward, not backward.

We need to have a clear, simple standard that everyone in the state can understand and reach for. We have to have a clear message as we communicate with our residents who will be essential in implementing these conservation efforts. Everyone needs the same objective. Water agencies, local jurisdictions and the media need to work in concert.

The simple, equitable goal that should be constant across the state is a 25 percent reduction for all users.
Felicia Marcus, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
RE: 25% water reduction structure  
April 13, 2015

If you have any questions or concerns about Placer County’s position, please contact Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst at 530-745-3011 or at bstorey@placer.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER

[Signature]

Kirk Uhler,  
Chairman, Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Governor Jerry Brown  
Placer County Board of Supervisors  
David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst, Placer County  
Petersen Consulting, Inc.