

Dear Ms. Jessica Bean,

I am writing to propose allowing partnerships to more economically and cooperatively achieve our conservation goals. When a utility with 55 gpcd residential demand has to decrease that demand by 10%, that savings can be extremely difficult to find. All parties within the partnership would be held responsible for their net savings requirements. While utility-wide mandatory conservation does encourage a greater sense of shared responsibility on the individual level, the utilities involved bear unequal costs (per unit water saved) to reach their goals.

For this reason I propose allowing partnerships between utilities to achieve water saving goals. Allow for the net reduction to be transferred from one water utility to another alone with the proportional cost of that reduction. This will encourage utilities to work together to identify savings opportunities both in water and dollar cost per unit conserved water. I see these partnerships as involving up to 5 utilities. More may work as well, though at a certain point the bookkeeping may be untenable. Given the geographic importance to partnerships, it may make sense to restrict partnerships to water sheds.

A future system, that time constraints prevent from being implemented along with this emergency mandate, might act more as a marketplace (regulated by the state) where conservation opportunities or water savings are bought and sold based on supply and demand spurred by the need for regulatory compliance and sustainable use of limited water.

Best regards,

Simon Kobayashi