

Jessica,

In reviewing the draft water conservation regulations the City of Downey recognized that there are certain situations where urban water suppliers can request modifications to their conservation tier based on reserve supplies of water. The modifications currently appear to be limited to surface water, precipitation, and number of years that the supplies last.

Although there are many groundwater basins throughout the State that are not managed, there are also many that are actively managed and currently in good standing. Many such Basins, like the one in which the City of Downey resides, are Adjudicated via past court Judgments and specifically limit the amount of water that may be pumped from the Basin on an annual basis and also provide the opportunity for pumpers to store water for future use.

In an effort to prepare for droughts such as the one the State is currently experiencing, many agencies such as Downey have taken a multi-faceted approach to drought proofing their water supplies that not only includes conservation but also includes creating reserve water supplies for future use. Such agencies have spent significant funds in purchasing and storing water in groundwater basins recognized by Court adjudications as stored water and which is physically available for use by the agency that past stored it, independent of precipitation patterns.

The City of Downey recommends that the State include language in the regulation that allows for credits or modification to conservation tiers for agencies that have invested in groundwater storage and which supplies are currently available to them in this time of need, independent of precipitation patterns. Including such language, will provide agencies such as Downey with the maximum flexibility and tools necessary to combat the drought while also encouraging creativity necessary for agencies to properly prepare for current and future droughts.

The City of Downey recognizes that there is not one approach to combatting the drought but rather, many approaches that are needed to properly prepare for and overcome the severe drought currently being experienced by the State. The City is subsequently looking closely at all ways available to expand recycled water use and conservation throughout the City in addition to groundwater storage measures. The City only asks that the State equip agencies with all the tools necessary to overcome the drought by adding language to include credits for agencies that have invested in groundwater storage as expressed above.

The City appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and to work with the State on implementing regulations that are fair and equitable to the State's agencies many of which have different water supply conditions. We would be happy to discuss further should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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