

April 20, 2015

Ms. Jessica Bean
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bean,

My last “water” bill totaled \$186.55. *Water* is in quotes because only \$11.04 of the \$186.55 was spent towards the cost of my actual water usage. My bill is broken down as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sacramento Area Sewer District (Local Wastewater Collection)	\$39.70
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) – Regional Wastewater Conveyance & Treatment	\$58.00
Total Sewer Charge	\$97.70

Total Utility Tax for Parcel	\$2.20
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Metered Residential Water Usage	\$11.04
Service Charge 1” SVC	\$25.28
Capital Development Fee	\$57.60
Low income discount	- \$7.27
Total Water Charge for Parcel	\$86.65

Total Bill	\$186.55
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I agree that California needs to manage its water differently but I do not agree with the proposed methodology of using a nine-tier conservation standard for the following reasons.

First, the area in which I live is located in an average neighborhood in rural Sacramento County. Though I live in a neighborhood, I purchased my property in anticipation of having enough land to grow my own fruits and vegetables and raise backyard chickens to have my own eggs and thereby live the all-American dream. This style of living is very common for most people who are not city-dwellers because our property lot sizes are bigger than those found in cities. Most cities have many apartments/condos whereas rural areas have more single-family homes. Thus, neighbors in my regions use more water than city-dwellers because we have the land to cultivate our own food. Thus, we use water both inside and outside. Asking us to meet the same water rations as those heavily populated areas is discriminatory and is trying to infringe upon a person's right to grow his or her own food. Our water usage is for our own sustainability.

Second, cities create the most stormwater pollution. You're asking areas of California that are not heavily populated to comport to water rations of city-dwellers; the regions that create more debris in our waterways. It is well known that large metropolitan cities, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego have severe problems with litterbugs, oil/gas grime on the roads, high levels of homelessness, etc. When it rains all the trash from the streets runs directly to the ocean. This is because most of California's stormwater runs directly to the ocean, without any clean-up efforts. Therefore, most of California fails at being an environmental steward in making certain that when rainfall *occurs* – the stormwater does not continue to pollute our already polluted oceans. Polluted oceans lead to acidification, which leads to the ocean dying. The ocean creates the precipitation to allow the rainfall. It does not take a scientist to figure out that all of our actions, and *non*-actions, are connected to the ecosystem. Rural areas have less concrete than cities and thus more land to allow the rain to absorb into the ground, rather than running off into the streams/rivers/oceans. We should not be punished for over-populated regions that have more taxpayers and hence the ability to raise the necessary revenue in order to treat their stormwater before emptying into the rivers/ocean. This is a century old problem and is not going away anytime soon.

Third, only about 16.6% of California's water consumption goes towards residential consumption according to USGS.

The mandated 25% reduction therefore only saves a meager 4.15% of the total water usage in the state. While I understand that the agricultural industry is very important for California and for the United States as a whole, they use 60% of the water. Since new research revealed that the last 100 years had much more rainfall than normal, I believe it is time to realize that California is a desert state and new ways to improve the efficiency of agricultural irrigation need to be developed.

Regards,

Ingo Muller