

Dear Jessica:

My wife Sharon and I are homeowners in Pleasanton working to understand and adhere to the new drought driven water conservation mandates. We understand why this is happening and are doing our best to comply. In recent years we've replaced some of our already small lawn area with hardscape and artificial turf. In short...we get it and are trying to help our neighbors and friends better understand the severity of the situation and to respond accordingly. My comments about the DRAFT proposed cutbacks in potable water usage (24% in Pleasanton) follow for your consideration:

- 1) Some of the changes we made to our property to reduce potable water consumption, precede the 2013 baseline year for cutbacks. It seems therefore that a benefit is derived by historic habitual water-wasters who will find it easier to make mandatory cutbacks as we move from a voluntary to a mandated regime. I believe all local jurisdictions need to take such things into consideration when enforcing new rules.
- 2) The overall goal is to reduce the consumption of potable water. For most of us in CA potable water is currently used only *once* for any given purpose (e.g. drinking, bathing, cooking, laundry, irrigation, and sanitary). Many people realize that the smart re-use of secondary graywater (sinks, laundry, bathing) is a highly effective way to reduce consumption of potable water while also maintaining our properties. Currently, graywater re-use is inhibited across the state by myriad legal, economic and practical restrictions that discourage this activity. I believe the SWRCB could provide a great service to the cause of water conservation in CA by including directives to *actively encourage greywater re-use* in the state. Many people are already capturing small amounts in the shower for watering potted plants. The same thing can be done on a larger scale very economically if state and local government actively encouraged it. I understand the arguments against doing this (groundwater recharge concerns) but those concerns can be easily addressed and in any case are a luxury that make no sense during a crisis with no end in sight. Re-use of secondary graywater is truly not rocket science and both the SWRCB and the 9 Regional Boards should take measures to encourage it for landscaping in both new and existing residential properties across the state. Make it easy for people who want to conserve water by capture and re-use (as we already do with residential solid waste recycling). Many homeowners are doing this already without disclosing their efforts to their local jurisdictions in an attempt to "avoid the hassle". Help people re-use water openly and legally...it's time.
- 3) My final comment is important to my wife and I in particular but I suspect many other folks are affected as well. We are in the middle of a city approved expansion of our home to add a small "mother-in-law" dwelling unit. The project has all the necessary approvals from my local jurisdiction. But even this small one-room addition to our home will necessarily add some incremental water demand to my existing water bill. I believe people in this situation should not be penalized for expansions to their property that were permitted before the new water restrictions were enacted. Provisions should be made to recognize such approved changes in water use for existing residences. I am hoping the conservation measures we are also putting in place will mitigate the added demand but I remain concerned about this for the future.

Jessica, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft document. As I noted earlier, my wife Sharon and I "get it" are doing our part. I believe we have entered a "new normal" climate

in CA and that we cannot count on a single wet winter to rescue us. We should all behave as if this is a permanent situation and conserve accordingly. But measures taken should be fairly designed and implemented. Finally, let's make California a pioneer in graywater re-use for landscaping...it's smart and it's time.

Thank you,

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