

Dear Jessica, Governor Brown, and everyone else:

While I applaud regulations that will ensure state-wide water conservation, the current proposal disproportionately penalizes those of us who have been practicing water conservation for many years. For example, I removed the lawns from my yards almost 10 years ago (before water meters were installed), and have drought-tolerant plantings on drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation. 2013 was my lowest-use year ever, but because the water meters were only installed in 2012, I cannot "prove" the amount of reduction from prior years.

In contrast, nearly all my neighbors have lawns in both their front and back yards, and some have swimming pools. Their water usage in 2013 was several times my usage. But, under the current regulations, we will all be asked to cut back by the same percentage. So, my neighbors, with their much larger allocation, can simply replace one lawn, fix a few leaks, install high-efficient irrigation, get rebates(!) and save well over 25%. For me to reach the same percentage of savings, I have already started to remove some perennial plants and will try to cut back to only one or two days of watering PER MONTH to maintain the most drought-tolerant plants. Luckily, my few backyard fruit trees are mostly drought-tolerant; I will not plant any annual vegetables this year.

While people like me should not receive special treatment, neither should the "water wasters". Perhaps it would be more fair for the individual water providers to take into account lot size and persons in a home, rather than assume that all city dwellers were equivalently wasting the same amount water two years ago.

Thank you,

Monica Britton