

To: State Water Resources Control Board  
Attention Jessica Bean

From: Renee Westa-Lusk (private citizen of Indian Wells Valley)  
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The proposed draft regulations to force the domestic residences to decrease their water use by 36% based on water usage during the months of July, August, and September of 2014 will inflict dangerous health and safety concerns because:

1. people may die from exposure to heat if they are not allowed to run swamp coolers (evaporative coolers) 24/7 during the high temperature months May through October as temperatures in our area of the California desert exceed 100 degrees in temperature during those months. During the months of July, August and September temperatures usually range from 105 to 117 degrees every day.
2. 80 to 90 percent of the residences in the Indian Wells Valley depend on swamp coolers as their only means of cooling during the high temperature months and do not have access to refrigerated air conditioning as do

most other areas of California.

The proposed draft regulations also put financial hardship on residents of the Indian Wells Valley if each residence were to convert to refrigerated air conditioning. The cost of retrofitting a private residential home can cost up to \$10,000 or more dollars besides the tripling or quadrupling of their monthly electric bill. To run refrigerated air conditioning is a great financial burden to many people living in the Indian Wells Valley. Other financial hardships include the payment of fines levied by the Indian Wells Valley Water District if the 36% decrease is not achieved.

While the intent is to have substantial water savings from domestic use these draft regulations will not save much water in the end because of the way the Indian Wells Valley water basin exists. It is a closed basin with private well owners who have no restrictions on the amount of water they can pump. These private well owners can pump water from here to eternity. I was recently told at a public meeting on water and land use that two new private wells were drilled in the valley within the last 2-3 months and pump at the rate of 1200 gallons per minute.

Why should domestic residents of the Indian Wells Valley suffer 5 months of the year from the effects of exposure to extreme heat without the access to adequate cooling and possibly risk their lives to save 36% of their water consumption when private well owners can use as much water as they want and not suffer any health risks OR financial hardship?

I believe we are the only water basin in California in this predicament where unfettered use of private wells can pump infinite amounts of water and the well owners do not suffer or risk physical endangerment nor the risk or hardship of financial burden like the residents who depend on municipal water supplies.

It is unfair to make the Indian Wells Valley domestic residential (municipal) water users to cut back more than domestic residential (municipal) water users in other parts of the state. The Indian Wells Valley is at a disadvantage because other parts of the state enjoy the following:

- a) A moister climate
- b) Cooler temperatures
- c) Less heating up of the atmosphere over May through October
- d) More reasonable electric utility rates

Please note my calculations from my own domestic residential water bill from the Indian Wells Valley District below. Please tell me how will I be able to cool my home using a swamp cooler or water any of my yard (July, August, Sept of 2015) using the State Water Resources Control Board's mandated 36% decrease in water usage for our valley?????

Month of 2014	gallons used	36% decrease subtracted	Projected Amount allowed month of 2015
July 2014	5,236	-1,884	3,352 July 2015
August 2014	6,732	-2,423	4,309 August 2015
Sept 2014	5,236	-1,884	3,352 Sept 2015

Please compare the 4<sup>th</sup> column calculations above to the gallons of water used in my household the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 water bills received this year 2015 (below-2<sup>nd</sup> column) which have no water used for watering the yard or running a swamp cooler.

Month 2015	gallons used
January 2015	3,740
February 2015	3,740
March 2015	2,992
April 2015	2,992

Please note the gallons projected for July, August, and September of 2015 of allowed water use (with the 36% decrease mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board) are not much different than the gallons used shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 water bills we have received this year of 2015. To meet the State Water Resources Control Board mandate of 36% does not allow for any use of swamp cooler or watering any of my yard. How are me and my husband expected to exist in this High Desert community during the months of May through October?????

Possible Solutions:

1. Must negotiate a better usage amount for the domestic residential (municipal) water users that is reasonable to all residents who access their water from the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The 36% decrease is unlivable  
  
to sustain human life May through October.
2. Inviting the State Water Resources Control Board to send a Board Member to our valley to tour and meet with community leaders and residents to be educated on the Indian Wells Valley water situation.
3. Asking for your help and assistance to come up with a reasonable plan for our area
4. Realize that you cannot use a "one size" fits all solution for the whole state of California, the State Water Resources Control Board needs to understand each water basin and each geographic region must be dealt with on an individual basis.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment on the draft regulations by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Renee Westa-Lusk