



CA State Water Resources Control Board

**REF: Draft Emergency Regulation, executive order B-29-15**

To Whom It May Concern:

I read with great interest the Draft Emergency Regulation, executive order B-29-15, which is to be implemented to help reduce the water usage in CA by 25% through February 2016. See the link below:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/emergency\\_mandatory\\_regulations.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/emergency_mandatory_regulations.shtml)

It is a relief to read that California has awakened to the reality of America's imperiled (dire) water situation and that the state understands that now is the time to act, before it is too late.

Conservation programs are in place and are becoming mandatory for the consumer. Each of us, including the municipalities and utilities, must do our part to conserve this life-sustaining resource. So while this executive order addresses excessive use and waste it does not address how the municipalities and utilities are, and will, reduce their levels of Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Addressing NRW will in turn reduce the overall level of water into supply and thus assist the state needs to reduce overall input into supply by 25%.

As Karl Pearson stated, "That which is measured improves. That which is measured and reported, improves exponentially." Every water delivery point in California needs to be metered and the data should be readily accessible to both the consumer and the utility. According to the Pacific Institute, 219,000 accounts throughout the state remained unmetered as of September 2014, and over 50% of those metered were manually read with no meaningful data available. Metering systems, such as the one currently being deployed by the University of California, enable the customer to access usage data in a timely and meaningful format. There is no doubt that, armed with this data, consumers will act responsibly.

Consumption is only part of the solution. Sustainability efforts must begin at the source. How efficiently are the utilities delivering potable water to their customers? Are the results being published? Approximately seven billion gallons of water are lost due to leaking infrastructure each year in the United States. In other words, 25% of all water produced never makes it to the end user. California is no exception. Technology exists to monitor water loss and precisely pinpoint failing infrastructure, thus enabling utilities to effectively manage their system and strategically repair and/or replace the worst performing areas first. We suggest that serious consideration be given to making the programs mandatory.

Each of us has an obligation to deploy today's best practices for producing, distributing, accounting, and consuming water.

So, now is the time to put down the pen and pick up the sword. If we don't hold everyone accountable, then our fears will surely become reality.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Wick", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

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Water. That's the point.