

Ms. Bean,

Aromas Water District is writing to you in response to a call for comments related to the Statewide Mandatory Water Reductions Executive Order.

The Aromas Water District is a small water purveyor on the outer edge of the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin. Our wells are located within a basin that is heavily impacted by a large agricultural economy. Our Special District serves 905 rural residential connections.

Our comments are as follows:

- We request that the requirements for "small water suppliers" be clearly defined. As of today, our District is unclear whether we have to reduce 20% or 25% as the information seems to be changing.
- We appreciate the development of Fact Sheets and communication on the Water Board website. It would be helpful if the date the Fact Sheet was produced was on the document as it is unclear exactly which Fact Sheet is the current one.
- As for the creation of a consumer rebate program, our District is quite interested in rebate programs and would be willing to fund such a program if there were an opportunity to seek reimbursement from the State. We request that the rebate program be streamlined to accommodate small Districts with minimal staff and offered ASAP. We understand that the State prioritizes many of their grant programs by DAC. Aromas is located between 2 DAC regions as defined by the State. We request that you "grade" such programs with an understanding of their regional proximity to DAC's. We request that the rebate program include funding for toilet replacement and laundry to landscape installations.
- Financial aid to assist small rural water providers is sorely needed. As we continue to reduce our water use, our revenues decline. We are committed to reducing water use and conservation however, our infrastructure continues to age and resources are necessary.
- One more note, Aromas Water District recently approved raising our tiered rates. This model is now in jeopardy due to the San Juan Capistrano case at the appellate court. This new development could cause serious ramifications for the District financially. The Governor's Executive Order encourages tiered rates as a means to conservation. We request that there be resources applied at the State level to address the conflict that so many Districts are now facing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the current regulations.

Vicki Morris
General Manager

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