

May 1, 2015

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



To Whom It May Concern:

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 because it assumes that all city dwellers were equivalently wasting the same amount water two years ago.

For example, I removed all lawns from my property almost 10 years ago and replaced them with drought-tolerant plantings on drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation. 2013 was my lowest-use year ever, but because 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. Under the proposed 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, receive a rebate(!) and save well over 25%. For me to reach the same percentage of savings, I have already started to remove some perennial plants and have 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". It would be more fair for the water providers to be able 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.

Sincerely,

Monica Britton
Woodland, California
mb4698@gmail.com