

# CITY OF BLYTHE

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May 4, 2015

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



Re: Comment Letter – Emergency Conservation Regulation

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's efforts to adopt regulations necessary to implement the Governor's April 1, 2015 Executive Order B-29-15. The City of Blythe understands we must work together to conserve water, but are concerned with how the proposed mandatory 32% reduction would impact our residents and the City, as the water supplier.

The City of Blythe is a small agricultural community located on the Colorado River. The City of Blythe is under the umbrella of the Palo Verde Irrigation District which has first right to water in the Colorado River. The City supplies water to 15,000 residents within a 24 square-mile area and relies exclusively on groundwater to do this. The available groundwater resources are ample for the City's needs now and for the distant future. It should also be mentioned that 50% of the water used in our Valley for farming is diverted back to the Colorado River.

During the summer months The City of Blythe regularly sees temperatures over 100 degrees and temperatures over 110 are not uncommon. When it heats up, people consume more water. A reduction of 32% during the summer months could be detrimental to our residents and is why we ask that climate differences be considered when assigning conservation standards. The City of Blythe is one of a few desert communities on the proposed tier structure being asked to reach conservation levels of 32% or greater.

The residents of the City of Blythe are low to moderate income and the City is recognized as a disadvantaged community. We do not have the resources necessary to achieve the proposed water reductions facing the City of Blythe. As the City does not import any water for its use, has ample ground water and is an agricultural community, The City of Blythe would like an opportunity to submit a request to be assigned to a lower conservation tier.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of the City of Blythe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mallory Sutterfield".

Mallory Sutterfield, Interim City Manager  
City of Blythe