

April 30, 2015

Sent via Electronic Mail: Jessica.Bean@waterboard.ca.gov



Felicia Marcus
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Input on Draft Emergency Regulations to Implement the Governor's Executive Order B-29-15 - **Accounting for (Indirect) Potable Recycled Water**

Dear Ms. Bean:

On behalf of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Orange County Water District, Water Replenishment District of Southern California and the West Basin Municipal Water District, we want to thank the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for its quick response to Governor Brown's Executive Order, B-29-15. In doing so, the State Board and its staff have provided California with clear direction—water conservation must become a way of life for Californians.

One area the proposed draft guidelines fall short is that they include potable (indirect) recycled water supplies as subject to the conservation standard. We respectfully request the State Board reconsider its position, and recognize indirect potable recycled water supplies as 100% conservation.

We agree with the State Board's call to encourage and incentivize the maximum use of recycled water. The current proposed guidelines account for non-potable recycled water use by excluding it in the calculation of "total water production" for the purpose of determining the proper tier for a water supplier, and their respective savings. However, we believe there was an unintentional exclusion of potable recycled water in this methodology. In part because this data has not been regulated or requested by the State Board, because it is not a direct retail delivery.

Excluding potable recycled water from the calculation of "total water production" would also be consistent with the definitions and inherent policies included in SBx7-7. **We respectfully request you consider excluding potable recycled water, by using the same methodology you use to exclude non-potable "purple pipe" water when calculating "Total Water Production"**.

Water Suppliers throughout California have long advocated for the right recycled water for the proper purpose. This effort has required extensive outreach to educate the public on the value of recycled water as a safe and healthy way to augment California's water supply. Through this effort, the use of recycled water for groundwater recharge and reservoir augmentation is now a reality and publicly supported by communities and leaders throughout the State.

Governor Brown has incorporated recycled water, both potable and non-potable, into his long-term water strategy, and made his position on this matter clear. In the Governor's Water Action Plan, he directed the State Board to develop uniform regulations for the indirect potable use of

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recycled water and to work with an expert panel to evaluate the feasibility of direct-potable reuse, as required by SB 322. Further, in signing this bill, Governor Brown noted that, "California needs more high-quality water and recycling is key to getting there."

As leaders in the recycled water industry, we support the Governor's mandate for a 25 percent reduction in potable urban water demand. To meet these targets, we urge the State Board to promote and encourage California water suppliers to utilize diverse water management tools, including conservation and recycled water, to the greatest extent possible. If accounting for the use of potable recycled water, similar to non-potable recycled water, is not possible or acceptable, we would be happy to meet with your staff to work on this matter moving forward.

Thank you, again, for considering our comments on the proposed emergency regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact us or Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison with Orange County Water District at (714) 378-8232 or adunkin@ocwd.com or E.J. Caldwell Government Affairs Program Manager with West Basin Municipal Water District at edwardc@westbasin.org or at (310) 660-6286 if we can be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE, BCEE, F.ASCE General Manager
Orange County Water District



Richard Nagel, General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District



Robb Whitaker, General Manager
Water Replenishment District



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