

Friends of Mariposa Creek

May 3, 2015



To: Jeanine Townsend - Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

From: Sarah Windsor
Friends of Mariposa Creek
PO Box 723
Mariposa, California 95338

Comment Letter - Emergency Conservation Regulation

Dear Board Members and Staff,

What is clearly needed is sustainable/integrated water management and water policy that focuses on reducing future water demands through more efficient use. Increasing droughts and climate change present an opportunity for adaptive and flexible strategies focused on long-term sustainability. Water managers, policy makers, and all of the People of the State must collaborate and rise to the task at hand today. The task of establishing a "Sustainable California."

The planning and implementation cycle must aggressively transition towards sustainability that depends on the holistic integration of the environment and economics. We must set and achieve this goal. We cannot merely settle on politically convenient technical fixes such as desalination and big engineering solutions. California's big water engineering projects are unable to cope in the face of drought and increases in urban population. The system in place is the very one that reinforced wasteful practices, driving demand for increased supply. Expanding our level of water recycling is one logical step towards sustainability that can fit into existing centralized systems. Identifying water polluters, and increasing penalties for violations of the Clean Water Act will help deter waste and pollution. Polluted water is wasted water.

Through public education, disciplined planning, and measured legislation, we must ensure the health of river and groundwater systems, and return all systems to environmentally sustainable levels. Recognizing agricultural water waste, not just urban waste, is essential to addressing dramatically diminishing resources and implementing the measures necessary to stop the squandering of water supplies. Up to forty percent (40%) of food produced in California is never eaten. Up to ten percent (10%) stays in the field and is disked. Between April and November, the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority landfills between four and eighty million pounds of fresh vegetables from the fields. That's only one transfer station out of many that serve California's agricultural valleys. This translates into an over-saturated market, and criminal squandering of the water it took to grow this egregious amount of wasted food. Billions of gallons of California's water is being hijacked to produce animal feed sold to China and other foreign markets. It took many thousands of years to fill California's aquifers. Now, in about one hundred years, many aquifers are empty. We must address serious supply shortages and waste head-on, and put mandatory sustainable agricultural practices in place today. Policy makers cannot bow to AG lobbyists and special interests. The future of The People's Water is at stake. The economic health of California is at stake.

"Sustainable California" should be composed of an integrated framework of checks and balances which ensure current and future commercial, industrial, and residential entities incorporate sustainable infrastructure, with holistic integration of the environment. Pending water guzzling projects, large and small that are not in step with holistic, long-term sustainability initiatives should be placed in immediate moratorium until sustainability criteria are met.

Oil, Gas and Mining industries must also employ best management practices. The Oil Fracking industry is currently producing thousands of toxic waste water ponds in California, and polluting underground aquifers. This does not sit well with the majority of the People of the State, and counties are taking actions necessary to bar Oil Fracking Industries from their communities. Policy makers must ensure that Oil, Gas and Mining Industries be integrated into the framework of a "Sustainable California."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sarah Windsor ~ Friends of Mariposa Creek

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