

LATE COMMENT



Dear California Water Resources Control Board

Please consider these comments Regarding emergency water conservation Regulations

- 1) I strongly support water conservation measures and restricting the wasting of water. Water use needs to be prioritized in a way that is equitable.
- 2) But water districts that have already cut water use, such as Cal American in Sacramento, and water users that have already reduced water use should not be forced to reduce water use even more until the others that are using over 3 times as much water per person have reduced their water use as well. Water districts that have ample groundwater supplies should not have to meet the same reductions in water use as water districts that have to depend on depleted surface water.
- 3) Houses and business water supplies should be metered and water wasters should be penalized. I see many lawns, including of businesses and government wasting water with water running off into the streets. There needs to be call in and report waste with cell phone pictures, etc.
- 4) Water saving appliances and retrofits, should be encouraged and subsidized by the state.
- 5) Lawns should have the lowest priority for water. Period. In years where there is enough water a lawn can be reseeded and regrown in a couple of months. The state should subsidize low water landscaping/native plant alternatives. In drought years, lawns and Golf courses should have a lower priority for water than food production, including home gardening and farming. There are other forms of recreation that use less water than maintaining golf courses.
- 6) Trees need to be maintained, and water should be provided for trees provided they are watered efficiently, i.e. with a drip type system, or root zone watering system (see systems like Tree IV) that minimize water use.
- 7) Growing ones own food is a fundamental right regardless of whether one lives in an urban or in a rural area. People should have the right to garden and grow their own food and fruit, and to use water to grow their own produce and fruit, provided they conserve and use water efficiently. Provided home gardeners and orchards use water efficiently, using drips, mulching and other conservation measures, they should be allowed the water to grow their own food.
- 8) Farmers should be allowed water to grow food, but they also need to use water

conservation measures, drip irrigation systems, etc.. If not, the water should go instead to farms that do use water conservation measures.

9) However, I do not agree with draining the parts of California that have some water to irrigate farms and lawns in the arid parts of California. To do so will only put everybody at risk. Those that live and farm in the arid portions of the state where local water supplies are lacking need to accept that they need to use a lot less water in years when water supplies are low. In drought years, large farms in arid regions may need to go fallow, totally without water. The water allotments to farmers need to be re-established with the current and projected lower and lower amounts of snow melt and surface water supplies that are being predicted with the on going climate change/global warming. Allotments receiving subsidized water should have a lower priority than those paying the full cost of the water.

10) Groundwater supplies also need to be protected and not overdrawn. Once a clay water table subsides, the collapse of the water table is permanent. The water board should be regulating groundwater to allow sensible water use but prevent overdrawing and the permanent collapse of the clay water bearing zone/table.

11) In summary, rather than making a simple allotment of X gallons per person, the Water board, needs to consider additional factors, including regional water supplies, home gardening, maintaining trees, lot size, farm size and conservation measures when considering how much water each residential unit, and each farm is allowed.

Thank you

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I am submitting this as a member of the general public