



December 1, 2015

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

Subject: "Comment Letter – Urban Water Conservation Workshop"

Dear Ms. Townsend:

On behalf of the Poway Chamber of Commerce and the business community in this region, I submit the following comments to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding potential changes to the Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation.

While we support increased water conservation during times of drought, we urge the state board to revise its emergency regulations so water agencies can meet reduction targets through a combination of conservation and sustainable drinking water supplies, such as desalination, potable reuse and long-term transfers of conserved water. This approach promotes regional self-reliance; without it, the state board will unintentionally undermine investments in sustainable water supplies statewide.

In San Diego County our water agencies have invested billions of dollars in developing a portfolio of sustainable water supplies specifically designed to make our region less vulnerable to droughts and devastating water supply cutbacks. However, the current regulations strip away the drought protections these supplies provide by not allowing the region to benefit from these investments. This approach will discourage ratepayers from supporting future water supply investments, not only in San Diego, but throughout California.

The state board has the opportunity to enhance and improve emergency water regulations that will help communities save water now, and ensure that developing and diverse communities will have the water they need to keep California thriving for decades to come. Furthermore, it is critical to maximize the water reliability benefits of drought-resilient and sustainable water supplies, such as the Carlsbad Desalination Project, during drought conditions to help support California's economy and quality of life.

I urge the state board to make modifications to the emergency regulation that will allow water agencies to continue to invest in sustainable water supplies and infrastructure for the water needs of today and tomorrow, and for economic future of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dolores Canizales".

A. Dolores Canizales
President & CEO