I am a Planning Commissioner for the City of Carlsbad and have recently attended the San Diego County Water Authority's Citizen's Water Academy. As a Commissioner, I have learned over the years that many times the "one size fits all" regulations and ordinances don't always work and that compensating factors for each situation must be considered and evaluated.

Such is the case for the Emergency Regulations for Statewide Urban Water Conservation. It is critical that drought-resistant and sustainable water supplies ratepayers have invested in deliver their water reliability benefits during drought conditions to support California's economy and quality of life. The SDCWA -- and the residents and businesses in San Diego County -- have done much over the years to ensure reliability through conservation, storage, desal, and contacting.

I urge the State Board to adopt the modifications to the existing emergency regulation to allow water agencies, such as the SDCWA and its many member agencies to achieve state water-use targets through a combination of conservation and sustainable drinking water supplies, such as desalination, potable reuse, and long-term transfers of conserved water.

The State Board has a unique opportunity to incentivize the development of sustainable water supplies -- not only for this drought -- but to better prepare California for future droughts. Agencies and citizens who have done this should not be penalized, but rather be rewarded for their leadership role and vision. And they should be promoted to others as examples of effective water leadership programs.

Jeff Segall