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Subject: "Comment Letter – Urban Water Conservation Workshop"

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



Dear Ms. Townsend:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments regarding potential changes to the Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation to the State Water Resources Control Board.

I appreciate the Board's efforts to achieve increased water conservation during drought conditions through the current Emergency Regulation.

I am writing you on behalf of the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, which serves as the leading advocate for economic vitality and growth of Lakeside. 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.

The Lakeside Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of developing, promoting and protecting the commercial, industrial, professional, agricultural and civic interests of Lakeside and its surrounding area. On behalf of our business community, we encourage modifications to current regulations.

While we support increased water conservation during times of drought, the current Emergency Regulation does not allow regional or local water agencies or their ratepayers to realize the benefits of their investments in water supply reliability – investments in self-reliance that are consistent with Governor Brown's Water Action Plan.

For example, here in San Diego County we have supported our water agencies as they have made billions of dollars in investments 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 threatens to discourage ratepayers from supporting future water supply investments, stunting the ability of the San Diego region – and the rest of California – to meet the needs of its growing population and economy amid a changing and more challenging climate.

You have the opportunity to craft improved emergency water regulations that not only will help communities save water now, but help ensure growing communities such as ours will have the water they need to keep California thriving for decades to come. 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 you to make modifications to the Emergency Regulation that allow water agencies to 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.

Sincerely,


Kathy Kassel
President/CEO