

commentletters

From: sdcwa@sdcwa.org on behalf of San Diego County Water Authority
<sdcwa@sdcwa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 3:16 PM
To: commentletters
Subject: Comment Letter - Urban Water Conservation Workshop



Submitted on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 3:16pm Submitted values are:

First Name: Mark
Last Name: Cafferty
Email: cafferty@sandiegobusiness.org
Today's Date: December 1, 2015
Comments:
December 1, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Townsend:

We're writing as co-chairs of the Business Alliance for Water, a group of more than 50 San Diego companies and business organizations concerned about our region's water supply reliability and the impact of drought on San Diego's economy.

Our group is well-versed on water issues, and we recognize conservation is critical. For our businesses, extreme water efficiency is the standard, not merely a response to drought. We've also pushed for — and, as ratepayers, paid for — strategic, long-term investments in reliability devised and implemented by our regional water wholesale agency, the San Diego County Water Authority.

San Diego County ratepayers have invested billions of dollars over the past two decades in drought-resilient supplies in order to maintain supply stability. The result is that our region has 99 percent of the water it needs to meet projected demands, even after four years of drought. We believe regions such as ours that have diligently prepared for droughts should get credit for those long-term investments in the emergency regulations. We strongly urge the State Board to adopt modifications outlined in the Water Authority's proposal that would allow water agencies to achieve water-use targets through a combination of conservation and sustainable supplies such as desalination, potable reuse, and long-term transfers of conserved water.

The State Board has an important opportunity to incentivize water agencies throughout California to continue developing sustainable water supplies so that the entire state will be better prepared for future droughts.

Making these modifications to the current emergency regulation will provide a more balanced and sustainable approach to drought management that better protects the region's and the state's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

Mark Cafferty
Kris Michell

Co-chairs
Business Alliance for Water | San Diego