

commentletters

From: sdcwa@sdcwa.org on behalf of San Diego County Water Authority
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Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 11:19 AM
To: commentletters
Subject: Comment Letter - Urban Water Conservation Workshop



Submitted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 11:18am Submitted values are:

First Name: Scott
Last Name: Huth
Email: citymanager@delmar.ca.us
Today's Date: December 2, 2015
Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Emergency Regulations for Statewide Urban Water Conservation. The following comments are submitted on behalf of the City of Del Mar, located in San Diego County. We are a small water agency responsible for serving approximately 1,888 water meters.

Locally in Del Mar, we have made significant water conservation efforts since the last drought which peaked in 2007-2009. In calendar year 2014, prior to the Governor's emergency drought declaration, Del Mar reduced consumption by 16.21% compared to 2008 consumption levels. On July 21, 2014, the Del Mar City Council declared a Stage 2 "Drought Watch" condition for the City of Del Mar. On June 1, 2015, the City Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance implementing the emergency regulations for statewide water conservation, including two-day per week irrigation restrictions and other water waste prohibitions. For June through October 2015 cumulatively, Del Mar has reduced consumption by 26% and is showing good progress toward the 25% reduction target, even though because of our size as a small water agency, we are not mandated to achieve that target since we have implemented two-day per week irrigation restrictions.

As a region, the San Diego County Water Authority has made significant investments in the diversification of its water supply portfolio. Aggressive conservation measures implemented in San Diego County over the past 25 years have already achieved substantial water-use reductions, making it more challenging to achieve state-mandated savings without potentially harming the region's economy and quality of life. In 1991, 95% of the County's water supply came from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). As of 2015, the supply of water coming from MWD has been reduced to 57% of the region's water supply. Other current sources of supply include the Imperial Irrigation District Transfer, the All American & Coachella Canal Lining projects, recycled water, groundwater, and local surface water. San Diego County's water supply is projected to be even further diversified in the coming years due to the Carlsbad Desalination plant coming online in the coming months, the Sweetwater Authority's planned expansion of groundwater extraction, the increased use of recyclable water, and plans for advanced potable reuse. It is critical that the drought-resistant and sustainable water supplies that ratepayers have invested in deliver their water reliability benefits during drought conditions to support California's economy and quality of life.

The City of Del Mar urges the State Board to adopt modifications to the existing emergency regulation crediting new supply development appropriately and recognizing water agencies and their ratepayers who have had the foresight to invest in new long-term, local water supplies and conservation and

transfer agreements. This will allow water 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.

On behalf of the City of Del Mar, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Scott W. Huth
City Manager