Thank you for the opportunity to comment on 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. I urge the State Board to adopt the modifications to the existing emergency regulation to 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.

As a rate payer in San Diego County, I am proud of the positive steps my local water authorities have taken to insure local water supplies. I am particularly pleased that we have invested in a desalination plant to serve as an insurance against future water shortages.

However, it disturbs me that San Diego, despite having taken so many positive steps towards water independence, is being penalized for this investment. We made the investment, we deserve the reward.

Lack of planning and investment in the north should not be a crisis on our part.