



Dear State Water Resources Control Board staff,

I currently work implementing sustainability programs for San Mateo County and have previously worked in Santa Cruz and Los Angeles performing similar roles. While my comments are based on my experience working on environmentalism on the local level, today I write to you on my own behalf, as an individual passionate about water conservation.

When the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations came out, I was pleased that the State had taken definitive action to address this severe environmental problem. However, I have been dismayed that little has been done on the local level to enforce the actions laid out in the Regulations. I do not believe that water agencies and urban water suppliers have the capacity or experience to enforce the prohibitions on certain water uses. Despite reporting violations to my local water agency (and encouraging other residents to do so), I see the continually misuse of water resources in the places I live and work.

To fix this problem, I believe that the State Water Resource Control Board needs to provide water agencies with increased resources (e.g. funding, resources, trainings, etc.) to enforce water use violations OR the authority to enforce these Regulations needs to be moved onto local government agencies, who already have a framework in place (Code Enforcement) to deal with these type of violations. If local agencies are to acquire this responsibility, they should also be provided additional resources from the state to supplement the activities they are already doing.

As far as sustainable water management goes, I see a huge lack of coordination among local agencies on groundwater resources. Groundwater basins expand beyond geopolitical boundaries and groundwater pumping in one city affects all the cities around it. However, integrated groundwater management is slow to happen due to lack in staff time and government resources; I also see a lack of urgency among local government to address groundwater management. The State could help incentivize collaborative groundwater management through creating a groundwater management funding pool that requires local agencies to work together. I see the framework for this funding being similar to that of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan process. A toolkit could also be created to help cities/counties learn how to form workgroups and long-term plans to address groundwater issues.

In addition, the State could create a centralized data portal on groundwater resources and wells to help local governments assess all water resources in their jurisdictions. While most this data is already available, it takes considerable amount of staff time to gather it together.

I thank you for your time and the ability to provide my input. While I will not be able to attend the Urban Water Conservation workshop tomorrow, I will be watching it via webcast.

Kirsten Pringle
818-730-9561 T
kpringle218@gmail.com