

commentletters - Water cutbacks for Monterey Peninsula

From: Lucinda Lloyd <lucindalloyd@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Monday, August 24, 2009 12:16 PM
Subject: Water cutbacks for Monterey Peninsula

State Water Resources Control Board
Sacramento, CA

August 24, 2009

Dear Members of the Board:

It has come to my attention that the proposed water cutbacks for the Monterey Peninsula will be severe and punitive.

I am a 68 year old native of Carmel-by-the-Sea, still working as an RN at Community Hospital. My greatest joy is gardening. I am a certified Master Gardener, and my garden is on the up-coming MG tour in mid September.

I lived through water rationing in the 70's while a single mother of two attending nursing school in Salinas. We learned all sorts of water conservation techniques then that have remained integral parts of our daily lives. My home is equipped with low flow toilets, shower heads, faucets and I minimize my time in the shower. I replaced my washing machine with a water conserving model. I rarely wash my car. Our two dogs are mini dachshunds and hardly use any water for their baths. I do fill the birdbaths daily.

I don't know how my family and I could reduce our personal water use. We, along with other Peninsula residents, have done all we can do to conserve, and our practices have been lauded by the water company and our local newspaper.

I do indulge my love of gardening by watering in order to keep my plants alive. I realize that the majority of my water use is probably related to the garden. I have nurtured native and drought tolerant plants species to reduce my horticultural water use. If forced to stop using water in my garden, what plants now feed the birds, bees and butterflies will disappear.

It has been my personal belief that if I practiced severe water restriction in my home, I could reward myself in the garden. However, this belief is now under threat, despite my horticultural practices.

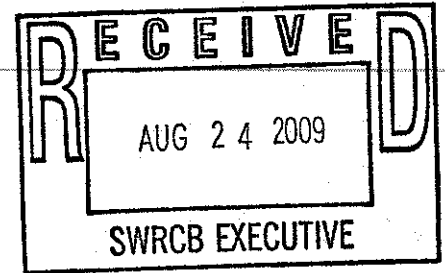
As my family and I have conserved over these many years, I have witnessed the explosion of residential and commercial development, all requiring quantities of water far exceeding that of the 1970's. Tourists are courted to visit our communities, flooding into towns for publicized events, using up our precious water. Vast landscaping around huge homes in what was pristine ranch land demand more and more water. New golf courses want their fair share, too. I have watched Pebble Beach golf course move from what were dry grassy roughs to vibrant greenswards.

Where has been the responsible planning over the past 30+ years? Why have water guzzling projects been approved, while water resources have not been developed to meet the need?

Why has an unfair sentence been proposed to punish those of us who have been responsible, compliant and cooperative all these same long years?

If I am forced to let my garden wither and die, I expect to see the same throughout the whole of the Monterey Peninsula, including exclusive residential and recreational areas.

It is my sincere hope that a fair, just and reasoned decision regarding water allocation be proposed and accepted, and



that it is shared equally by all.

I took care of a patient who boasted that his water bill was \$6,000 a month. With his wealth, he could afford it. And he was proud of it.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Lloyd
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