

July 14, 2014



Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA. 95812-2000

Dear Ms. Jeanine Townsend,


My name is Roger A. Haring, I am writing on behalf of *the Bouquet Canyon Network*, who are a small group of land and well owners in an unincorporated region of Bouquet Canyon Watershed of the Santa Clarita Valley. It has recently come to our attention that the State Water Resources Control Board is proposing "*Emergency Water Conservation Regulations*" for all individuals and water agencies of California.

Unknown to many in the State's Capital of Sacramento, the 'drought-like' conditions currently being experienced statewide in California has been incrementally going-on in the Bouquet Canyon Watershed region since 2006. The region has experienced significant drops in water table levels and has had land and well owners dealing with water conservation for approximately 8 years now. Hence, I believe the land and well owners may have some significant feedback to provide the State Water Resource Control Board on how to best cope with the potential extreme drought conditions.

Although not all the land and well owners contend with the drought conditions in a similar or consistent manner, many have taken steps to protect their remaining water table by purchasing local water from municipal water-hauling companies. This practice provides an immediate solution to the lack of water. However, a more long-term approach is the conservation of the local creek habitat and riparian ecology which helps recharge and protect the aquifer for the wells of the region. A current project being implemented in the region is the removal of "non-native vegetation" which can exploit the natural water in the soil and plant biomass. We hope this project can conserve the "green water" which inherently exists in the ecology, and thereby protect the aquifer for effective capture and recharge during the winter and spring rains.

One final suggestion for the *State Water Resource Control Board* to consider in order to help more rural communities deal with the drought is to uphold current legislation pertaining to "water-rights." Private water companies and their partnerships with water districts and the US Forest Service are becoming increasingly non-compliant with "watershed releases" from reservoirs and dams due to the drought conditions. However, these contractual "watershed releases" should be upheld and guaranteed by current law. It is unfortunate that these current laws are not being upheld. Why?

Thank you for your consideration,


Roger A. Haring, Project Coordinator
Bouquet Canyon Network