

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

Commission
MEL LEVINE, *President*
WILLIAM W. FUNDERBURK JR., *Vice President*
JILL BANKS BARAD
MICHAEL F. FLEMING
CHRISTINA E. NOONAN
BARBARA E. MOSCHOS, *Secretary*

MARCIE L. EDWARDS
General Manager

January 28, 2016



Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

Dear Ms. Marcus:

Subject: Comments on Proposed Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation (Emergency Regulation)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed extension of the Emergency Regulation. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) appreciates the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) commitment to collaborating with California water suppliers in amending its Emergency Regulation.

LADWP thanks SWRCB staff for their efforts to take into consideration concerns raised by suppliers for improvements to the Emergency Regulation. In particular, LADWP agrees with SWRCB staff's decision to continue assessing compliance on a cumulative basis since June 2015. This will help account for monthly variability in conservation potential for each agency and give credit to agencies throughout the State who have exceeded their conservation mandates during this drought.

LADWP is also glad to see that SWRCB staff is committed to monitoring the State's water supply conditions and promptly bringing forth a proposal to the State Water Board to reduce or possibly eliminate Emergency Regulation based on improved water supply conditions. Doing so will provide a transparent and responsible approach that will help maintain Californians' support for drought response and long-term conservation efforts.

In relation to the Proposed Text for Emergency Regulation, LADWP would like to submit the following comments for SWRCB's consideration:

Climate Adjustment: Reduce California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) Continuous Period of Record to a Minimum of 3 Years

LADWP requests that SWRCB decrease the continuous period of record from 5 years to a minimum of 3 years.

Interruption of Continuous Records

CIMIS station evapotranspiration (ETo) readings can commonly experience periods of inactivity for various reasons such as maintenance requirements or inadequate recording conditions. To illustrate this point, CIMIS website currently shows that 96 of the total 244 (39 percent) CIMIS stations are inactive. This highlights the need to decrease continuous period of record in order to not unfairly disqualify a large percentage of water suppliers from utilizing accurate historical CIMIS station data to calculate their adjustment. A 3 year continuous period of record will address this significant inequity concern, while still maintaining SWRCB's objective to ensure robust and reliable data is used for the adjustment.

Limiting Use of Representative CIMIS Stations

In addition, many water suppliers do not have a CIMIS station within its service area and need to rely on less representative data from closest available CIMIS stations. Until 2011, LADWP's largest service area, the Valley service area, had this problem and had to rely on far away CIMIS data from neighboring cities to determine a rough estimate. Recognizing the need for accurate ETo data, LADWP made a significant investment to install 4 CIMIS stations in the Valley service area (Arleta, Chatsworth, West Hills, and Hollywood Hills CIMIS stations). Four brand-new CIMIS stations were installed in Fall 2011 and have provided over four years of valuable data, not just for Los Angeles but to benefit of adjacent cities and the State's CIMIS data collection efforts.

LADWP and other agencies who have installed CIMIS stations in recent years should be allowed to take advantage of their investments. Decreasing the continuous period of record to 3 years will allow these agencies to take advantage of ETo information that is much more accurate than the interpolated values reported in CIMIS ETo zone map. LADWP is CIMIS Zone 9 according to the map, which equates to a 5 percent deviation from the Statewide Average ETo. However, using more representative data from Chatsworth CIMIS station within LADWP's Valley service area equates to an 8.3 percent deviation from Statewide Average ETo. This significant discrepancy illustrates the need to decrease to a 3 year continuous period of record, which will achieve a balance between providing robust data and giving flexibility for suppliers to select the most representative data for their area.

Climate Adjustment: Increase Adjustment to an 8 Percent Cap

LADWP appreciates the SWRCB's inclusion of a climate adjustment to address variation of climates throughout the State. However, the proposed adjustment still presents a significant gap between climate impacts and conservation target reductions.

For example, per the CIMIS ETo map, a water supplier who is ETo Zone 18 will lose 32 percent more water from evapotranspiration than the statewide average ETo. However, SWRCB's proposed adjustment would only grant this water supplier a 4 percent reduction, which is much lower than the reduction required to bridge the deficit from ETo.

To address this significant disparity, LADWP recommends the following restructuring of the adjustment:

Deviation of Urban Water Supplier Service Area's ETo from the Statewide Average ETo	Reduction in Conservation Standard
>30%	8%
15 to 30%	6%
5 to <15%	4%
1 to <5%	2%

This modest increase to the climate adjustment will still set conservation target reductions well below actual deficit from ETo. However, this increase is necessary to strike a closer balance between maintaining strong conservation targets and facilitating adoption of long-term conservation through sustainable landscaping. The modification will help Californians who are eager to transition from "Brown is the new green" to "California Friendly landscaping is the new norm."

Climate Adjustment: Population Weighted Statewide Average ETo

In addition, the current arithmetic method gives too much weight to small water suppliers' ETo and not enough weight to larger water suppliers' ETo. Larger water suppliers have more customers to serve, which generally correlates to a larger water supplier landscape area. An arithmetic calculation for statewide average ETo would result in a significant misrepresentation of California's average climate conditions.

Ms. Felicia Marcus
Page 4
January 28, 2016

LADWP requests that statewide average ETo is population weighted to address this issue. Population data is already collected by SWRCB and can easily be used to provide a more accurate estimate of statewide average ETo.

As California continues to be in drought conditions, LADWP understands the importance of SWRCB extending the Emergency Regulation to continue statewide water conservation efforts. LADWP has continued to meet and exceed both our local and statewide water use efficiency goals, and we have plans in place to continue successful implementation of SWRCB efficiency mandates. We support the efforts of SWRCB to involve water suppliers in the development of the Extended Regulation, and ask that strong consideration be given to our comments above to provide flexibility in meeting these goals.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Penny M. Falcon, Manager of Conservation Policy, Legislation and Grants, at (213) 367-4647 or penny.falcon@ladwp.com.

Sincerely,



Martin L. Adams
Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System

RS:yrq
By e-mail
c: Ms. Penny M. Falcon