

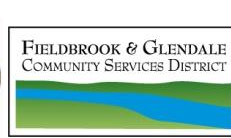
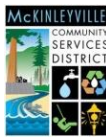
HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

828 SEVENTH STREET, PO Box 95 • EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502-0095

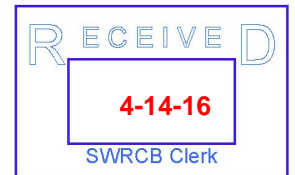
OFFICE 707-443-5018 ESSEX 707-822-2918

FAX 707-443-5731 707-822-8245

EMAIL OFFICE@HBMWD.COM



April 14, 2016



Ms. Felicia Marcus
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Marcus:

The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and its municipal water supply partners in the Humboldt Bay area would like to offer the following recommended changes to the Drought Emergency Conservation Regulations.

We appreciate the opportunities that we and other water agencies have had to provide input to staff and Board members on these regulations. In response to the hydrology through January of this year, the Board made some initial modifications to the regulations in early February, which allowed water agencies to receive some credit for the investments that they had made in desalination and recycled water supplies. The changes also provided some relief for agencies in warmer parts of the state, or those that had experienced population growth since 2013.

The Drought Emergency Conservation Regulations were adopted in 2015, when drought conditions existed in certain parts of California. The regulations pertain to municipal water supplies. Drought conditions have now abated in large parts of the state, and water supplies have improved even for other parts of the state with below normal precipitation (where imports from Northern California or the Colorado River basin provide most of the water supply.) In fact, in some watersheds, such as that of the Mad River, which supplies HBMWD and its municipal customers, reservoirs are full and unable to store any additional supplies. As shown in the attached graphs, Ruth Reservoir filled on December 21 and has continued to overflow in the meantime, and rainfall is currently running 30% above average. In other watersheds, such as that of the Smith River in Del Norte County, precipitation and runoff are well above normal and drought conditions no longer exist. Further drought emergency water conservation are not likely to provide much benefit to these water supplies.

Water agencies such as HBMWD and its municipal partners listed herein, who are not experiencing any drought conditions or shortages in water supply in 2016, expect to

make full beneficial use of their water rights and water supplies, and should therefore be deleted from coverage by the Drought Emergency Conservation Regulations.

Conservation programs will continue throughout the state, including reductions in municipal water production pursuant to SB x7-7 and water efficient landscape ordinance programs, indoor fixture efficiency improvements pursuant to the Energy Policy Act and SB 407, rebates for fixture replacements, turf replacement, etc. and a multitude of other programs.

The notice for the April 20 workshop posed three questions. We provide our responses below.

1. What elements of the existing February 2016 Emergency Regulation, if any, should be modified and how so?

To implement an approach that would reflect the recommendation described above and be based on the actual water supply conditions relevant to water agencies in California, we recommend that Section 865(c)(2) of the regulations be replaced with the following:

(c)(2) Each urban water supplier whose sources of supply are adequate to meet normal demand shall be exempt from the requirements of Section 865 of these regulations. Each water supplier who is eligible for this exemption shall provide a statement to the Board by June 1, 2016 which provides data describing the normal potable water demand in its service area, and data describing the amount of supply available to the supplier to meet this demand.

2. How should the State Water Board account for regional differences in precipitation and lingering drought impacts, and what would be the methods of doing so?

By implementing the proposed change in Section 865(c)(2), the Board would rely on individual agencies, or groups of water agencies that share supplies from a watershed or reservoir, to identify their specific hydrologic conditions and the manner in which that hydrology defines the status of the supplies available to those agencies. The Board can review precipitation, runoff and reservoir storage data from the California Data Exchange Center, as well as water supply contract allocations from the Department of Water Resources or the Bureau of Reclamation and other sources, to verify the information provided by water suppliers.

3. To what extent should the State Water Board consider the reliability of urban water supplier supply portfolios in this emergency regulation?

Urban water suppliers are best positioned to manage the reliability of their supply portfolios - indeed, providing reliable water supply is the basic responsibility and legal mandate for water suppliers. This information is documented extensively in Urban Water Management Plans, so if the Board needs any information about the reliability of water supplies, those references are readily available from either water suppliers or from the Department of Water Resources.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to working with your staff, the rest of the Board and you to address any drought conditions in California in 2016.

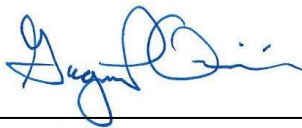
Sincerely,



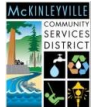
Paul Helliker, General Manager
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District



David Hull, General Manager
Humboldt Community Services District



Greg Orsini, General Manager
McKinleyville Community Services District



Mark Andre, Director of Environmental Services
City of Arcata



Brian Gerving, Public Works Director
City of Eureka



Richard Hanger, General Manager
Fieldbrook Glendale Community Services District



Christopher Drop, General Manager
Manila Community Services District



Doug Culbert, CPO/Utilities Superintendent
City of Fortuna



