



# City of Anaheim PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

(11/21/17) Public Workshop  
Prohibiting Wasteful Water Use Practices  
Deadline: 12/26/17 by 12 noon

December 14, 2017



VIA E-MAIL: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair  
and Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter – Prohibiting Wasteful Water Use Practices

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed regulation on Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses released on November 2, 2017. The City of Anaheim Public Utilities Department (APU) is a publicly-owned electric and water utility committed to providing reliable, low cost, and environmentally responsible service to over 350,000 residents, as well as business and commercial customers.

While APU values the responsible use of water, the proposed irrigation restriction on public medians and the landscaped areas between the street and sidewalk (“parkways”) is broadly written and would unnecessarily create challenges for APU and other municipalities to implement. As such, APU provides the following comments on **Section 963(b)(1)(G)** of the proposed regulation:

- **Restriction on parkways should apply to those that are publicly owned and maintained.**

The proposed restriction would apply to parkways that are publicly owned “or” maintained; however, many parkways are owned by a local municipality but the adjacent property owner is responsible for maintenance. As written, this restriction will create confusion (and potential legal challenges) between municipalities and commercial and residential property owners in determining the entity responsible for implementation. Instead, the SWRCB should apply this restriction to parkways that are publicly owned and maintained.

- **Restriction should apply to irrigation of turf-only areas.**

The proposed restriction is unclear on whether irrigating areas with a combination of turf and other plants would be allowed, and may actually discourage irrigation of well-designed landscaped areas. Instead, the SWRCB should narrow this restriction to irrigation of turf-only areas or similarly, areas that are exclusively turf.

- **Exception should be provided for turf serving environmental functions.**

In addition to community or neighborhood functions, the SWRCB should provide an exception for turf serving *environmental* functions. For example, the use of bio-accumulating grasses to remove contaminants from soil and/or water with bioremediation methods necessitate mowing or harvesting in order to remove contaminated vegetation; these grasses are being incorporated into parkways and medians for stormwater management. The proposed restriction could impact the irrigation of medians and parkways with this type of grass, and thereby discourage this stormwater management measure.

Thank you for the considering APU's comments on this important issue.

Regards,



Janis Lehman  
Chief Risk Officer

cc: Dukku Lee, General Manager, City of Anaheim Public Utilities Department  
Michael Moore, Asst. General Manager, City of Anaheim Public Utilities Department  
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