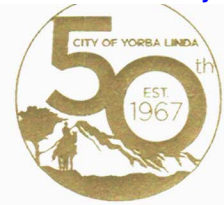


CITY OF YORBA LINDA

4845 CASA LOMA AVENUE
YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA 92886

(714) 961-7110
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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

December 20, 2017

Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject: Comment Letter – Prohibiting Wasteful Water Use Practices

Ms. Townsend,

A majority of the residents and businesses in the City of Yorba Linda (City) receive water services from the Yorba Linda Water District (District). As such, the City and District have enjoyed a good, long-standing relationship for many years. Recently, the District made the City aware of the State Water Resources Control Board's (Board) proposed regulation Prohibiting Wasteful Water Use Practices, and informed the City that they would be sending a comment letter outlining their concerns (attached) to the Board by the deadline of December 26, 2017.

The City is in support of the comments made by the District in the attached comment letter and would encourage the Board to work with the District to resolve any outstanding concerns noted in the comment letter.

In addition, the City of Yorba Linda has three major concerns/recommendations.

- 1) Regarding the runoff prohibition, as pointed out by Yorba Linda Water District, we have invested heavily in a local direct potable reuse program in Yorba Linda which collects all nuisance runoff in various areas (as well as a portion of precipitation runoff) and recycles the nuisance runoff water from large areas in detention basins. We ask that a proviso be added to the restriction that if agencies can show that runoff is being collected and recycled, i.e. not wasted, that fines not be levied.
- 2) Our biggest concern is the proposed requirement to remove all turf 'verges'. (Please use the term 'parkways' rather than 'verges' for clarification to the public.) Level turf parkways provide a safe path of travel for pedestrians from parked cars on the street to our sidewalks, a neighborhood function. Grass parkways also allow water percolation; are attractive; cost effective to maintain; and exchange oxygen for CO2.

CITY OF YORBA LINDA

Therefore, we support the informal discussions with your staff that recommend:

- A. Excluding HOA's (and please include Private Property Serving Management Assessment Districts) from the regulations;
 - B. Excluding homeowners or commercial entities that are maintaining certain publicly owned areas (they are mowing, edging, weeding, etc.);
 - C. Excluding parkways with trees and or shrubs/gardens integrated with turf;
 - D. Excluding Community or neighborhood function serving parkways and medians as noted above.
- 3) We understand the need to avoid watering areas 48 hours after significant rainfall. However, we have thousands of existing controllers which cannot currently support this new requirement. Therefore; we request an implementation period of at least five years and sufficient State funding incentives to make these adjustments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Pulone
City Manager

Attachment



Yorba Linda Water District

*Independent, Reliable and Trusted
Service for More Than 100 Years*

December 19, 2017

Ms. Jeanine Townsend (commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)
Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter – Prohibiting Wasteful Water Use Practices

The Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on the proposed regulation to permanently prohibit certain wasteful water uses. We support several of the proposed regulations and have concerns with others.

BACKGROUND

YLWD is a community located in the northeastern corner of Orange County and encompasses 14,475 acres of land comprising 22.6 square miles. The District serves a population of approximately 78,500 and currently provides water service to approximately 25,000 residential, commercial, irrigation and other connections. Our District has significant wildfire interface zones for which we are required to irrigate by the Orange County Fire Authority.

During the most recent drought emergency, the customers of the YLWD responded admirably and complied with the unilaterally mandated restrictions promulgated by the SWRCB. Our residents, like all Californian's, will pull together in a time of need, as long as it is temporary.

YLWD serves both groundwater and imported water to our customers. Through the Orange County Water District, our customers have made substantial investments in the management of the groundwater basin and in the development and implementation of indirect potable reuse of our treated sewer water through the Groundwater Replenishment System. In addition, through both the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Municipal Water District of Orange County, we have made long term investments in developing long term water supply, above ground storage, and will be making a substantial investment in fixing the Sacramento Bay Delta plumbing through the construction of the Twin Tunnels.

YLWD is a model District as all of our sewer flows are sent through the Groundwater Replenishment System, which pumps the water back up the river to replenish the groundwater basin. All of the runoff from the District ends up in the Santa Ana River, which then percolates into the groundwater basin, which is then pumped, treated and served to our customers once again. The only water that is not reused is what evaporates only to be dropped in other parts of the state through rain and snow.



Yorba Linda Water District

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AREAS OF CONCERN

YLWD customers have utilized many water use efficiency measures in a voluntary manner to the point that they have become routine practices. Mandating common sense is seldom successful and will repel compliance. That said, there are several components which are not significant areas of concern as it pertains to this current rulemaking process and they will be noted.

- 1) The application of water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff.
CONCERN – *who will be enforcing this measure?*
- 2) The use of a hose to wash an automobile except where the hose is equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
NO CONCERN...*common sense.*
- 3) The application of potable water to hardscapes.
CONCERN – *who will be enforcing this measure?*
- 4) The use of potable water in non-recirculating ornamental fountains or other decorative water features.
NO CONCERN...*common sense.*
- 5) Apply water to irrigate turf and ornamental landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall of at least one-tenth of one inch of rain.
CONCERN - *We understand that providing a definition of what is “measurable” rainfall is intended to be helpful. However, our service area will experience significant differences in rainfall. Some areas within our service area will be subject to the ordinance, while others portions will not. This also creates a messaging challenge with customers.*

*Additionally, a tenth of an inch of rain may not be sufficient to meet irrigation needs of certain landscapes within a 48 hour period. A number of factors can influence the locally appropriate amount of rainfall resulting in unneeded irrigation, such as climate, soil texture and structure, and root zone depth. **We request that the reference of “at least one-tenth” of one inch be removed and that agencies be granted the flexibility to make a local determination of what is measurable rainfall.***



Yorba Linda Water District

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- 6) Serve drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased.

NO CONCERN...common sense as it is already the routine practice in hotels and restaurants in our service area.

- 7) Irrigate turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscaped areas between the street and sidewalk, except where the turf serves a community or neighborhood function.

CONCERN - If the proposed regulation is approved, cities will incur significant costs by re-landscaping medians and parkways. This unbudgeted expenditure may force cities and counties to cut services or programs in other areas in order to comply. The cost for cities and counties to remove turf in medians and verges represents a significant financial burden that does not appear to be considered in the Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Proposed Regulation to Permanently Prohibit Certain Wasteful Water Use Practices dated November 1, 2017. The cost to retrofit these landscapes should be considered.

This also creates a safety issue as it is an easier transition from the curb to the sidewalk via turf than traipsing through plants, cactus or rocks.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 714-701-3022.

Sincerely,

Marc Marcantonio, General Manager
Yorba Linda Water District