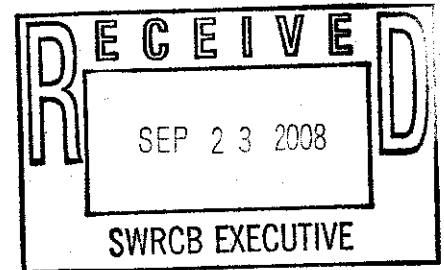


## Inland Empire Utilities Agency

A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

September 16, 2008

Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject: SWRCB Development of Urban Water Conservation Regulatory Program-  
Comment Letter

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Urban Water Conservation Regulatory Program. IEUA has reviewed the SWRCB discussion paper and supports the SWRCB's effort to investigate the need for enforcement of water use efficiency throughout the State and to develop and implement solutions that will achieve the Governor's call of a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use by 2020.

IEUA is a signatory to the CUWCC MOU and seeks the Council's expertise and leadership on water use efficiency practices throughout the State and best management practices (BMPs) that are sensible and implementable. The existing BMPs will expire in January 2009 and the process of BMP reformation that is currently ongoing, is an integral course of action to signatories (water purveyors) as it relates to the implementation of programs and processes that provide guidance to those agencies who have actively been pursuing conservation activities for many years and who have historically achieved demand reduction on a voluntary basis.

We appreciate your inclusion of the CUWCC in the 20 X 2020 discussions. We believe it is essential that all State agencies involved in setting policy on water-use demand reduction allow CUWCC to restructure the BMPs and adopt them prior to establishing any new rules or regulations. By allowing the CUWCC members to complete the restructuring process, it will eliminate the likelihood of creating parallel processes, thus reducing confusion among water purveyors on demand reduction responsibilities.

We recommend:

1. The SWRCB should await the review and recommendations from the 20 X 2020 Agency Team, with assistance from the CUWCC, prior to developing an Urban Water Conservation Regulatory Program and with consideration of performance based programs and options by which urban water suppliers will have the ability to comply;

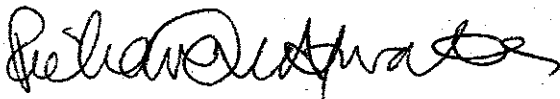
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2. The SWRCB should consider defining an "urban water supplier" consistent with the Urban Water Management Planning Act and any regulatory program should include the entire State;
3. The SWRCB provide options for water agencies to report their success in meeting actual water-savings targets through reporting reductions in water-use in gallons per capita per day (gpcd) through Statewide or Regional goals and not by market sector.
4. The SWRCB should not to create another parallel regulatory program, but wait on the 20 X 2020 Agency Team work and findings and look within the context of waste and unreasonable use as it applies in water rights proceeding.
5. The SWRCB should adopt the "foundational" BMPs identified in Table 1. Foundational BMPs are important in demand reduction as they are measurable and attainable (minimal ambiguity with implementation requirement).
6. On or before January 1, 2010, each customer that has a service connection for which a water meter has been installed must be charged based on actual volume of deliveries. The SWRCB should allow an urban water supplier to determine the best rate structure for their respective billing systems and service area. Billing systems and rate structures can be complex and agencies may not have the capabilities of implementing one particular option over another.
7. The SWRCB should look to the 20 X 2020 Agency Team evaluations and recommendations and the CUWCC BMP revision process as they are in the process of reviewing data, examining methodology and looking at ways of estimating potential water savings.

IEUA was a strong supporter of AB 1420 as well as AB 2175 and supports the 20 X 2020 process. We believe that SWRCB should consider options for mandating compliance for urban water suppliers who are not active, may not be signatories to the MOU and who have chosen to ignore that water use efficiency and demand reduction are integral components to the sustainability of current and future water supplies.

IEUA supports focusing on measurable results, as one of many options, so urban water suppliers will be provided with the opportunity to have creative flexibility in reducing water demand. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please feel free to contact me if you should have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Atwater  
Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager

Cc: Martha Davis, Executive Manager of Policy Development  
Marv Shaw, Manager of Planning & Water Resources  
Lisa Morgan-Perales, Water Resources Analyst