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January 10, 2017

Public Comment  
Urban Water Conservation Workshop  
Deadline: 1/12/17 12 noon

State Water Resources Control Board  
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Sent via e-mail: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Subject: "Comment Letter – Urban Water Conservation Workshop"**

Dear Chair Marcus and Commissioners of the State Water Resources Control Board:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Rincon Water customers, thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the Board workshop on January 18, 2017 to discuss proposed adjustments to the Emergency Conservation Regulations for 2017.

In regards to the potential adjustments to the Emergency Regulations, the following responses or recommendations are provided:

1. As the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) considers extending the emergency regulation in February 2017, they must consider that many parts of the state are not experiencing emergency drought conditions due to improved hydrologic conditions, development of drought resilient supplies, or both. The SWRCB should rescind the emergency conservation regulations for those areas with adequate supplies, and only focus on those communities that require assistance in meeting the water demands of their community. The SWRCB could continue its "stress test" demand reduction measures for areas in which supplies are proven inadequate in 2017 to meet normal demands. The only applicable sections of the May 2016 regulations that should be made permanent are Section 864, End User Requirements, and for those areas with inadequate supplies, Section 864.5, Self Certification.
2. This is an excellent question in regards to differences, which has been the heart of many responses by water agencies across the state. Given that the climatic and hydrologic conditions of January 2017 are at historic levels in rainfall, yes, each region needs to have the latitude and ability to address their specific conditions, and do not require an emergency regulation at this point. In fact, given the current conditions, it is hard to justify having "emergency regulations" when many can argue the state is no longer in short term emergency conditions.
3. Executive Order B-37-16 directs the SWRCB to develop a proposal to achieve mandatory reduction in potable urban water usage that builds off the mandatory 25% reduction in previous Executive Orders and lessons learned of 2016, related to the

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**possibility of another dry winter**, which wording was inadvertently left out of the workshop notice. It would be disingenuous of the SWRCB to propose mandatory regulations given that this water year is already producing record rain and snowfalls across the state, which has eliminated the possibility of another dry winter.

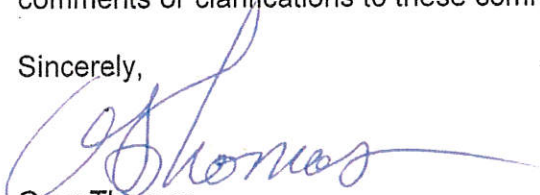
It should be noted that majority of water agencies, through their UWMPs and Drought Response Ordinances/Plans, have well established mechanisms that would allow these agencies to move in and out of drought conditions, based on local water supply conditions. By adopting a drought response protocol that allows local and regional agencies to continue to utilize local/regional resources, develop additional drought tolerant sources of supply, and coordinate regional requirements, while still promoting conservation ethics and practices, is highly recommended and the prudent action at this point. Emergency regulations, if needed, can be reviewed once again in late calendar year 2017 based on hydrologic conditions.

Rincon Water recommends that long term conservation aspects continue to be addressed through prudent development of programs and projects as illustrated in the December 2016 draft report "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life". Rincon Water looks forward to develop mutually supportable limited conservation regulations and demand reduction methods to address potential impacts of climate change, that should also be balanced with actions of the Governor's Water Action Plan, increasing supply storage, developing alternate sources of supply, and assessing the potential impacts to the economy of all these actions.

With that said, Rincon Water continues to promote efficient water use and codified the local supply and demand management programs (included emergency regulation Section 864 in our local Drought Ordinance), and we expect our customers will continue to maintain lower water demand levels in coming months, even as self-certification demonstrates adequate water supply reliability in the face of climate change. In fact, Rincon Water is cumulatively at 28 percent conservation savings from June 2015 to December 2016 as compared to 2013.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments for the January 18<sup>th</sup> Board workshop. Please feel free to contact me at [gthomas@rinconwater.org](mailto:gthomas@rinconwater.org) or 760-745-5522 for any additional comments or clarifications to these comments.

Sincerely,



Greg Thomas  
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors, Rincon Water  
Senator Joel Anderson  
Assemblywoman Marie Waldron  
Ms. Kim Craig, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Officer of Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Ms. Maureen Stapleton, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority  
Mr. Tim Quinn, Executive Director, ACWA  
Mr. Dave Bolland, ACWA