



May 4, 2015

Mark N. Kinsey  
GENERAL MANAGER

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
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Submitted via e-mail to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)



**Comment Letter – Emergency Conservation Regulation**

Dear Honorable Chairperson Marcus and Board Members:

Monte Vista Water District (District) respectfully submits the following comments on the Proposed Emergency Conservation Regulation that was published on April 28, 2015, for consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) at its May 5-6, 2015 meeting. This letter follows up and references previous letters submitted on April 13 and April 22, 2015, in response to the previously published draft regulatory framework and draft regulations.

Monte Vista Water District reiterates our agency's support for Governor Brown's call for a statewide mandatory 25% reduction in potable urban water use with recognition of past conservation achievements. In our past comment letters, we expressed concern with the State Board's use of the Residential Gallons Per Capita Per Day (R-GPCD) metric for apportioning water supply reductions, and we continue to be concerned with the use of this metric for comparing agencies' relative past conservation success. At the same time, the District appreciates the State Board's willingness to accept revised data from agencies, such as the District, that realized their originally submitted information did not provide an accurate reflection of population growth and residential demands.

The fact sheet that accompanied the release of the draft regulations on April 28 seeks specific feedback on two questions, for which the District's response is as follows:

- **Feedback is specifically requested on whether the conservation framework should be modified to double the number of tiers and use two percent increments instead of four percent. This change would provide further refinement for water suppliers that find themselves on one side or the other of a tier.**

Monte Vista Water District believes the tiers are based on a metric, R-GPCD, that is not consistent with the Governor's order, has not been fully vetted through a stakeholder process, and relies on inconsistent data (see past comment letters). We are aware of alternative conservation frameworks submitted to the State Board that better reflect past and ongoing efforts by water agencies to reduce

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demand and incentivize long-term water use efficiency through aggressive conservation programs and innovative pricing structures. The District is proud to be an early adopter of a budget-based tiered rate structure which rewards efficient water use, and we remain committed to continuing our successful efforts to reduce long-term demand as well as to achieve a 25 percent reduction in near-term use in line with the Governor's executive order. We respectfully request that the State Board's final conservation framework reflect our agency's past success and continuing commitment.

- **Feedback is specifically requested on whether the regulation should allow water suppliers whose supplies include groundwater to apply for inclusion the 4% reserve tier if it can be demonstrated that they have a minimum of 4 years of supply, do not rely upon imported water, and their groundwater supplies recharge naturally.**

Monte Vista Water District strongly supports this addition to the regulation. The District has invested tens of millions of dollars over the past 15 years to secure sufficient local groundwater rights and production capacity to decrease its reliance on surface water imported from northern California. The District currently has sufficient groundwater rights, stored groundwater, and additional local supply sources, including recycled water, to meet its retail service area needs for a four-year period permitting a significant reduction in reliance on imported water. This suggested addition to the regulation would incentivize the District to shift completely off of imported water, freeing up this limited resource for other agencies who do not have similar alternative supplies. As stated earlier, the District would continue to meet its long-term and short-term commitments to help our customers use our limited resources efficiently and frugally.

Monte Vista Water District appreciates your and your staff's time and consideration in reviewing our comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (909) 267-2170.

Sincerely,

*Monte Vista Water District*



Mark N. Kinsey  
General Manager