



City of Healdsburg

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Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1011 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
and
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Comment Letter – Emergency Conservation Regulation

Dear Chair Marcus:

The City of Healdsburg supports the Governor's goal of reducing urban water use during 2015 by 25%. While we have differing views on many aspects of the proposed regulations, we write to request that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) include in the proposed regulations a provision to allow urban water agencies to make recycled water more quickly available to our end users and, as a consequence, to use recycled water as part of the suite of measures that will help us achieve the tiered reductions called for in the proposed regulations.

Specifically, we believe that the SWRCB's existing General Order for the Use of Recycled Water permits the distribution of recycled water to urban end users for the purpose of irrigating residential, commercial, industrial and institutional landscaping. See, e.g., State Water Board Order 2014-0090-DWQ, Attachment D, definition of "Use Area," and footnote 1 on page B-2, defining "landscape areas" as "parks; greenbelts, playgrounds; school yards; athletic fields; golf courses; cemeteries; residential landscaping; common areas; commercial landscaping (except eating areas); industrial landscaping (except eating areas); freeway, highway, and street landscaping." Healdsburg is eager to assist the State with drought relief measures; in that vein, we are seeking to more expeditiously and directly provide recycled water to end users by allowing the public to obtain recycled water directly from the relevant recycled water facility to use at residential, commercial, or industrial landscape areas, as that term is defined in the SWRCB's General Order. This will allow landscaped areas to be preserved, without drawing down potable water resources. An end user

agreement, reviewed and executed by the residential, commercial, or industrial end users, would minimize any potential adverse consequences to the direct provision and use of the recycled water (e.g., use area restrictions would be specified, avoidance of discharges to surface waters explained, etc.). Other agencies have successfully implemented similar projects; however, there is not adequate time to follow the usual authorization process thus prohibiting the ability to put such programs in place during the Summer of 2015.

In Executive Order B-29-15, the Governor directed all "State permitting agencies" to "prioritize review and approval" of programs and projects that "increase local water supplies." We believe that we can provide the public with thousands of acre-feet of recycled water and, in so doing, reduce demands for potable water throughout the State. Consequently, we request that the SWRCB incorporate the following additional provision as a new section 866(c) of the proposed regulations:

866(c). The State Water Resources Control Board finds that increasing the use of recycled water for use, in full compliance with Title 22, on outdoor landscaping is a way to reduce the use of potable water and/or reduce the adverse consequences of meeting the statewide goal of a 25% reduction in urban water use. Such uses of recycled water are already authorized through the statewide General Order for the Use of Recycled Water, State Water Board Order 2014-0090-DWQ, or subsequent related orders. In order to streamline the permitting process, the regional water boards and any water supplier seeking to make specified volumes of recycled water available to the public for purposes of irrigating landscape areas, as that term is defined in the General Order for the Use of Recycled Water, shall use the following procedures:

(1) The water supplier shall submit notice of the intent to provide up to 300 gallons of recycled water directly to the public (residential, commercial, industrial or institutional end users) to the appropriate regional water board. The notice shall specify that the water supplier will: (i) provide water that meets applicable Title 22 standards and (ii) obtain the agreement from the end-users to conditions that will minimize any potential adverse effects of recycled water on the environment (e.g., use area restrictions, avoidance of discharges to surface waters).

(2) The appropriate regional water board shall, within ten business days of the date on which it receives the notice of intent, approve or deny the requested use of recycled water proposed by the water supplier. The regional water board may only deny the request if the water supplier is unable to meet condition (i) in the previous subdivision or if the water supplier is unwilling to require end-users to sign an end-user agreement.

(3) Upon receipt of the regional water board's approval, the water supplier may commence to provide recycled water to end-users, conditioned on their prior written agreement to the end-user agreement.

In closing, we believe that California has the resources and the flexibility to minimize the adverse effects of the drought on urban California. We believe that this proposal is fully consistent with the protection of the

environment and fully consistent with the Governor's Executive Order. We ask that the SWRCB include the proposed language in the final drought regulations that you will consider on May 5 and 6.

Sincerely,



Terry Crowley
Healdsburg Utility Director
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cc: City Council of the City of Healdsburg
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