

Regional Water Authority
Building Alliances in Northern California

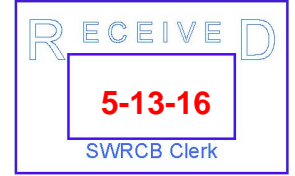
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(5/18/16) Board Meeting- Item 10
Conservation Extended Emergency Reg
Deadline: 5/16/16 by 12:00 noon



May 13, 2016

Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Transmitted via email to the Clerk of the Board at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members D'Adamo, Doduc, Moore and Spivey-Weber:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Staff Proposal for Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation. The Regional Water Authority (RWA) supports the recognition of local capacity to assess water supplies during the State's ongoing drought emergency and to respond appropriately. I've attached RWA Resolution 2016-04, adopted by the Board of Directors on May 12, 2016 in support of the proposed modification to the Emergency Regulation.

As you know, the Sacramento region reduced water use by nearly 20% in 2014 and more than 30% in 2015 in response to both local conditions and statewide mandates. With the proposed changes to the Emergency Regulation, RWA members will continue to pursue long term improvements in water use efficiency. By implementing local water suppliers' Water Shortage Contingency Plans, they stand ready to respond as water supply conditions change over time.

We appreciate the State Water Board's continued leadership on these important policy decisions. We look forward to continuing this meaningful and timely discussion as we move toward establishing locally appropriate, effective and flexible long term water use targets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Woodling'.

John Woodling
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority

Spencer Short, Chair
Jim Peifer, Vice Chair

Members

California American Water
Carmichael Water District
Citrus Heights Water District
Del Paso Manor Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Elk Grove Water District
Fair Oaks Water District
Folsom, City of
Golden State Water Company
Lincoln, City of
Orange Vale Water Company
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Roseville, City of
Rio Linda / Elverta Community Water District
Sacramento, City of
Sacramento County Water Agency
Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Juan Water District
West Sacramento, City of
Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency
Yuba City, City of

Associates

El Dorado County Water Agency
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

DRAFT - RESOLUTION 2016-04

A Resolution of the Regional Water Authority Regarding the California Drought Emergency and Ongoing Commitment to Long Term Water Efficiency in 2016

Whereas, the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) mission includes protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources; and

Whereas, California experienced dry conditions in 2012 through 2015; and

Whereas, in January 2014, RWA adopted a resolution urging all member agencies to reduce water use by 20%; and

Whereas, in response to local conditions and a statewide emergency declaration, Sacramento region water providers voluntarily reduced water use 19.4% in 2014; and

Whereas, in response to local conditions and mandatory statewide requirements, Sacramento region water providers reduced water use 31% in 2015; and

Whereas, regional hydrologic conditions and water supplies have improved significantly; and

Whereas, as of April 1, 2016 Folsom Reservoir was at 110 percent of historical average storage, the Central Sierra snowpack was 87 percent of normal, American River Basin runoff is projected to be 101 percent of average, the eight station precipitation index was 123 percent of average, the Central Valley Project has allocated 100 percent of deliveries to the region's water suppliers, and groundwater levels have recovered above 2015 levels; and

Whereas, some other parts of the state face ongoing dry conditions and impacts from the drought, and

Whereas, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., in Executive Order B-37-16, directed the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying its existing restrictions; and

Whereas, the State Water Resources Control Board will meet May 18, 2016 to consider such actions; and

Whereas, from 2000-2013, the region reduced per capita water usage by 20 percent;

and

Whereas, the region has prepared for drought by investing in the resiliency of its water supplies; and

Whereas, the region's water suppliers are committed to continuing long term water efficiency improvements; and

Whereas, the drought has given water customers a heightened awareness of their water use and ways to reduce it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of RWA strongly recommends that,

1. That RWA support the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed emergency regulation that recognizes the capacity and authority of local water suppliers to assess water supplies during an ongoing drought and respond appropriately.
2. In the event that mandatory requirements are lifted, RWA and its members stand prepared to respond to future supply-based conditions that would require conservation as appropriate for the current or projected conditions, as they did in 2014 and 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Authority held on May 12, 2016.

By: 

Chair, Regional Water Authority

Attest: 

Clerk, Regional Water Authority