



March 23, 2016

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

OLA  
cy: Bd  
EO  
ORAP

**Re: Conservation Extended Emergency Regulation**

Dear Chairwoman Marcus and Members of the Board:

As you know, in both 2014 and 2015 constituents throughout our legislative districts widely met, and in many cases exceeded, the State-imposed water conservation mandates. In some cases, this was done despite an adequate supply, which they had invested millions of dollars to store and protect.

Currently, water supplies in reservoirs located throughout our districts are near or above average for this time of year. Major water storage facilities, including Sly Park Reservoir in El Dorado County, are spilling. Some surface water storage facilities have already filled and many more will almost certainly fill with peak runoff.

Local water supplies in many areas within our districts, supplies which do not rely upon the export facilities in the Delta, are at or near their maximum amount. They will not get any better. Still, water agencies and their customers, our constituents, are subject to mandatory conservation requirements.

We understand the necessity of conservation in this historic drought. However, we urge the State Water Resources Control Board to acknowledge and accommodate regional differences in local water supplies as the Board contemplates extending mandatory conservation requirements. In particular, where locally stored water supplies are sufficient to meet local needs, the State Board should not continue to require draconian water conservation mandates.

It is imperative that the State Water Resources Control Board and local water agencies maintain public confidence in their ability to properly manage our precious water resources and public water systems. If the State Board, and consequently local agencies, insist on conservation measures when they are not necessary to ensure adequate local water supplies, public confidence will erode and it will be more difficult to secure public participation during the next drought.

Finally, we are concerned about the financial impact to local communities resulting from achievement of the mandatory conservation targets. These impacts are likely to extend beyond just the loss of revenue to water suppliers, and are not sustainable in the face of 100% supplies in many localities.

We urge the State Water Board to consider these issues as it contemplates further extending the conservation regulations. If you should have any questions about our concerns please don't hesitate to contact us at (916) 319-2005 (Bigelow) or (916) 319-2006 (Gaines).

Sincerely,



Frank Bigelow  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Beth Gaines  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District