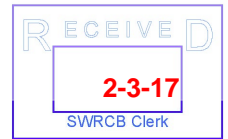




CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE



February 3, 2017

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Transmitted by email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: February 8, 2017, BOARD MEETING (Conservation Extended Regulation)

Dear Chair Marcus:

On May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16 directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adjust emergency conservation regulations through the end of January 2017, in recognition of differing water supply conditions across the state. The SWRCB adopted Resolution No. 2016-0029, which revised the regulations to allow individual water suppliers to self-certify that water supplies were adequate, assuming additional dry years. On June 17, 2016, the City of Folsom submitted its Water Supply Reliability Self-Certification indicating zero percent conservation to meet its water supply requirements. In spite of adequate water supplies that require zero percent mandatory conservation as provided by Resolution No. 2016-0029, the City nonetheless asked its customers to meet a 10 percent voluntary conservation level, and as of the end of 2016, we achieved an overall water use reduction of 25% compared to 2013.

At its meeting on February 8, 2017, the SWRCB is scheduled to consider a proposed resolution that will continue drought-related emergency regulations for urban water conservation. We understand the basis for continuing the emergency conservation regulations include that drought conditions continue to exist in portions of the state, that snowpack and reservoir conditions remain subject to significant change through the end of the water year, and that the SWRCB desires to continue conservation during the declared drought emergency.

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair

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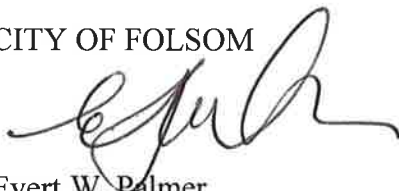
During the January 18, 2017 SWRCB workshop to discuss the proposed extension of the state's emergency drought regulations, many local water agencies testified that conditions had improved dramatically. Folsom agrees. A week after this workshop, the Governor declared a state of emergency for 50 counties from flooding, erosion, and mud flows, seemingly adding an undesired exclamation point to improved water storage conditions in California. As the Sacramento region is no stranger to the devastating impacts of flood, we send our best wishes to those dealing with flood impacts.

At the early point in the wet season, the National Weather Service's Drought monitor identifies no portion of California remaining in exceptional drought, and nearly 40 percent of the State experiencing zero drought conditions. The Sierra Nevada snow water content is 173 percent of season average, and more than 110 percent of its April 1 average, and the state's reservoirs exceed 100 percent of seasonal average. Forecasters expect this weekend's storms to add significant moisture to these totals. For the City of Folsom and its water supplies, Folsom Lake is 42 percent of capacity and 81 percent of seasonal average. Since December 1, 2016, more than 550,000 acre-feet have been released from Folsom Lake for flood control capacity.

The City of Folsom understands that droughts require extra ordinary actions from the public in ways that require sacrifice, and during the past drought, Californians, including Folsom residents, did their part to conserve. Given current and anticipated conditions, these sacrifices are no longer necessary. In absence of a drought emergency, the City of Folsom is urging state regulators to let these emergency rules expire. Our reasoning is straightforward: these emergency rules are no longer warranted in light of significantly improved water supply conditions throughout California. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 355-7201.

Sincerely,

CITY OF FOLSOM



Evert W. Palmer

City Manager

epalmer@folsom.ca.us

c: Felicia Marcus, State Water Resources Control Board Chair
Frances Spivy-Weber, State Water Resources Control Board Vice-Chair
Tam Doduc, State Water Resources Control Board Member
Steven Moore, State Water Resources Control Board Member
Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Resources Control Board Member
John Woodling, Regional Water Authority
Andy Morin, City of Folsom Mayor