

**Comments
from
Henry S. Panian, Member
Water Advisory Committee of Orange County
and
Director, Mesa Consolidated Water District**

To

**State Water Resources Control Board
Workshop to Review Standards for the
San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary**

**Comments Relative to Social Effects of
Alternative Standards and the Health, Safety
and Water in a Community**

July 13, 1994

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WATER IN A COMMUNITY

1. One of a state's primary functions is to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.
2. In the Clean Water Act, Congress has ruled that both economic and social issues must be considered in decisions that deal with the water quality objectives of that Act. One important social issue is the health standard of the community. Water is a significant factor in enabling those institutions charged with health and sanitation to meet their professional standards.
3. Attached are five case studies from a rather typical community in the State of California. These studies come from institutions or agencies that are within the Newport Beach-Costa Mesa region. The Mesa Consolidated Water District serves Costa Mesa, parts of Newport Beach and portions of Orange County, including the John Wayne Airport.

These case studies explain the integral relationship between water supply and health/sanitation needs. They represent the concerns of many communities in California, whether rural or urban. Hospitals, community colleges, cities and school districts are from every section of the State.

4. Furthermore, there is growing evidence developed by urban experts that parks and recreation are part of crime prevention. A number of lawmakers throughout our nation believe that declining parkland or similar recreational facilities and rising crime are linked. The national organization, called Trust for Public Lands, has already started a fund to acquire land for these purposes in their belief that crime will be reduced. Moreover, in the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, 77% of the South-Central Los Angeles residents polled stated that the absence of parks and recreation opportunities were a top concern. Though there may be no cause-effect relationship here, there is specific correlation. Indeed, an amendment to the national crime bill before Congress ear-marked crime prevention funds for urban parks and recreation programs. (See attached LOS ANGELES TIMES article on this matter.)
5. Whether statistics prove or disprove the point, a growing number of people, including California citizens, believe there is a strong link between park shortages and crime. **AND, OF COURSE, WITHOUT A NECESSARY SUPPLY OF WATER, PARKS CANNOT FUNCTION PROPERLY.**
6. Therefore, as the State Water Resources Board and its Federal counterpart deliberate over a formula(s) to divide the State's water supply, the relationship between that supply and social issues must be addressed. How poorly the tobacco industry has handled the question of tobacco and health standards should be a case in point.
7. The bottom line is that in these sensitive deliberations, urban and rural areas should be given a bottom-line guarantee that they will NOT be forced to compromise health and safety standards in their communities because of state water shortfalls.

URBAN PLANNING

Group Hopes Greener Cities Will Be Safer

A nonprofit organization hopes to acquire 250 parks. Experts have long linked recreation, crime prevention.

By MELISSA HEALY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Habitat isn't just for wildlife. People need some green too.

To traditional environmental groups, the notion of conserving land for people might be a little strange. But to Martin Rosen, a self-described "old warhorse" from a host of environmental battles, the idea has a kind of self-evident wisdom to it. And a growing number of lawmakers, prompted by the perceived link between declining urban parkland and rising crime, are beginning to think so too.

Rosen is president of the Trust for Public Lands, a conservation group that is launching a \$2.5-billion effort to make 12 American cities greener and, they hope, safer places for humans. Using money raised through private donations and public bond bills and working with community activists, Rosen's group hopes to acquire as many as 250 properties for parks in cities nationwide over the next five years. He hopes the group's activities will help leverage new federal funds aimed at fighting crime through prevention.

Sociologists and law enforcement experts have been drawing a connection between urban parks, recreation areas and crime prevention for several decades. After Watts erupted in violence in 1965, an investigation linked urban violence to the decay of city recreation facilities.

More than 25 years later, South-Central Los Angeles residents came to the same conclusion: In the wake of the 1992 riots, 77% told pollsters that the absence of parks and recreation facilities was among their top concerns.

The evidence doesn't demonstrate clearly that deteriorating parkland and recreation facilities *cause* an upturn in crime, but the two do appear to be inextricably linked. And if crime and the demise of urban parks go together, then the revitalization of urban parkland,



FRANCIS GARDLER / Los Angeles Times

Frank Sutton of the Trust for Public Lands stands before a rendering of the Uhuru Garden, a public space being planned for Watts by his nonprofit group.

Rosen and other experts reckon, will contribute to a decline in lawlessness.

Many South-Central residents cite compelling evidence for the idea: In the 1992 riots, buildings on Union Avenue were torched, windows were shattered and businesses looted. But a community garden in the heart of Pico-Union, cleared several years before and tended by members of the 10th Street Mothers' Club, stood untouched by the rampage.

"People had cleaned up those lots themselves," said Brenda Funches, who leads the grass-roots gardening organization, Common Ground. "Anyone who has a history in the neighborhood remembers what these places looked like before, and the truth is, everybody knows somebody who is involved with the garden."

Not all crime-busters see the connection. Steve Twist, director of the National Rifle Assn.'s Crime Strike program, called the idea of fighting crime with parks "hopelessly naive."

"The problem of the collapse of the juvenile justice system is a problem of the revolving door. There are no significant consequences for chronic violent offenders."

Anecdotal evidence from across the nation abounds. In Philadelphia, police helped neighborhood volunteers clean up vacant lots and plant gardens, and burglaries and thefts in the precinct dropped from about 40 per month to about four. In the summers of 1991 and 1993, Phoenix parks stayed open until midnight for basketball, swimming,

volleyball and dancing, and police calls on juvenile crime dropped up to 55%.

With Congress focusing on the causes of crime, the link between violence and degenerating urban parks is receiving new scrutiny—and possibly new funds. The crime bill, now in House-Senate negotiations, is expected to establish a \$23-billion trust fund from which initiatives for city parks could draw.

"Urban recreation and sports programs are a proven, common-sense and cost-effective means of preventing crime and delinquency," said Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-Minn.), co-sponsor of an amendment to the crime bill that would earmark crime prevention funds for urban parks and recreation programs. "Our urban crime rate would be different if these programs had not been neglected in the past decade."

When the Trust for Public Lands conducted an inventory of parkland last year, it found that parks were concentrated in affluent neighborhoods in two-thirds of the cities it studied. In 16 out of 23 cities, the trust said parkland in poor neighborhoods was crowded and inadequate.

That kind of neglect, Rosen said, "sends a signal to troubled communities and youth that they're not worth the investment." And they will almost surely repay the nation with more hostility and more indifference, he added. Green areas in cities, he said, "aren't [just] nice; they're urgent, critical, vital areas that people require."



HOAG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRESBYTERIAN

301 NEWPORT BOULEVARD • BOX Y • NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92658-8912 • PHONE (714) 645-8600

TESTIMONY FOR DELTA BAY HEARING

February 28, 1994

I am Nelson Smith, the Director of Facilities at Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian in Newport Beach - I appreciate this opportunity to express my views regarding a reduction in the allotted water for Southern California.

Hoag Hospital, as well as all Orange County health care facilities, clearly understands the need to conserve all natural resources, and has had to previously implement water conservation measures that are still being used. Our hospital has a conservation committee that meets on a monthly basis to be proactive in addressing all aspects of energy and water conservation.

The entire facility has been surveyed and evaluated, with several water saving programs implemented. As examples, the R.O. water system for dialysis was redesigned to save thousands of gallons per week and automatic sensors are being evaluated in restrooms to reduce water waste.

Hygiene and sanitation are the two most commonly known factors in the hospital's overall water usage.

Most of the water is utilized in direct patient treatment and diagnosis.

X-ray film developers: Use significant amounts of water in removing the chemicals during processing.

R.O. water: Is made from city water and used to clean lab instruments and clean and maintain dialysis machines.

Water cooled lasers: Lasers are the preferred means of addressing many medical issues and require water for cooling.

- Autoclaves:** Process and sterilize equipment, including the small surgical instruments to the large carts that carry items throughout surgery.
- Makeup water:** For boilers and HVAC equipment to maintain a comfortable and safe environment.
- Food preparation:** From soups and salads to steam operated cooking vessels.
- Dishmachine:** Since the use of disposable fills landfills, washing dishes in large quantities is a must.
- Housekeeping:** The cleanliness of the hospital is a major issue and the need for sterility cannot be compromised. Many areas of the facility are cleaned several times daily.

Keeping in mind the previous efforts of the facility how do you continue to reduce water consumption without compromising the level of care offered to the community? Equipment water needs are set and operating at or close to minimal levels. Any further cutbacks of 10 to 20% will definitely impact the level of service.

You cannot continue to cut back on the allotted water for Southern California without impacting the safety or level of care to patients.

MESA CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT EPA PUBLIC HEARING

Testimony of: Thomas A. Godley, Assistant Superintendent
of Business and Support Services
Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Representing: An average size school district in Orange County to discuss the issues as they relate to public schools.

Major water usages within the Newport-Mesa Unified School District include sanitation, personal hygiene, food preparation, maintenance of multi-use turf areas, and maintenance of landscaped areas. Our water usage is estimated at 4,290,000 gallons per month. Any reduction will negatively impact the District. But, first a brief description of the District as it relates to water usage is in order.

Size of the District: We have 17,500+ students, and approximately 1,600+ employees who are located at 30 different sites within the District. These students and staff members rely upon the school district for clean classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, multi-purpose rooms, and administrative offices. We also prepare and serve 7,000+ meals per day to students within the District.

We maintain more than 2,900,000 square feet of buildings, and clean nearly 350 restrooms every day, so the quantity of water used for personal hygiene and sanitation is tremendous. Additionally, the District has 11,600,000 square feet of multi-purpose athletic fields, an equivalent of 266 acres, plus another 73 acres of dress lawns, and landscapes areas.

The residents of the communities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach rely on our open space and multi-use fields for recreation purposes. Those fields are used continuously after school, weekends, and holidays by the community, in addition to the daily use received from the students that we serve. As an example, we process 12,500 facility use permits per year for the use of school district facilities by the community.

Water is a very important factor in maintaining the safety of the fields for community and student use. When the grass is well maintained, the fields provide a safe playing area. However, under drought conditions and/or from lack of water, the fields become cracked, the grass withers, potholes become evident, and student injuries become prevalent. As a public agency, our liability is of grave concern when the playing fields are unsafe and cause injuries to users.

Through the years, the District has made many efforts at conserving water, but the needs of our users haven't changed. A reduction of water usage of this magnitude will greatly compromise the sanitation of our facilities and safety of our students and communities which we serve.

February 28, 1994



CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. BOX 1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 28, 1994

TESTIMONY: E.P.A. BAY/DELTA HEARINGS - SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN WATER SUPPLY

As requested by Mesa Consolidated Water District, the City has completed its analysis of socioeconomic impacts associated with a 50 percent reduction in water consumption. This analysis was limited to City-owned property, facilities, and related services.

As seen in the Summary of Cumulative Impacts section, it is estimated that the financial impact to the City would be approximately \$10 million and would directly impact over 100,000 individuals.

BACKGROUND

On May 6, 1991, the City adopted its Water Use Management Plan for City-owned property and facilities. The implementation of this Plan has brought about a voluntary reduction in consumption in excess of 20 percent. The City Council, through this Plan, prioritized municipal water use into seven categories. These priorities include:

1. Federal, State, and locally-mandated health and safety; i.e., Fire and Police services.
2. Community and employee health and sanitation needs; i.e., personal hygiene.
3. Safe recreational sports fields and the protection of physical assets; i.e., trees, shrubs, golf greens, and tees.
4. Public enjoyment of City lakes and pool; i.e., TeWinkle Park lake, golf course lakes, and City pool.
5. Less essential turfing and landscaped areas; i.e., low-use park areas and golf fairways.

6. Turfed travel ways and nonessential turfed areas; i.e., medians, parkways, Civic Center, and golf roughs.
7. City ornamental fountains and ponds; i.e., Civic Center koi pond and Mother/Child fountain.

The Plan also identified the following major areas of water consumption by the City:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>CONS</u>
Golf Course	47	216,295
Parks, Medians and Parkways (Parks 34%, Medians and Parkways 8%)	42	194,499
Buildings and Adjacent Irrigation	<u>11</u>	<u>52,224</u>
TOTAL CONSUMPTION	100%	463,018

Within each of these major consumption areas, specific measures were formulated to achieve graded percentage reductions in water use. Impacts associated with a 50 percent reduction were extrapolated from this Plan.

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

Over 89 percent of the water consumed by the City sustains trees, shrubs, and turfed areas. Minimum cutbacks can be achieved in City buildings as the majority of water is used to comply with mandated health and personal hygiene standards; i.e., the showering of prisoners. Consequently, a 50 percent reduction in total consumption can only be achieved by 60 percent reductions in areas dependent upon irrigation. Such reductions will have adverse impacts on related facilities, programs, employees, and capital investments. The following delineates resultant socioeconomic impacts in select areas:

A. GOLF COURSE

Valued in excess of \$20 million, the City's two 18-hole golf courses represent a significant capital investment, revenue source, and employment center. A 50 percent cutback City-wide would require a 60 percent reduction at the Golf Course. Emphasis would be placed on salvaging the greens and trees.

All tee boxes, fairways, golf roughs, and the driving range would be allowed to die back.

With deterioration of the Courses' playability, revenue will drop off significantly, requiring a reduction in the work force of approximately 10 employees. Replacement of dead golf turf would cost in excess of \$8,000 per acre or \$1.95 million for 244 acres. The four lakes would be allowed to dry up, requiring sanding to mitigate odor and fencing to protect the public. Significant repairs to irrigation equipment and valves would also be required.

Golf Course Summary

- o Employment - Loss of 10 employees.
- o Capital Outlay - \$2.5 million in turf, irrigation equipment, etc.
- o Recreation - Reduction of approximately 60,000 rounds, annually.
- o Aesthetics - Offensive odors, reduced air quality, and visual impacts to surrounding neighborhoods.
- o Loss of Revenue - \$1.1 million annually.

B. PARKS

The City currently has 410 acres of park land and desires to acquire an additional 37 acres. A 50 percent cutback City-wide would require a 60 percent reduction in parks. Emphasis would be placed on salvaging trees and mature shrubs. The majority of turf would be allowed to die back and TeWinkle Park lake and the City pool would be allowed to evaporate.

In order to minimize the liabilities associated with non-watered, deteriorating turfed areas, the City would curtail all related youth and adult sports programming. Approximately 4,000 local participants would be left without safe sports fields. The resultant loss of revenue and programming would also require a downsizing of the work force of approximately 25 part-time and full-time employees of the City as well as another 40 independent referees.

TeWinkle Park lake would require fencing and sanding to protect the public and minimize odors. Significant repairs to

the lake's pumping and filtration system would also be required.

The City recently invested \$500,000 in drought-tolerant landscaping at Canyon Park. Such landscaping requires heavy watering to become properly rooted. A 60 percent cutback would kill this vegetation.

Parks Summary

- o Employment - Loss of 25 employees and "peripheral employment" of 40 individuals; i.e., referees, umpires.
- o Capital Outlay - \$3.8 million in turf, new plantings, irrigation equipment, etc.
- o Recreation - 4,000 sports participants and 500 aquatics participants.
- o Aesthetics - Negative odors, air quality, dust, and visual impacts to surrounding neighborhoods.
- o Loss of Revenue - \$125,000 annually.
- o Loss of Usable Open Space - An estimated 50,000 casual users would no longer patronize the parks.
- o Loss of Purchase Opportunities - The desired additional 37 acres of potential park land may not be purchased as it could not be adequately planted, developed, or enhanced.

C. PARKWAYS AND MEDIANS

The City has 12 acres of landscaped medians and an estimated 30 acres of landscaped parkways along arterial highways. A 50 percent City-wide cutback would require a 60 percent reduction in parkway and median watering. Emphasis would be placed on salvaging trees and mature shrubs. All turf would be allowed to die back and an aggressive weed abatement program would be instituted to protect the safe line-of-sight of motorists.

With the dying back of the turf and the stunted growth of the trees, the City would have to reduce the number of internal mowing and tree trimming personnel. This would also necessitate a review of related support personnel and capital equipment; i.e., mechanics, high rangers, and chipper machines.

The City recently awarded a landscaping contract to install \$200,000 worth of drought-tolerant plantings in the median and parkway along Victoria Street. A 60 percent reduction in water would not allow these plants to become properly rooted and the capital investment would be lost.

Parkways and Medians Summary

- o Employment - Loss of 5 employees.
- o Capital Outlay - \$700,000 in turf, plantings, irrigation equipment, etc.
- o Aesthetics - Negative visual impacts and air quality.
- o Additional Costs - Labor intensive weed abatement and select tree watering by hand or truck.

D. BUILDINGS AND ADJACENT IRRIGATION

The 20 buildings operated by the City account for 11 percent of the City's total water consumption. Given various health and safety concerns, it is estimated that minimum savings could be achieved in this area. Emphasis would be placed on providing mandated services such as showers for Fire Fighters and prisoners. Where possible, mature trees and shrubs would be salvaged and turf would be allowed to die back.

Buildings and Adjacent Irrigation Summary

- o Capital Outlay - \$80,000 in turf, plantings, and irrigation equipment.
- o Aesthetics - Negative visual impacts and air quality.
- o Additional Costs - \$150,000 in weed abatement program, hand watering of trees and shrubs, purchase and installation of low-flow plumbing fixtures.

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF CONCERN

A. CONSTRUCTION GRADING

Should a 50 percent cutback be required, it is anticipated that Mesa Consolidated would seek to prohibit water usage for all grading or road construction. Such regulation would jeopardize existing multi-million dollar public contracts at

the expense of local taxpayers.

A prohibition on building, by not allowing grading, could potentially impact 269 acres of undeveloped commercial land within the community.

B. STREET SWEEPING AND STORM DRAINS

Currently, the City routinely "wet sweeps" local streets. Should wet sweeping be prohibited, the sweeping program would lose approximately 80 percent of its effectiveness. "Dry sweeping" causes dust, dirt, and bacteria to become airborne. Dry sweeping also fails to pick up toxic chemicals and waste. Such toxins are later washed into the ocean by rain.

By failing to pick up the majority of debris, dry sweeping contributes to the clogging of storm drains. Clogged storm drains can result in flooding under normal rain conditions.

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The following summary represents the cumulative impacts of a 50 percent water reduction to the City of Costa Mesa:

- o Employment - Potential loss of 40 City employees and 40 peripheral part-time employees.
- o Capital Outlay - \$7.1 million in turf, plantings, equipment, retrofits, etc.
- o Loss of Revenue - \$2.35 million annually.
- o Additional Costs - \$150,000 in proactive weed abatement programs.
- o Recreation - Loss of 60,000 rounds of golf annually.
Loss of 4,500 sports and aquatics participants annually.
Loss of 50,000 casual park patrons.
- o Aesthetics - Poorer air quality, offensive odors, airborne dust and bacteria, and negative visual impacts throughout the community.

The City trusts that this information will be of benefit to the District in assessing the impacts associated with severe cutbacks in water supply.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Mr. Pickering in my office, if the City can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. L. Roeder".

ALLAN L. ROEDER
CITY MANAGER

/tae



FAIRVIEW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

2501 Harbor Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 957-5000

RECEIVED
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
3/3/94

March 1, 1994

Mesa Consolidated Water District
P.O. BOX 5008
1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-5008

Attention: Lisa Murphy
Public Information Coordinator

RE: Water Utilization - Fairview Developmental Center

Fairview Developmental Center is a residential facility providing specialized services for persons with developmental disabilities. Fairview is administered by the Department of Developmental Services, State of California.

Developmental disabilities may result in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity; self-care receptive and expressive communication, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic sufficiency.

The primary mission of Fairview is to provide high quality care, treatment, and programming services to the individuals who live here in order to prepare them for an ultimate return into mainstream society.

The residence population of Fairview is divided into six residential treatment Programs, each of which is managed by a Program Director. The Program Director is responsible for the full range of direct care and treatment services provided to the individuals in their Program.

The following statistical information describes some of the characteristics of the individuals in residence at Fairview Developmental Center.

- Ages range from a few months to 75 years of age
- 80% of the ages fall between 19 and 40 years
- 56% are male
- 96% are intellectually compromised at least to a severe degree
- 45% are visually impaired
- 24% are hearing impaired
- 49% have active seizure disorders
- 13% are largely able to care for themselves
- 37% can complete some care for themselves but require assistance in activities of daily living
- 26% have chronic major medical conditions
- 59% require some specialized health care equipment



Water Utilization - Fairview Developmental Center

- 27% exhibit behaviors which interfere with their full participation in structure programs
- 17% participate in full day educational instruction
- 5% attend community school programs
- 6% participate in formal vocational training

The licensed bed capacity is 1228 beds. The current population in residence is 1017. Fairview employs approximately 1,700 staff.

Individuals at Fairview reside in 26 buildings. There are an additional 17 buildings for a total of 42 buildings on grounds. Our facility occupies 109 acres, 35 of which are fully landscaped.

A school with playing field and 2 recreational parks with a horse-riding program and petting zoo are situated on grounds. Full laundry and dining services are provided.

Fairview has been cognizant of the need for water conservation for several years. Our usage of water decreased by 18.5% in 1991 and an additional 18% in 1992. Our savings in 1992 resulted in a letter of commendation from the Mesa Consolidated Water District. Fairview has achieved a significant further reduction in 1993 for an overall reduction of 40% in water utilization. This is attributed to a substantial change in our irrigation policy. During the last two years, plumbing personnel installed approximately 350 (2 GPM aerators) in conjunction with the January 1992 California Energy Commissions' requirements. All fitting replacements done at the facility are with items listed in the CEC (California Energy Commission) Directory of certified shower heads and faucets.

Over the last 18 months we have done extensive irrigation system upgrades and will continue to upgrade in the future. To date, we have replaced 140 hydraulic valves with electric, 9 electronic clocks, and 850 sprinkler heads using modern technology to irrigate our greenbelt in a much more efficient manner.

Over the past year, we have cut our watering time by 30-40 percent. We are currently writing up contracts for more valve and clock replacements. Our upgraded technology will also allow us to add moisture sensors to our systems, improving our efficiency. In any improvements to our grounds we are utilizing drought resistant plants.

More than 70% of the water used at Fairview goes to direct client care including food preparation. Direct client care encompasses frequent bathing (often three or more times per day) necessitated by incontinent clients and those who have difficulty feeding themselves because of impaired coordination. More than 3300 meals are prepared daily at Fairview's Central Kitchen and large amounts of water are needed to process food and wash dining utensils. Our laundry processes a large amount of clients clothing and specialized uniforms for staff.

The balance is utilized in irrigation and facility operations. Facility operations include the use of water in our air conditioning cooling tower. Although the climate is mild in Costa Mesa, many of our residents are so fragile that hyperthermia results if ambient air temperatures vary more than 10 degrees.

Water Utilization - Fairview Developmental Center

Statistics regarding the characteristics of individuals living at Fairview do not give a complete picture of our circumstances. The majority of the people we care for are severely or profoundly retarded. Many, because of the accompanying severe physical handicaps are bedfast and incontinent. These fragile persons require the utmost hygiene care and frequent bathing to avoid skin breakdowns resulting in ulcers. Sanitation measures and cleanliness of their housing units must equal that of an acute hospital. Bacterial infections tend to spread rapidly if adequate precautions are not available. In short, we need to maintain a sound and healthy environment if the individuals we serve are to survive.

Fairview's goal is to integrate as many of our residents as possible in community activities. For many of our severely handicapped clients, however, the primary source of recreation is available only on our grounds. Foster Grandparents and Recreational Therapists are responsible for escorting them to our grassy lawn areas and conducting play activities; picnics and organized games. For our residents a loss of our landscaped area would be a severe hardship.

Fairview plans to continue seeking additional water saving measures; however, a cut in water available to us would result in an inability to provide the services essential to our client's health and well-being.

Nanette Gerth

Nanette Gerth

Assistant Administrative Service Director

NG:db

Coast Community College District

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District Administration: 1370 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa, California 92626

June 11, 1992

We have received information, albeit not from formal sources, that the State Water Board is considering cutting water delivery to our cities by as much as 50 percent. An initiative of such proportions would have serious, if not disastrous, consequences for the colleges of the Coast Community College District.

At present the water use on the campuses is split about 50/50 between landscaping applications, which includes fields used for classes and other water applications associated with serving the personal and instructional needs of a population of approximately 40,000 people. These two campuses have water needs approximating the needs of a small city.

The 50 percent of the water used for personal and instructional needs supports restrooms, showers, food services, drinking fountains, laboratories serving many disciplines, heating and cooling systems, and aquatic facilities. We have for several years been involved in retrofitting our water distribution system with water saving devices. All showers and faucets have restricted flow heads, toilets use less water per flush, and our swimming pools are blanketed when not in use to prevent evaporation. These measures have put us well on the way to meet our 20 percent targeted reduction for water use from these sources.

The aquatics programs at each campus are extensive. In addition to classes and teams, each campus offers recreational swimming, as well as a large summer swim program covering ages from toddlers to senior citizens. Golden West College has a year-round Junior Olympics Swim Program for local youngsters up to age 16 that has several hundred participants. In this water sport oriented area, these programs are extremely important and valuable.

When we look at the water used for the greening of our campuses, we are confronted with other considerations as a consequence of reducing water for such usage. The major portion of the green area on our campuses is devoted to playing fields. These are classrooms for our students and teams, as well as recreational areas for citizens in the communities we serve.

We would face serious liability if our playing fields were allowed to dry up and become unsafe playing areas. The ultimate consequence of such action would be to close the fields rather than endanger the physical health of the users. Such drastic action has been taken in cities where money was not sufficient to keep fields in a safe condition. Both campuses have community gardens and their users are passionate about their rights to preserve this avocation. Reducing water usage for this group would produce a real political battle.

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ORANGE COAST COLLEGE · GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE · COASTLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE · KOCE-TV (50) PBS

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June 11, 1992

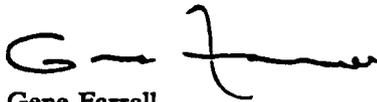
Landscaping contributes to the learning environment. Any serious reduction of water delivered to the campus would have its first impact in this area. The campus would begin to look like a blighted area; and there is evidence that when this happens, the blight increases. Our campuses have been utilized by large numbers of our constituents as a recreational area, both for active and passive recreation. The landscaping contributes to the ambiance of the campus for both the students and staff and the casual user as well.

Both Orange Coast and Golden West embarked on a serious water conservation effort on their grounds in the past few years. We have been replanting areas with drought resistance plants. We have been installing low volume sprinkler heads. Our irrigation systems have been changed to computer controlled systems. On one field alone at Golden West College, we have saved over 5,000 gallons per watering cycle. On this field, the watering cycle is 20 minutes and happens every other day. Orange Coast is preparing to connect into the green acres water project as soon as it becomes available.

In conclusion, let me remind you that our campuses are a real tangible asset to literally thousands of people. Any serious reduction in water delivery would have a serious negative impact on this educational and recreational asset. Once it is lost, it will take a long time to recover. The money or water resource potentially saved now does not seem worth the cost later.

Hopefully, you will agree that these campuses are not the place to start cutting water delivery. We are working diligently to reduce our water consumption and will continue to work toward any reasonable goal. We are committed to do all we can to preserve this valuable resource.

Sincerely,



Gene Farrell
Vice Chancellor
Administrative Services

GF:vy

cc: Dr. Alfred Fernandez, Chancellor
Mr. Jim McIlwain, OCC
Dr. Fred Owens, GWC