



301 North Lake Avenue
10th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101-5123
Phone: 626.793.9400
Fax: 626.793.5900
www.lagerlof.com

Established 1908

April 13, 2015

VIA E-MAIL

State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: Jessica Bean
Sacramento, CA

Re: Mandatory Conservation Regulatory Framework

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are special counsel to the Public Water Agencies Group (the “Group”), an association of 17 public water suppliers who provide wholesale and retail water service in Los Angeles County.¹ In total, the Group’s members provide water service to over 1 million residents of Los Angeles County. We are writing to provide comments and raise issues regarding the proposed Mandatory Conservation Regulatory Framework issued by the State Board last week.

While we understand the need to have an approach to conservation that is understandable, adequately addresses the state’s needs in terms of conservation, and is not overly complex, the Group feels that the proposed framework is too simplistic, and may result in disparate and unfair treatment of water users throughout the state.

For example, no consideration is given to the effects climate may have on a water agency’s customers and their water needs. The Group believes that the following factors should be taken into account during the Board’s deliberations:

- Some effort should be made to differentiate between household and irrigation uses, with a higher conservation rate expected from outdoor uses.
- There should be no reduction required for agencies with less than 50 GPCD.
- The conservation standard should utilize a sliding scale based on GPCD. As currently proposed, agencies as little as one gallon into the next range will be required to cut significantly more than those in a lower range based on the conservation standard applied. The disparity can be significant.
- The GPCD should be based on a 12-month average, not a single month (September 2014).

¹ The Group consists of Crescenta Valley Water District, Kinneloa Irrigation District, La Habra Heights County Water District, La Puente Valley County Water District, Newhall County Water District, Orchard Dale Water District, Palmdale Water District, Pico Water District, Quartz Hill Water District, Rowland Water District, San Gabriel County Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Sativa-Los Angeles County Water District, South Montebello Irrigation District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Valley County Water District and Walnut Valley Water District.

April 13, 2015

Page 2

- The compliance assessment period should be based over a 12-month period rather than a nine-month period (June-Feb).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations. The Group's 17 members feel strongly that through careful consideration of the varied financial and operational circumstances facing California's water agencies, the State Board will be able to craft a regulatory framework that is fair and equitable to all Californians. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact James Ciampa at 626-793-9400, or by e-mail at jciampa@lagerlof.com.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D Ciampa" with a stylized "JDC" monogram to the right.

James D. Ciampa

JDC/cc

cc: Public Water Agencies Group Members (via e-mail)

G:\PWAG\LETTERS\Comments re Drought Regs 4-13-15.docx