

# DEL PASO MANOR *Water District*

PHONE (916) 487-0419 FAX (916) 487-8534

4268 LUSK DRIVE • SACRAMENTO, CA 95864

July 14, 2014



State Water Resources Control Board

**Re: Del Paso Manor Water District Comments on Proposed SWRCB Emergency Regulations  
Regarding Prohibitions of Activities and Mandatory Actions During Drought Emergency**

Honorable Members of the Board:

Del Paso Manor Water District is a municipal water supplier formed under the County Water District Act. We are a small district serving approximately 1,800 residential and commercial customers in northern Sacramento County. The District relies exclusively on groundwater to supply its customers, but is in the process of developing a conjunctive use/surface water utilization program. In response to the Governor's emergency proclamation earlier this year, our District has successfully embarked on a voluntary water conservation program which has yielded a 22.4% reduction in water consumption over the prior year, and we are committed to achieving further reductions this year through voluntary compliance and conversation measures. We are an active participant in regional management of groundwater and surface water supplies through the use of best management practices, all in conjunction with the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) and the Regional Water Authority (RWA). We endorse comments provided by the Association of California Water Agencies with respect to the proposed emergency regulations. However, as a small public water supplier, we write to provide comments on aspects of the emergency regulations which, we believe, do not adequately or accurately address the needs of small water agencies and their customers. Primarily, our concerns go to the construction of the language of the proposed regulations, and also potential problems with their implementation.

1. The Proposed Regulations at Section X.2 (e) Are Ambiguous and Fail to Take into Account Reductions in Consumption Already Achieved.

Since we are not an urban water supplier within the meaning of the proposed regulations, our District falls under Section X.2 (e). We are concerned that the mandate fails to take into account already achieved reductions in consumption, and further, with respect to subsection (2), fail to specify the meaning of "comparable reduction in water consumption" relative to 2013 consumption. Insofar our consumption by voluntary means has already been reduced by 22.4% of 2013 levels. We believe a better approach is for the local agency to use whatever means it chooses to achieve a target reduction in consumption. Whether and to what extent outdoor irrigation should be restricted in order to achieve greater reductions in consumption is best left to the discretion of the local agency. As a groundwater supplier, we are already sensitive to the needs of groundwater management and conservation, and best know the needs of our customers. We are opposed to a

“one size fits all” approach, and instead support the Board’s setting of consumption reduction targets, leaving to each agency to formulate an approach that will best achieve that goal.

2. The Proposed Regulations Fail to Specify an Enforcement Mechanism

We note that Section X.1 fails to provide an enforcement mechanism for the issuance of \$500 fines and issuance of infraction citations for water suppliers. Our District does not presently have the authority or resources to issue citations and prosecute same. Further, we do not believe such an enforcement mechanism is as effective as direct engagement with our customers to achieve voluntary compliance and reduction goals. It is our understanding that such a citation may be issued by any peace officer observing an event in violation of the regulation, but that a water supplier is not required to issue such citations. However, that is not clarified in the draft regulations.

Del Paso Manor Water District is committed to achieving further reductions in consumption in this unprecedented drought year, and will continue to work with its customers and local and state agencies to achieve greater reductions. However, we are concerned with the nature of the proposed regulations, insofar as they constitute a “one size fits all” approach that amounts to an encroachment on the authority and function of water districts. We believe it is more appropriate for the Board to establish targets to be achieved by the water suppliers, rather than micromanaging their daily operations, as local agencies have a better understanding of how best to achieve stated consumption goals.

Thank you for addressing these concerns and reconsidering your proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra J. Sedwick".

Debra Sedwick  
General Manager