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California State Senate

SENATOR
RICHARD D. ROTH
THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT



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January 28, 2016

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: February 2, 2016 Board Meeting - Item 7 Conservation Extended Emergency Regulation

Dear Ms. Townsend:

It is my understanding that the State Water Resources Control Board will be considering proposed Conservation Extended Emergency Regulations at its February 2, 2016, meeting. My comments on this item are contained below.

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department, which lies in my Senate District, has worked diligently to ensure that it can live within its means. After implementing the State's goals of Reliability, Restoration and Resilience, Riverside has been successful in meeting 100% of potable water demand from local adjudicated groundwater basins. The same basins that feed the Riverside region are estimated to have more than 10 million acre feet of water storage, which is equal to the combined capacity of Lake Shasta, Lake Oroville and the San Luis Reservoir — three of the five largest reservoirs in California. Moreover, in any given year, safe yield extractions are limited to 4% or less of the basins' capacities.

Under the Emergency Regulation, Section 865 (c) (2) provides a 4% tier for each urban water supplier that does not rely on groundwater or water imported from outside the hydrologic region and has a minimum four years reserved supply. Riverside's water supply has a greater than 4 year reserved supply and does not rely on water imported from outside the hydrologic region. While I appreciate that the SWRCB has, in their most recent draft, attempted to move away from a "one size fits all" approach, it is disappointing that Riverside is disqualified from participating in the 4% tier simply because its water supply is groundwater, having met all other requirements.

Given the above, I would request that the SWRCB adopt language submitted by Riverside on December 2, 2015, allowing groundwater users, like Riverside, that can meet all other requirements under the 4% tier to be included in that tier.

I know we share a commitment to water conservation in the face of the current drought and can agree that meeting water conservation goals is incredibly important. I believe Riverside has done more than its fair share in this area and should be considered for the 4% tier.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter with you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Roth", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

RICHARD D. ROTH
Senator, 31st District