

## commentletters

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**From:** ann maurice <annmaurice954@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2016 4:05 PM  
**To:** commentletters; Efen Carrillo  
**Subject:** emergency drought regulations workshop April 20,2016



Ad Hoc Committee for Clean Water  
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To SWRCB Members,  
Regarding the input at the workshop April 20, from mostly water purveyors, please consider the following at your May 3 meeting:

### What to do:

- 1. Impose conservation tiered pricing;**
- 2. Hold a workshop specifically for public input.** The general public is wiser than the purveyors whom, I believe were representing a narrow range of their wealthiest water guzzlers;
- 3. Promote "Cash for Grass" programs** that offer incentives to replace high water use lawns for "xeriscape";
- 4. Proclaim a moratorium on new irrigated agriculture, especially vineyards in the sensitive coho breeding areas of the Dutch Bill, Mark West, Green Valley, Dutch Bill, Mill and Atascadero Creeks, tributaries of the Russian River.**

Our summer-dry climate is *not* a problem. Our refusal to accommodate is! The climate is called "Mediterranean", typical of countries of the Mediterranean in Europe. **Crops such as grapes, olives, citrus and almonds brought here from Mediterranean countries like Spain, Italy, Portugal and France -- DO NOT NEED SUMMER WATER!**

Irrigation yields higher volume, greater tonnage per acre and therefore higher quarterly returns for investors. But this has been taken too far and depleted groundwater, dried up rural wells, creeks and rivers, impaired water ways with eutrication, put salmonids on the threatened and endangered species lists, threatened urban water use, and created a crisis throughout the state.

- 5. Investigate biological remediation for detoxification of land and water exacerbated by low water conditions and digging deeper wells;** for example, Chinese ladder ferns for arsenic removal in the Santa Rosa plain and using barley straw or extract for removal of cyanobacteria created by blue-green algae in the Russian river and reservoirs;

### Three hours of disturbing testimony at the 4/20/16 Water Board Workshop:

1. Water purveyors complained that the Governor's conservation policy is losing them money! One said he risked **bankruptcy and default on bonds due to conscientious water conservation by his customers! How dysfunctional a water industry! What a conflict of interest -- a conflict that depends financially on waste! Just install conservation pricing. We support EBMUD's threat to expose the names of water guzzlers using 1000 or more gallons per day!**

**The Governor and the Board need to listen to other, wiser voices!**

***For example, the ridiculous Homeowner's Association of the gated, upscale community Blackhawk in Contra Costa County is threatening "aggressive enforcement" of their absurd and dysfunctional landscaping "standards"! Effective June 1, 2016, the Association will consider lawsuits, fines, doing the lawn-scaping they require then sending the bill to the homeowner, or even turning off gate clickers to disallow access if homeowners don't keep their lawns green!*** (See "What Drought? East Bay Gated Community Orders Owners to Green Up", by Dennis Cuff, San Jose Mercury News, 4/19/16). This foolish Homeowner's Association needs to be confronted and quieted.

**Ours is a Mediterranean climate.** Landscaping should reflect that reality. Our hills turn golden brown in summer and turn green again with the return of the rains. Are some so alienated from nature that they cannot stand the fluctuations? Their mentality must ***not*** set the tone for our State. Let them go to Connecticut and try to set equally ridiculous standards to stop leaves from falling in Autumn because leafless trees are unsightly, look dead and lifeless, and lower property values!

***2. Overflowing reservoirs do not prove that the impact of drought and diversion is over!*** Reservoirs do **not** hold the volume intended at construction. They have silted up. ***But do we need more storage? Evidently NOT!!*** The public has shown that we can and will use less water! Use less, store less. Rainwater needs to overflow the reservoirs into our rivers as nature intended to flush out and dilute the pesticide and herbicide runoff killing aquatic life and to flush out and dilute the fertilizers causing dangerous algae bloom along banks and in slow-moving stagnant pools!

The periodic rush of winter rains is nature's way. The 40 or so inches of rain in the Russian River area for example, is ***not*** supposed to fall 4 inches a month, 12 months a year. It falls instead in a rainy season and may fall in torrents. An overflowing reservoir means there is more storage capacity than needed for human use -- more than needed for impoundment! Thank the public for that! Thank us for responding to the Governor's call for conservation. Overflowing reservoirs provides water for other life in the watershed, that supports and nourishes ourselves. It is narrow-minded and self-destructive to be alienated from the rest of creation. The dysfunction is with certain water purveyors who are not reasoning properly.

There is no proof that recent rains have recharged depleted aquifers. Do you really believe that this year's rainfall percolated down 200 feet to replenish residential and urban wells and groundwater, let alone replenish groundwater in the 1000 foot, and more, incredibly deep wells in the Central Valley?

**Let common sense, not nonsense, prevail!**

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