

# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Peter Brown, President**  
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2-7-17 Board Meeting-Item 9  
Urban Water Conservation to Implement EO B-29-16  
Deadline: 2/6/17 12 noon

February 3, 2017

**Donald M. Zdeba**  
*General Manager*  
**Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated**  
*Engineers*  
**McMurtrey, Hartsock & Worth**  
*Attorneys-at-Law*

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of the State of California  
c/o: Kim Craig, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**Subject: State Water Resources Control Board Resolution to Adopt an Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation**

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to urge you to direct the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to rescind the proposed Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation. A check of the conditions at state reservoirs this morning shows the following:

- Lake Oroville at 120% of historic average
- Lake Shasta at 114% of historic average
- Don Pedro Reservoir at 127% of historic average
- Folsom Lake at 80% of historic average (and reportedly releasing water due to flooding concerns)
- Trinity Lake at 85% of historic average
- San Luis Reservoir at 107% of historic average
- Lake McClure at 150% of historic average
- Pine Flat Reservoir at 130% of historic average
- New Melones Lake at 72% of historic average
- Millerton Lake at 1025% of historic average
- Castaic Lake at 99% of historic average
- Lake Perris at 47% of historic average

The snowpack measurement taken this week in the Sierra Nevada, historically providing up to a third of the state's water needs, revealed snow-water content stood at 173 percent of historical average with the months of February and March still ahead. The snowpack provides insurance for healthy runoff this spring and summer that will continue to fill reservoirs. Although the spate of storms this fall and winter have provided much needed relief from the extended drought, I would not be so bold as to claim the drought is over and Californians can resurrect old habits when it comes to their use of water. However, given the latest Drought Monitor report from the Western Regional Climate Center stating over 40% of California is no longer experiencing drought conditions and the healthy conditions of the state's reservoirs, the State Water Resources Control Board faces credibility issues by extending statewide drought emergency regulations thereby potentially stifling growth of businesses and adversely impacting state and local economies.

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Clearly, there should still be concern about the amount of groundwater that has been pumped during the drought. The full impact of that pumping is difficult to establish, but it is understood replenishment of that which was pumped during this time will not occur with one wet year. Recognizing urban water suppliers each face unique situations with respect to the effects of the drought because of geography, sources of supply, local climate and other factors, I support allowing individual urban water suppliers to craft a response that is appropriate to their unique conditions. Urban water suppliers responded in the past year and a half reducing water use by 22%, or 2.35 million acre-feet— “enough water to supply more than 11 million people, or more than one-quarter the state’s population, for a year”, according to the California Drought page ([www.drought.ca.gov](http://www.drought.ca.gov)). I am in agreement with the statement contained in paragraph 16 of the Draft Resolution that states, “Extending the emergency regulation does not require any particular water supplier to establish mandatory conservation requirements; instead, it allows each supplier to customize requirements to their own water supply conditions.” I do, however, have concern about the public’s response to the state continuing to declare a statewide drought “emergency” in light of current conditions.

When required by the SWRCB to submit the results of the self-certified stress test, the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District voted to voluntarily submit a conservation target of 20% although the exercise proved our basin has adequate groundwater supplies to meet the needs of our customer base for many years beyond the three required in the test. To date, our customers have responded positively and we are meeting that target. My Board is cognizant of the fact that the Indian Wells Valley basin has been listed as one of twenty-one basins in critical overdraft based on declining water levels. This action demonstrates support for the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency that is being formed and provides that agency the opportunity to succeed by keeping conservation in place.

I am fully supportive of urban water suppliers continuing to report monthly to the SWRCB to allow the state to monitor local conditions and the progress being made by suppliers to ensure they are taking appropriate actions to secure long-term supply. I do, however, request you and the SWRCB reconsider this over-reach by not adopting this Emergency Regulation and recognize and allow that local urban water suppliers are best positioned to manage their supplies for the long-term.

Respectfully,



Donald M. Zdeba  
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors, Indian Wells Valley Water District  
Senator Jean Fuller  
Assemblyman Vince Fong  
Ms. Kim Craig, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Officer of Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Mr. Tim Quinn, Executive Director, ACWA  
Mr. Dave Bolland, ACWA