



# City of Sierra Madre

Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Commission

232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
phone 626.355.7135 fax 626.355.2251

2-7-17 Board Meeting-Item 9  
Urban Water Conservation EO B-29-16  
Deadline: 2/6/17 12 noon



**RECEIVED**

FEB -1 2017

**Office of Enforcement**

January 27, 2017

Dr. Matthew Buffleben, PhD  
Chief, Special Investigations Unit  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



**RE: The Pressing Need for a Continued Water Conservation Message**

Dear Dr. Buffelben,

We need help!

The Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Commission is a volunteer commission, comprised of residents dedicated to the stewardship of local and regional natural resources. The Commission meets monthly to discuss various environmental topics, with a goal of protecting resources for future Sierra Madre and California generations.

The Commission would like to communicate to the State Water Resources Control Board that general Water Conservation messaging throughout the state should be re-invigorated in light of the uncertain condition of future water-source reliability.

For over 100 years, the City of Sierra Madre has been dependent on a single water source, the East Raymond Basin. The City's Water Department has been able to manage water sustainability and quality as quality up until the most recent drought conditions have forced a major shift in operations. Sierra Madre has adopted water conservation ordinances well before mandated by the State, and has maintained these ordinances and raised overuse penalties since the State recently relaxed some of the water conservation regulations.

The City of Sierra Madre has taken many steps to promote additional conservation with its residents. This includes the most recent hikes to penalties for exceeding target consumption as well as direct contact via mail and telephone to the City's top consumers. The City also provides free water "audits" to residents who request a professional analysis of where their water is being used, and testing for leaks.

Unfortunately, recent City-wide consumption levels are rising, and the condition of our sole aquifer's water is not returning to a safe level. The relaxing of some statewide water conservation efforts has contributed to the lack of awareness for the need for continued and enhanced conservation in Sierra Madre.

Recent rainstorms have compounded the misperception of Sierra Madre's residents, who are tuned into media articles announcing the "end of the drought" for much of the State. The City is making every effort

to remind our residents that our town of just 11,000 folks is not in the same boat as the rest of the State, and continued conservation is vital to the future of our community.

The Energy, Environment, & Natural Resources Commission is attempting to address all possible remedies for our water situation. We would urge the State to continue, and perhaps intensify water conservation messaging throughout the State going forward. We also request that our concerns be taken into account for any future water conservation decisions. We would also be very receptive to receive any recommendations that you may have, and happy to assist with statewide goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Blanchard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Kathleen Blanchard, Chair  
Sierra Madre Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Commission

Contact: James Carlson  
Department of Public Works – Liaison to Commission  
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