



990 East Mission Road
P. O. Box 2290
Fallbrook, California
92088-2290

(760) 728-1125
Fax (760) 728-5943

Board of Directors:

Milt Davies
Al Gebhart
Bert Hayden
Don McDougal
Charley Wolk

Staff:

Brian J. Brady
General Manager

Jack Bebee
Assistant General Manager

Marcie Eilers
Admin Services Manager

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Legal Counsel

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January 6, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair, and
Honorable Members of the State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Comments on December 21, 2015 Proposed Regulatory Framework for
Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation

Dear Chair Marcus and Honorable Members of the State Water Resources
Control Board:

By way of introduction, Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD), established in 1922, is a member agency of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and serves the needs of domestic and agricultural customers in the northern most portion of San Diego County.

Thank you for the opportunity to express both our support for the majority of the proposed Framework for the Emergency Regulation as well as to highlight concerns about specific staff recommendations. We appreciate the State Board and its staff's willingness to allow a free exchange of views during this regulatory development process.

Our comments:

Proposed adjustments to conservation requirement

We fully support the staff's recommendation to adjust individual agency conservation requirements based upon demonstrated climate and growth factors, as well as for the development of drought-resilient water supplies. And, as we calculate these adjustments for FPUD, we would qualify for a 9 percent reduction in our 36 percent conservation target.

Understandably, our greatest concern with the staff proposal is the 4 percent cap on reductions in the conservation requirement. If implemented, we believe that the 4 percent cap will:

- not recognize the full extent of conservation efforts by individual agencies, and
- suppress the development of new drought-resilient sources of supply.

We, therefore, strongly encourage the Board to reject the imposition of a numerical cap.

An additional concern is that the proposed Supply Credit excludes drought-resilient sources of supply such as otherwise unusable brackish groundwater which can be desalinated and conserved water from long-term ag to urban transfers. There appears no logical rationale why these supplies should not be included as they are demonstrably reliable during sustained water shortages.

Commercial Agricultural Exemption

On behalf of FPUD's over 500 family farm operations, currently certified under District and SDCWA regulations, we strongly support the existing rules for commercial agricultural exemptions. Our local farmers represent a vibrant contribution to our local economy and an example of some of the most advanced water management practices.

Agricultural certification rules in San Diego County are well-established and rigorously applied. Adding criteria (such as a threshold monetary requirement) will contribute nothing to the existing procedures, save for an additional administrative burden.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Regulatory Framework for Extended Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation. Please feel free to contact me at 760-278-1125 or bbrady@fpud.com if you have any questions or require clarification to our comments.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Brady, P.E.
General Manager