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Martin E. Zvirbulis
Secretary / General Manager/CEO

VIA EMAIL: wue@water.ca.gov; commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

January 11, 2017

Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

SUBJECT: "Comment Letter – Urban Water Conservation Workshop"

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Urban Water Conservation Workshop and the extension and potential modification of the current Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation and to address the three questions posed by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board).

As noted in our prior comment letters, CVWD has been dedicated to conservation and water use efficiency for many years, long before conservation became a state mandated regulatory requirement. CVWD has made significant investments in a direct-use recycled water system, recycled water recharge basins, and we have banked groundwater for nearly 10 years in the Chino Groundwater Basin. These actions were taken in order to endure drought situations like the very one we are currently experiencing throughout the state. In fact, if you cumulatively add the recent reductions in response to the conservation mandate (24% since June 1, 2015) with savings achieved before the mandate, our customers have reduced their water use by approximately 40%. We appreciate the opportunity to offer input on the questions posed by the State Board. Responses to the State Board's questions are as follows:

1. What elements of the existing May 2016 Emergency Regulation, if any, should be modified? Should the State Board wait until the hydrology for the current water year is known (April or later) before proposing adjustments to the current method for calculating conservation standards?

Any proposal to extend the Emergency Regulation must consider the State's water supply conditions (snow pack and rainfall) at the end of the water year and the State must demonstrate a commitment to fully capture water supplies when available, otherwise we risk the chance of losing credibility and that future drought messages could be negatively impacted. As such, it is appropriate to wait until after the hydrology for the current water year is known so that any adjustment can consider the current state of the drought.

James V. Curatalo, Jr.
President

Luis Cetina
Vice President

Oscar Gonzalez
Director

Randall Reed
Director

Kathleen J. Tieg
Director

The District also believes that the emergency regulations should consider an agency's water supply and investment to adequately supply their service area in times of water shortage. This goes beyond state project water and consideration should be given to investments made by agencies for securing water rights and supplies within their service area and regionally. Those that have a demonstrated ability to utilize supplies like groundwater and recycled water for an extended period of time in a sustainable manner should be afforded relief in their respective conservation requirement. CVWD utilizes groundwater supplies from a well-managed adjudicated basin where parties have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and deliberately recharged and banked water supplies in order to address long-term drought conditions. CVWD has also invested locally and regionally to expand the usable supply of recycled water.

The District believes that if agencies can demonstrate that there is an adequate water supply, those agencies should be relieved of any emergency regulations and that any emergency regulations should focus on those agencies that require assistance in meeting their water supply needs.

2. Should the State Water Board account for regional differences in snowpack, precipitation, and lingering drought impacts differently than under the current emergency regulation, and if so, how?

Regional differences in snowpack and precipitation should be considered when looking into capture of runoff but we do not believe it should be a focus in the emergency regulation. There are several water supplies that have minimal impact by snowpack and precipitation. This includes recycled water, potable reuse, desalination and treatment/reuse of contaminated groundwater, and designated storage accounts in sustainably managed groundwater basins. Promoting good water supply management would be more beneficial to local, regional and statewide water shortage issues.

We do agree that assistance should be given to assure optimizing capture and storage of snowpack and precipitation on a statewide and local level.

3. Executive Order B-37-16 requires the Board to develop a proposal to achieve a mandatory reduction in potable water use that builds off the mandatory 25 percent reduction in previous Executive Orders and lessons learned through 2016. The Board, however, is not required to act on this proposal. Should the Board act now, or later if conditions warrant, to a conservation standard structure like the one the Board adopted in February 2016 to achieve a mandatory reduction in water use? Should the Board set a conservation floor, individually or cumulatively?

As stated above, the District believes that the SWRCB should wait until after the hydrology for the current water year is known before considering taking any further action. If action is required, there should be consideration that many parts of the state are not experiencing emergency drought conditions due to improved hydrologic conditions, development of drought resilient supplies, or both. The District believes the SWRCB should rescind the emergency conservation regulations for those areas with adequate supplies, and focus on those communities that require assistance in meeting the water demands of their community. Otherwise, the SWRCB should continue its "stress test" demand reduction measures for areas in which supplies are inadequate to meet normal demands.

There is no need to set a conservation floor since the State already has a conservation floor set by SBx7-7.

CVWD appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback as the State Board hopefully evaluates the remaining water year. We look forward to working with the State Board to develop sound and justifiable changes to the Emergency Regulation that are equitable and sustainable for all agencies across the state.

Should you have any question or need additional information, please contact me or my staff at (909) 987-2591.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin E. Zvirbulis", with a long, sweeping underline.

Martin E. Zvirbulis, P.E.
General Manager/CEO

cc: Association of California Water Agencies