



Sent VIA Email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chair Marcus,

On behalf of Burbank Water and Power (BWP), a water and energy supplier to a population to approximately 107,000 people, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) staff's draft "Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses" regulations. BWP submits this letter in addition to California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and Water Reuse California's (WRCA) letters, specifically addressing the concern of expanding the regulations to apply to recycled water.

BWP imports 100% of its water supply at significant expense. BWP remains vigilant in using all our resources and finding opportunities to find additional uses for our valuable resource. We made early investment of millions of ratepayer's dollars in the infrastructure for the purple pipe system. With the goal to become less dependent on imported water and efficiently utilize our resource. During the drought, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency regulations that were intended to prevent the waste due to a shortage of potable water supplies, the draft "Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses" regulations should be consistent with the original intent.

In addition, paragraph "(G) *The irrigation of turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscapes areas between the street and sidewalk, except where the turf serves a community or neighborhood function*" should be amended to allow for a grandfather clause to existing medians irrigated with recycled water or those that could be converted to recycled water. If the draft language is not modified unintended consequences will result from the removal of turfs that enhance the community and help with reducing the urban heat island effect. The amount of recycled water within these designated areas will not result in water savings.

Our community has adapted to the new normal adjusting to climate change with the continued enforcement of local ordinances to limit wasteful practices. The City's Sustainable Water Ordinance incorporates all of the wasteful practices as addressed in the SWRCB's draft "Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses" regulations. In a continued effort to plan for future droughts the City has plans in place to continue the expansion of its recycled water distribution system to offset potable water use in a phased in approach. Currently, most of our customers with large landscapes, parks and City property have shifted to recycled water. As a benefit, a portion of the recycled water percolates to the groundwater table and adds to our ground water supply. The recycled water that is not used for irrigation would otherwise go down to the ocean and; therefore, the loss of direct beneficial reuse.



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BWP remains visionary in finding ways to utilize its resources as we have been awarded a matching grant through the State Water Board to study Direct Potable Reuse which is in the regulatory development phase and is not a benefit to our community, yet.

We urge the Board to recognize and honor local decisions to make early investments in recycled water that should be supported and incentivized for further development. For these reasons, we ask that you modify the draft regulations so that the application **does not apply to recycled water**. Recycled water is currently the most efficient way to conserve water (100% conservation) long term as well as respond to the drought. The exclusion of recycled water in the draft regulations will recognize our existing and ongoing investments in the infrastructure we put in place to provide recycled water for its economic lifespan of 30-40 years. The consequence we will face of not using the abundant supply of recycled water is that more water will be discharged to the ocean rather than put to beneficial use.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to working closely in the future. Please feel free to contact me at (818) 238-3550 or jsomoano@burbankca.gov if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jorge Somoano".

Jorge Somoano
General Manager

Cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate
The Honorable Laura Friedman, California State Assembly
Ron Davis, City Manager – City of Burbank
David Jones, Emanuels Jones and Associates