



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE



December 20, 2017

Jeanine Townsend
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Transmitted by email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Comment Letter – Prohibiting Wasteful Use Practices

Dear Ms. Townsend,

On November 1, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) issued a Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action that will provide for permanent prohibitions against wasteful water uses. The City of Folsom (City) thanks the Board for the opportunity to comment on the draft permanent prohibitions against wasteful water use. The City's current Water Conservation Ordinance includes several of the practices and actions included in the Board's draft regulation.

Consistent with the direction of Executive Order B-37-16, the SWRCB's Draft Prohibitions are applicable to the actions and practices of all California residents, businesses, institutions and government agencies. The City supports the Draft Prohibition's goals of increasing water use efficiency and reinforcing all Californians' awareness of the need to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water. Specifically, the City is supportive of practices and actions consistent with the Draft Regulation's provisions that would:

- 1) Prohibit the application of water to landscapes in a manner that causes unproductive runoff;
- 2) Prohibit the use of a hose without a shutoff nozzle when washing a motor vehicle;
- 3) Prohibit the use of water in ornamental fountains without a recirculating pump;
- 4) Prohibit the service of drinking water absent a request; and,

- 5) Require that the operators or hotels and motels provide guests with the option not to have linens laundered daily.

In the interest of ensuring that the final prohibitions are crafted in a manner that accounts for important implementation issues, the City encourages the SWRCB to refine the language of several elements of the Draft Regulation as follows:

- 1) The draft prohibition on outdoor irrigation “during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall of at least one-tenth of one inch of rain” should be modified to account for the actions taken by responsible Californians that are consistent with the spirit and intent of the prohibition, which we understand to be the prevention of unnecessary irrigation when precipitation levels are sufficient to maintain plant health, which is already enforceable under current regulations. Based on a review of commercially-available smart irrigation controllers, many existing models are triggered at or above one-eighth of one inch of rain. Under the draft prohibition, the correct use of these smart controllers would already result in substantial reduction of water use.

Similarly, the draft prohibition’s uniform statewide standard for “measurable rainfall” may not provide adequate levels of water to maintain plant and tree health without additional irrigation, given unique local conditions. The draft prohibition proposed in §963(b)(1)(E) should be modified to allow the entities and individuals responsible for implementation of the final prohibition to determine the level of rainfall that constitutes “measurable” based on local conditions and the water needs of existing landscapes.

- 2) The draft prohibition on the irrigation of turf on public street medians and publicly owned or maintained landscape areas between the street and sidewalk should be modified to only apply to the irrigation of turf on new or retrofitted landscape areas. The draft prohibition proposed in §963(b)(1)(G) should also be modified to provide that the irrigation of turf in existing landscape areas is prohibited unless:
 - i) Recycled water is used;
 - ii) The area is used for a community or neighborhood function, including, but not limited to assembly, community events, access/egress from parked vehicles, etc.;
 - iii) It is not cost effective to retrofit the area relative to the amount of water saved; or,
 - iv) The area is on private property or is maintained by the owner of adjacent private property.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft text of the proposed regulatory actions regarding permanent prohibitions against wasteful water uses. We look forward to hearing the Water Board's response to our comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 461-6161.

Sincerely,



Marcus Yasutake
Environmental and Water Resources Director
City of Folsom
myasutake@folsom.ca.us
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630
916-461-6161