

Dear Water Board:

I just read an article in the San Diego Union-Tribune which says the San Diego County Water Authority plans to fight back against the cuts your board has proposed (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/apr/09/water-cuts-questioned/>).

I want to state that I fully support the cuts. I live in San Carlos, a suburb of San Diego, and I see water waste *every single day*. Resident's just aren't getting it. Green front lawns abound (not artificial, either!) and sprinklers are spraying water across sidewalks and down the street. Many pools are uncovered. Ornamental fountains bubble away, despite San Diego's prohibition on them. Our city overwaters many of its grassy parks when much of that grass could be replaced by mulch, rock or native groundcovers. Unless the required cuts are steep, our city won't feel compelled to hire the needed water-waste inspectors.

And other communities' residents, like wealthy and water-sucking Rancho Santa Fe, Poway and Carlsbad aren't going to cut back voluntarily - they figure they can just buy their way out of the drought, and if there isn't any water left for the rest of us, well, that's just too bad.

I urge you to stay the course and keep the current level of water usage reduction required. Don't be swayed by SDCWA's arguments; from what we see, there's an incredible amount of waste in residential areas, and I'm sure many businesses aren't on board either. A drought of this magnitude will require sacrifices from *everyone*.

And while you're at it, please tell CalTrans to stop watering freeway hillsides (often at noon!). Urge them to plant CA natives and not iceplant, irrigate temporarily the first year, and then stop watering. The sides of our freeways can look beautiful without massive swaths of iceplant that require regular irrigation.

Yours truly,

Callie Mack