



Department of Public Works

May 4, 2015

Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
C/O Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via e-mail

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Comment Letter – Emergency Conservation Regulations

The City of Buena Park respectfully requests the State Water Resources Control Board reconsider and account for (1) Amendment to the City's Assigned Conservation Standard, and (2) Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR).

First, the City of Buena Park requests consideration to amendments made to the monthly water conservation reporting, including corrections to the reported percentage of residential water use. In response to the Governor Brown's initial emergency drought declaration and call for a voluntary 20% reduction in water usage statewide, the City of Buena Park evaluated our city wide water usage. In keeping with the Governors focus on reducing water usage on outdoor irrigation we decided to include water usage from institutional irrigation metering in the R-GPD calculation.

Thus, Buena Park reported residential use at 65%, which included institutional irrigation usage. Buena Park's actual residential water use percentage as reported on the Department of Water Resources Form 38, for calendar year 2014, was 58.5%. Amendments and recertifications have been made to the monthly drought reporting to reflect actual residential use at 58.5%. Corrections to the City's monthly reporting on R-GPCD would effectively reduce the City's assigned conservation standard from 24% to 20%.

Second, according to the state's Recycled Water Policy and the California Action Plan, the development of recycled water is a "valuable resource" in California. The state has established a goal to increase the use of recycled water, over 2002 levels, by at least one million acre-feet per year by 2020. This long-term sustainable supply option makes local sense and is drought resistant, reliable, and will minimize our carbon footprint. Orange County alone is recycling more than 134,000 AFY, contributing more than 13 percent of the state-wide goal. The investment in the IPR Groundwater Recovery System (GWRS) alone is more than \$621 million in capital costs.

The following provides an example of how traditional recycled water use (Purple-Pipe) and Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) are treated differently in the Draft Regulations. In the scenario described below, two agencies decide to invest in the development of recycled water. Both agencies have a total water demand of 10,000 acre-feet per year. The table attempts to demonstrate how these two types of recycled water are treated differently in the mandatory reductions.

Traditional Purple-Pipe Recycled Water Total Water Demand = 10,000 afy	Indirect Potable Reuse Total Water Demand = 10,000 afy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One agency pursues the traditional Purple-Pipe approach to recycle 3,000 acre feet of water • Potable irrigation demand is reduced by 3,000 acre feet • This agency's potable demand is reduced to 7,000 acre feet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The other agency pursues the IPR approach to recycle 3,000 acre feet of water • Municipal and industrial water supply is supplemented with 3,000 acre-feet of recycled water • Imported water use is reduced by 3,000 acre feet • This agency's potable demand remains at 10,000 acre feet

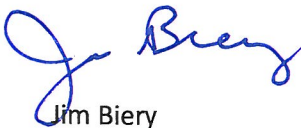
Both agencies reduce their demand for imported water by 3,000 acre feet; Purple-Pipe gets credited, but IPR does not. The Draft Regulations Implementing 25% Conservation Standard do not treat these agencies in a consistent manner for a similar investment. The Conservation Standard in effect nets out Purple-Pipe water recycling because total water production is reduced by the increment of recycled water produced. Conversely, IPR is not netted out because it is included in total potable water production. Both agencies invested in recycled water, both advance the state goals, and both should be treated similarly. In fact, IPR allows for water to be used for drinking water purposes, not just for irrigation or industrial use, and IPR water is actually used multiple times, not just once or twice.

We agree with the State Board's call to encourage and incentivize the maximum use of recycled water. The current proposed guidelines account for non-potable recycled water use by excluding it in the calculation of "total water production" for the purpose of determining the proper tier for a water supplier, and their respective savings. However, we believe there was an unintentional exclusion of potable recycled water in this methodology. In part because this data had not been regulated or requested by the State Board, because it is not a direct retail delivery.

Excluding potable recycled water from the calculation of "total water production" would also be consistent with the definitions and inherent policies included in SBx7-7. We respectfully request you consider excluding potable recycled water, by using the same methodology you use to exclude non-potable "purple pipe" water when calculating "total water production".

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on implementation of the Governor's Executive Order B-29-15. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (714) 562-3672.

Sincerely,



Jim Biery
 Director of Public Works
 City of Buena Park