



April 22, 2015

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Delivered by e-mail to: Jessica.Bean@waterboards.ca.gov

Jessica Bean
Engineering Geologist
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed Emergency Regulations to Implement Executive Order B-29-15

Dear Ms. Bean,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Regulations implementing the Governor's April 1 Executive Order. Since the early days of this current drought counties across the state have, and continue to, take various steps that respond to this growing crisis. Many have proclaimed drought emergencies, organized drought task forces, initiated a wide range of water conservation public outreach/educational campaigns and drought forums. Counties are also moving forward with implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in close collaboration with local water agencies and landowners.

While counties do not have a mandated responsibility under the proposed regulation to achieve the conservation standard as do the water suppliers, the implementation measures taken by the water suppliers have the potential to directly impact a wide range of county services and facilities. Our comments, which are based upon feedback from individual counties, aim to address those types of impacts.

As you have heard from our members, counties manage a wide range of public facilities, including jails, detention centers, courts, and hospitals that have high levels of potable water consumption. As pointed out by the County of San Diego in their April 13 comment letter, "Significant reductions in landscape watering will do little to achieve the necessary water conservation levels at sparsely landscaped jails and hospitals." They further note that because such facilities are clustered in a single water district, meeting the water reduction targets will be more difficult for the impacted district. To address this issue, CSAC urges you to consider San Diego County's proposal to establish a credit system. It is our understanding that this approach would allow cities and counties served by multiple water suppliers to accrue credits for water conserved above and beyond one of its water supplier's directed conservation target that can then be transferred and used to comply with another water supplier's conservation target.



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CSAC also supports San Diego County's recommendation that the regulations include an exemption for indoor water use in essential government facilities. We also agree with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) that an "exception process" be included in the emergency regulation that would allow water suppliers to present to the Water Board specific information and evidence that would allow for modifications to address extenuating circumstances or unreasonable local impacts.

Lastly, several of our members have expressed concern with draft regulations failure to include key definitions. They specifically note the need for definitions of "commercial, industrial, or institutional property", "potable water", and "newly constructed". We recommend that the Water Board define these terms to avoid confusion.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and other comments offered by individual counties. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at kkeene@counties.org or 916-327-7500, x-511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Keene".

Karen Keene
CSAC Senior Legislative Representative