

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER
BY: JESSICA FORTE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION REGARDING STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DRAFT REGULATIONS

The purpose of this report is to present the City Council with information regarding draft regulation language currently being considered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). These regulations have been written as a means to implement the 2018 Executive Order by Governor Brown "Making Conservation a California Way of Life".

The City has a strong history of supporting legislature that protects our natural resources, and water conservation has been thoughtfully adopted in the City's policies and programs. Unfortunately, the draft regulations are written in granular detail that may not fit all California cities, and may have unknowable consequences and implications throughout the state. These laws would be imposed on water districts throughout California, including our own, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD). LVMWD's Resource Conservation Manager, Craig Jones, will present the draft regulations, and express the concerns LVMWD has raised in conjunction with other members of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

Staff has prepared and attached a letter for the City Council's consideration, urging the SWRCB to take the additional time necessary to address the ACWA comments and allow the implications of the regulations to be more understandable. The SWRCB will be accepting written comments through October 17, 2023. Should the City Council determine that comments should be sent, a recommendation authorizing Mayor Anstead to sign the attached letter is written below.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached comment letter to the State Water Resources Control Board on behalf of the City Council.

Attachment: Letter from the City of Agoura Hills to the State Water Resources Control Board



"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"

October 11, 2023

James Nachbaur
Director
Office of Research, Planning, and Performance
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter – Board Draft Regulations on Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life

Dear Mr. Nachbaur,

The City of Agoura Hills (City) is writing to provide comments to the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) on the Draft Framework for Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation (draft regulations). The City of Agoura Hills prides itself on being responsible stewards of the environment, and has a long standing commitment to water use efficiency and conservation.

The City is aware of several concerns about the draft regulations, being raised by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in a March 30, 2023, letter to the Board.

The City is taking this opportunity to voice concern that the issues raised in ACWA's letter have not been addressed, and the draft regulation may have unintended consequences and impacts to our residents that are currently unknown and unmeasurable. We urge the Board to take the time necessary to address ACWA's comments so these important regulations can be implemented in an achievable manner.

Please feel free to contact our Public Works Director at 818-597-7343 (or jforte@agourahillscity.org) if you should have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christopher Anstead,
Mayor
City of Agoura Hills, CA