

Dear Madam,

June 6, 2015

“State Water Board Adopts 25 Percent Mandatory Water Conservation Regulation

**For Immediate Release Contact: George Kostyrko
May 5, 2015 gkostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov**

SACRAMENTO – With emergency drought conditions persisting throughout California, the State Water Resources Control Board Tuesday adopted an emergency regulation requiring an immediate 25 percent reduction in overall potable urban water use statewide in accordance with Gov. Jerry Brown’s April 1 Executive Order.

The Governor’s Executive Order required, for the first time in the state’s history, mandatory conservation for all residents and directed several state agencies, including the State Water Board, to take immediate action to safeguard the state’s remaining potable urban water supplies in preparation for a possible fifth year of drought.”

Another 360 homes in Escondido (Valiano) does not conform to the above mandated restrictions. Actually, it does quite the opposite.

I drove by Harmony Grove Estates (742 homes) and dozens of enormous sprinklers were attempting to spray a hillside; 90+% of the water was evaporating into the air. I will go back over and take a video to show the neglectful waste of our precious resource. I will send it to you and post it on Youtube.

As Escondido homeowners, my husband and I are taking this regulation seriously. We removed our back lawn, had 3 thirsty redwoods removed, and are planning to remove our front lawn to replace it with gravel and drought tolerant plants.

On a smaller note, we have installed pumps in our shower and kitchen faucets to heat up the water so we do not have to run it to get hot water, we turn the water off in the shower while we shampoo and wash, we only run full loads of laundry and dishes, we use runoff water from rinsing fruit and vegetables in the kitchen to water our outdoor plants, etc. Is this all futile? We are taking the restrictions seriously.

Valiano claims they will use reclaimed water to water the common areas. Why, in a **severe** drought, would the common areas even require water? How about rocks and California natives/drought tolerant plants like the rest of us are doing?

AV-1 See Responses C-2, C-8, C-10 and K-99 regarding Project water usage. Harmony Grove Village is not a part of the Proposed Project and therefore its direct landscaping water usage is not analyzed in this CEQA document.

AV-2 See Responses C-2, C-8, C-10 and K-99 regarding Project water usage. Recycled water from the Project WTWRF would be used for all common area irrigation, including private parks, streetscapes and manufactured slopes. The Project would produce enough recycled water to permanently irrigate approximately 36 acres of land, conserving tens of thousands of gallons per day. In addition, the Project’s outdoor landscaping plan would minimize turf, maximize drought-tolerant plants and natives, and incorporate weather-based irrigation controllers, multi-programmable irrigation clocks, and high efficiency drip irrigation systems. At the time of final inspection, a manual would be placed in each building that includes, among other things, information about water conservation.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

AV-3 The proposed sewage treatment plant will be the 3rd within a mile radius of our home. We had planned to retire here, but we will not live out our golden years downwind of someone else’s excreta.

AV-4 Traffic. The major intersections in our area (Mission and Auto Parkway/Nordahl, Valley Parkway and 9th, Nordahl and Montiel, etc) are **currently** logjam nightmares. Adding 1,000s of new cars to this equation will result in unlivable conditions. All the roads in and out of the area are 2 lane roads, not suitable nor safe for this amount of traffic. North Country Club Road is getting 100s of new homes on the golf course; these cars will ALSO add to the congestion of these intersections, not to mention the freeways. This ALL must be taken into account.

AV-5 On the topic of safety, we evacuated during the Cocos Fire when we received the reverse 911 call. Traffic came to a complete halt at 9th and Valley Parkway. Some Harmony Grove residents took over 2 hours to evacuate as the fire was raging in their back yards. Add the number of cars that these developments will bring to the evacuation scramble, on two lane roads, and Escondido may find itself held liable for loss of life due to the inability to escape fire. I do not want my tax dollars spent fighting the lawsuits that this would bring.

AV-6 To summarize, we feel that by even entertaining the thought of this many NEW homes is a slap in the face to water conservation and so called “smart growth”.

The Valiano project does not make sense with regards to our precious natural resource, (water), congestion, nor safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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AV-3 Potential impacts associated with odors emitted from the WTWRF are analyzed in detail within Subsection 2.2.2.5 of the EIR. The commenter is not specific about the other two WTWRFs within a mile radius of their house, although it is assumed they are the Harmony Grove Village WTWRF and HARRF. As described in Response K-28, the Project’s WTWRF would implement similar odor design features as the Harmony Grove Village WTWRF to minimize odors from the facility. HARRF is a public facility with stringent odor regulations and control. The commenter’s house would not be downwind of any of the three plants when winds are coming from the prevalent wind direction (winds coming from the northwest). Additionally, Subchapter 4.5 of the EIR includes an Off-site Sewer Options Alternative with several options that would remove the need for an on-site WTWRF.

AV-4 The Project TIA (Appendix H of the Final EIR) performed an analysis of major intersections, including a cumulative analysis encompassing contributing projects in the area. The Project would have a significant impact on the noted intersection of Mission Road/Auto Park Way. This impact would be significant and unmitigable as the current design of the intersection has been accepted in the City of Escondido’s General Plan. See Subchapter 2.8 for additional information.

AV-5 According to the TIA, traffic at the intersection of 9th and Valley Parkway would not be significantly impacted by the Project traffic. The Project EIR has evaluated evacuation and determined that it is mitigated to less than significant. See Subsection 2.9.2.6 and the FPP. Also see Topical Response: Fire/Evacuations regarding fire evacuation.

AV-6 Comment noted. Additional information related to these subjects can be found in Responses D-1 and D-4a regarding Smart Growth, and Responses C-2, C-8, and C-10 regarding water conservation. See above responses to your letter regarding water, congestion, and safety.