

**From:** [Parnay, Stefan](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Cc:** [Ben Horenstein](#); [Paul Sellier](#)  
**Subject:** Approval of temporary limited use permit to provide access for Ag producers to Nicasio Reservoir  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:06:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Dear Board Members,

Thank you for supporting our local agriculture by granting the approval of a temporary limited use permit to provide access for agricultural producers to raw water from Nicasio Reservoir. Your partnership is much appreciated to help these ranchers stay viable during this historic drought.

Best regards,  
Stefan

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**From:** Parnay, Stefan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:10 PM  
**To:** BoardComment@MarinWater.org  
**Cc:** JGibson@MarinWater.org; MSchmitt@MarinWater.org; LBragman@MarinWater.org; CKoehler@MarinWater.org; LRussell@MarinWater.org; Ben Horenstein <bhorenstein@marinwater.org>; Paul Sellier <psellier@marinwater.org>; Drew McIntyre (dmcintyre@nmwd.com) <dmcintyre@nmwd.com>  
**Subject:** April 16, 2021 - Special Meeting Operations Committee/Board of Directors (Operations) - Agenda Item 2 and 5

Dear Board Members,

The drought we are facing is unprecedented and will likely be one of the worst in California's history, if not the worst. As you know, our food system is the life blood of our society, and our agricultural producers provide critical commodities, value-added products, and ecosystem services. Their products are sold at our local farmers markets, restaurants, grocery stores, and beyond.

Approving Agenda Item 5 for the Special Meeting Operations Committee/Board of Directors (Operations) on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> will provide some water security for a small number of agricultural producers in the Nicasio Valley. The North Marin Water District Board has already approved similar measures in their service areas.

Additionally, in regards to Agenda Item 2, having a variance or exemption to mandatory conservation restrictions for any commercial agricultural operations within your service areas will be vital to ensure their viability. A crop production operation cannot survive by limiting water use to one or even a few days per week. Some sensitive crops will need water daily or nearly daily, especially when the temperatures warm up. There must also be assurance that these commercial agricultural

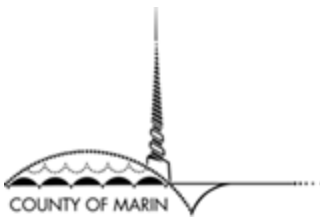
operations are doing their part to conserve water (along with the rest of our residents) while still being able to stay in business and provide food that many of us buy.

I want to thank each of you for the critical work you do helping to protect our precious water resources. This will be an extremely challenging year ahead of us and we must face it together as a community. There is no one that will not be affected.

I will be unable to attend the upcoming meeting by Zoom or phone but wanted to share my thoughts and requests. Thank you for your consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions or how I can be of assistance.

Best regards,  
Stefan



. . . . .

*Stefan Parnay*

ACTING AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

County of Marin  
Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures  
1682 Novato Boulevard, Suite 150-A  
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[u=https://www.marincounty.org/main/disclaimers](https://www.marincounty.org/main/disclaimers)

**From:** [Heather Swain](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Bragman@marinwater.org](mailto:Bragman@marinwater.org); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Terrie Gillen](#)  
**Cc:** [Don Wick](#); [Shaun Horne](#); [Crystal Yezman](#)  
**Subject:** vandalism  
**Date:** Sunday, April 18, 2021 2:06:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2021-04-18 at 1.59.42 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2021-04-18 at 1.59.34 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2021-04-18 at 1.59.24 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2021-04-18 at 2.00.38 PM.png](#)

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“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fool”

— **John Muir**















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Heather

.....  
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/9650525c/fBqTiKbRrUawzThZBrpkZw?u=http://www.heatherswain.net/615.405.4452>

.....  
Choose a job that you like and you will never have to work a day in your life  
~Confucius

**From:** [KJ Herrera](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** concerns about ordinance 449  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:58:15 PM

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To whom it may concern:

While appreciating that we are in a drought, my concerns about the proposed ordinance 449, particularly only allowing irrigation one day a week and a moratorium on new gardens or expansion of current gardens, are as follows:

- significant habitat death for birds and insects
- lost revenue & employment for landscapers and gardeners

I hope that these concerns can be addressed in a reasonable manner.

Thank you,

-Kristin Herrera

Resident of San Rafael

**From:** [Citisites](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Terrie Gillen](#); [Jeanne Mariani-Belding](#)  
**Subject:** Important information regarding today's meeting:  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:41:25 AM

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Regarding once-a-week outdoor watering . . . please allow that to be divided into 3 days. In other words, if the goal is a 50% reduction in outdoor water use, please allow that to be split between 3 days. Otherwise, the plants will not be able to adapt to the reduced water. Some level of watering 3 times per week during the summer is necessary to keep the plants alive. Again, not saying to increase the water usage allotment, just divide into 3 days. Easiest method would be to mandate an overall reduction . . . say 30% - and leave it to the homeowner as to how that is implemented.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Allen Friedman  
415-479-8613  
Marin Resident



**From:** [Deborah Doherty](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Mandatory Water Conservation Measure  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:45:02 AM

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Thank you for considering my email/letter regarding the proposed mandatory water conservation measure.

Please read my letter at the meeting.

I am opposed to the measure.

My yard is a certified wildlife/bird & butterfly & bumblebee sanctuary because of the flowering plants, bushes, and trees. Many other yards in Marin would likely qualify.

If plants die, as they most certainly would with once per week watering, the impact on WILDLIFE would be enormous (and unrecognized). The bee population is declining. The death of flowering plants will be the final blow.

While I think it is worthwhile to encourage residents to cut down garden watering, a reduction of this magnitude would kill fruit and vegetable plants as well as flowering plants in addition to destroying the habitat for many bees, birds, and butterflies.

I am very much opposed to the proposed measure!

Thank you.

Deb Doherty  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Pamela Scott](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** MMWD Proposed Restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:17:05 PM

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Dear MMWD Board,

In the interest of community economic sustainability and well-being I sincerely hope that you reconsider revising your proposed water restrictions as they are written. If implemented they will disastrously affect fire safety, the livelihood of many workers, the very existence of businesses that have already been impacted by the restrictions of the COVID-19 Virus.

Very Truly Yours,  
Pamela Scott

**From:** [Margie Ellis](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** MMWD PROPOSED WATER REESTRICTIONS  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:40:29 PM

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DEAR MMWD BOARD,

I have reviewed the proposed water restrictions and am concerned that these overly strict rules will cause much unneeded pain to the communities in Marin. We have a very good record of conserving water when necessary. These proposed restrictions will impact fire safety, as well as cause economic hardships on many local businesses and workers. Rather than make it an impossible task for the residents of Marin County, I hope you will review and find a more equitable solution, one we can all embrace as a community, that has a long proven history of working together during other "dry" times.

Best

Margie Ellis

**Margie Ellis**

**415-453-5870**

[margie@margieellis.com](mailto:margie@margieellis.com)

**From:** [SYDNEY PARK](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:40:48 PM

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I realize we are in a very scary drought situation. However

I would encourage you to eliminate washing of cars, etc.

I would discourage you from stating that there would be “no new planting anywhere” as it would put our local nurseries out of business.

A 50% increase in fees seems exorbitant.

SYDNEY PARK

slpark@comcast.net

**From:** [Elizabeth Cella](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** proposed restrictions  
**Date:** Monday, April 19, 2021 5:29:59 PM

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Dear Board: the proposed once-weekly watering of residential gardens is unrealistically harsh. Almost certainly most garden plants, even the most water-wise and established, will die over the summer without adequate water. This will affect pollinators and habitats that have been long established. And after that? Re-establishing home gardens will require more intense watering in their early days.

Better to allow home gardens to be carefully but adequately maintained. Many of us already have chosen low-water plants and have substituted low-water alternatives to thirsty green turfs.

Will all Marin public recreational properties be similarly restricted? Schools, sports fields, and golf greens? How can Marin continue to issue residential building permits if new homes cannot include greenery?

Please reconsider your plan. It is unrealistic.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Cella  
Kentfield



**From:** [Linda Peltzman](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Restrictions on water exceptions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:36:21 PM

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I volunteer for a community garden that has provided a lot of nutritious fresh produce to homeless and financially disadvantaged families here in Marin. SHPC Justice Garden is not sustainable with less water than we use. We are prudent with our use and have a rain catchment system.

Please consider having exceptions for gardens such as this. The need is great.

Thank you

Linda Peltzman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Marco Marchesini](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** water restriction  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:36:30 AM

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as a landscaper in marin, i strongly believe that the water restriction ordinance on vote for today has many flaws that will affect the garden landscape in many ways. for example, deep watering once a week on sloped areas won't conserve as much water as watering twice a week with limited water emission. in addition, many people in the past years converted lawns into vegetable gardens which wont survive on a once a week irrigation management. i totally understand the gravity of the draught, but i believe in a more fair water re-distribution plan instead.  
m. marchesini

**From:** [Douglas Scherf](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:14:19 PM

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When you evaluate how to apply restrictions on water usage, please remember that a house with 1/2 an acre of landscaping needs much more water than an apartment or condominium.

We have spent 40 years developing our garden and do not want to lose it. Also, a soils engineer's report indicates that we have a possibility of subsidence or collapse on some of our steep hillsides. We need a substantial number of plants and ground cover to provide the necessary root structure.

We have a landscaping specialist working on our watering system this week. He is changing to low usage drips as much as possible and eliminating any watering for mature shrubs and trees.

Since we need water for our yard, we are reducing our usage elsewhere. We are now using paper plates and plastic cups. We are taking a very short shower once a week. We are taking our laundry to a laundromat. We are not washing our cars.

We understand the need to conserve water, but please be reasonable when you establish restrictions. Also, consider pursuing other options such as more reservoirs, a desalination plant, purchasing more water from Sonoma County and re-installing the pipeline to EBMUD in the East Bay.

Sincerely, Douglas Scherf

**From:** [Vonesmarch](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water Shortage Emergency action  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:21:05 PM

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In regards to the proposed Water Shortage Emergency action, the measures and restrictions are too harsh and should be reconsidered and reworked.

**From:** [Sharon Adams](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** water usage  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:41:57 PM

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I am a member of the Sleepy Hollow Church and participate in the large garden that we have there that supports hunger in Marin. We are concerned that watering once a week will not be sufficient for the garden. We use drip and are very careful with our usage. I hope an exemption can be made in our case. Thanks you, Sharon Adams



**From:** [annhmaddox@aol.com](mailto:annhmaddox@aol.com)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Watering my garden - please read!  
**Date:** Monday, April 19, 2021 6:33:02 PM

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Please read this at the upcoming meeting!

I am VERY concerned about the new rules being proposed for Marin County water usage! I understand golf courses have no limits for their greens and tees, and yet residents are to be allotted water for our gardens only once per week?! As taxpayers, and as citizens who are concerned with the birds, bees, and other pollinators, and are trying to be eco-conscious in plantings (no lawns, in other words), it is unimaginable that we would not be able to sustain our green space. I have been trained to water efficiently in the very early morning (sometimes when it is still dark), with timed irrigation twice or three times per week at the minimum level that allows plants to grow, but does not allow runoff. I use a thick layer of mulch to limit evaporation. The practices I use have been recommended by scientists and horticulturists, not suggested randomly.

It is amazing to me that you would favor golf course owners over the thousands of employers and employees involved in the horticultural industry in California, from the growers to the retail stores, to the landscapers and myriad people weeding, trimming, producing compost and mulches, and so forth. There have been no limits or suggestions set for the construction industry. You allow people to wash their cars (creating runoff and using water much less efficiently than do car washes that recycle and re-use the water. Our gardens and garden industry are much more critical than having a clean car!

it seems as if you have disdain for a whole segment of the Marin County economy and for the needs of homeowners, all of whom are trying to conserve water and minimize its use during the current drought conditions and even when water has been plentiful!

With respect,

Ann Maddox  
Fairfax resident

**From:** [janis bosenko](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#)  
**Subject:** Drought restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:20:12 AM

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To the Board: I agree with the proposed water restrictions. However, I think they do not go far enough. It is time for a moratorium on new water hook ups. How can hooking up 4000 new condos reduce/restrict water usage? Also, all new builds and major remodels should be required to include gray water catchment and reuse systems. Also, a restriction on building of new swimming pools. I have lived in Marin for over 40 years. I have lived through several droughts. You, as Board members need to address these building/planning issues.  
Janis Bosenko  
Mill Valley CA

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robin Holway Abu-Aly](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:50:09 AM

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I am grateful Marin will institute mandatory water rationing. So very critical during this drought. I wholeheartedly support all of this program, EXCEPT, where food production and pollinator plants are concerned.

I feel strongly that **exemptions should be made for fruit and veggie production** and perhaps for pollinator plants.

At my home, we've 5 organic, sustainably raised, fruit trees; orange, lemon, pomegranate, nectarine, and plum. We've drip irrigation on these trees. We normally water them once a week. However, during extreme heat, we need to water them twice a week. Additionally, we've raised beds with blueberry bushes and veggies. Again, drip irrigation.

Our front yard is full of a variety of drought tolerant pollinator plants. Pollinators are dying out rapidly. We must encourage their survival. Even drought tolerant plants require water twice a week during the summer. Also drip irrigation and organic.

I am perfectly willing to let the rest of my plants die during the drought.

Lastly, when rate hikes occur, please increase the third tier the most, the second tier the second most, and not the first tier. Increasing the rates for the first tier is an undue economic hardship for those who are not affluent.

Thank you,

Robin  
Robin Holway Abu-Aly

*In the dark, look for the light and build around the light*

**From:** [Lois Markovich](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed water regulations  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:56:42 AM

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I have lived in Marin since 1973 and have seen my fair share of water restrictions over the years. I totally get the need for implementing water reductions, especially this year. However, many of us in Greenbrae have recently spent thousands of dollars to redo our landscaping for fire safety. With new landscaping in place, one day a week of watering simply will not suffice.

I would encourage you to limit by time or days. For example, I can easily care for my landscaping with two or three times a week at 10 to 15 minutes per section with the installed drip system. I would urge you to consider something that will allow us to maintain our new landscaping.

Thank you.

**Lois**  
**Lois Markovich**

**From:** [Olivia Miller](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** Vegetable Gardens and Water Restrictions...  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:12:36 PM

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Dear MMWD Board of Directors,

I am grateful for our water district that prioritizes nature and also makes sure there is enough H2O to go around to our massive county!

It is obviously the right thing to do to limit water use this year, and likely is the future here-- as we adapt to life in a warmer county, a much hotter planet.

I will make this short-- I am hoping there is some concession to be made for drip irrigating vegetable gardens! **I am emailing to make a plea that you make an exception for watering vegetable gardens during this drought. OR perhaps you offer some sort of rebate to folks who can prove they are irrigating vegetable gardens with drip, and can show receipts for mulch.**

I am a Marin Master Gardener, fully bought into hydrozones, natives, and low water plants. I am also an employee of [The Backyard Farm Company](#). We plant and maintain vegetable gardens in peoples' backyards around Marin. We enrich our soil with local compost that retains water, waste no water using drip systems at all of our gardens, plant seasonally appropriate plants (tomatoes and eggplants that once established, have long roots that tap into deeper sources of moisture), and this year we will mulch each and every plot. We will abide by [these great water-saving veggie-gardening tips!](#)

There are so many benefits of growing one's own food-- for the body, the mind, and the planet!

**Please consider the veggies, me, and my little local gardening company, when you make your important decision this evening.**

Thank you,  
Olivia Miller

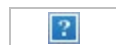
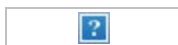
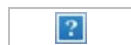
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**Olivia Miller** *Farmer, The Backyard Farm Company*

[olivia@thebackyardfarmco.com](mailto:olivia@thebackyardfarmco.com)

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[u=http://www.thebackyardfarmco.com/](http://www.thebackyardfarmco.com/)



[Download Our Free Seasonal Planting Guide!](#)



**From:** [Lezley Blair](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:08:25 PM

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Hi,

I am thoroughly aware of the drought and water crisis we are facing here in Marin and I completely support maintaining our water supply with necessary restrictions. I'm also a volunteer with the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church Justice Garden, where we grow produce during the summer to donate directly to hungry families, Marin Food Bank, and other charities. Can the SHPC Justice Garden have exemption for very conservative and reasonable watering to keep the produce growing for the hungry? The church already stores rainwater for hand watering but still relies some on MMWD for irrigation.

Thank you,

Lezley Blair

45 Tarry Rd

San Anselmo

Cell 415-828-2641

**From:** [Kit Argilla](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water restrictions for Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:55:33 PM

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Sirs,

I am a member of this small Church in Sleepy Hollow. For years we have lovingly tended a justice garden which produces produce for the needy and any funds we earn selling produce goes directly those in need of food in Marin County.

I totally understand the need for drastic changes and water usage rules. I respectfully ask that you ease the new restrictions for this little church. We carefully watch our water usage always. But we fear if we don't get an exception, our garden will fail and the people we serve will go wanting.

Katherine Argilla  
4 Irving Dr  
San Anselmo

Travel is the sorbet between courses of reality.

**From:** [Walter Kopp](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** water restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:37:36 PM

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I support what you are doing to manage and restrict the public use of water during this drought. for urban gardeners who have already planted vegetables please consider allowing watering 2x per week briefly during may, june and july since this will reduce water usage overall.

--

Walter Kopp  
san anselmo  
415-269-9895  
[walter@walterkopp.com](mailto:walter@walterkopp.com)

**From:** [Charles Salinas](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#)  
**Subject:** 4/20 Vote on Mandatory Water restrictions: READ B4 Voting  
**Date:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 4:16:29 PM

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Four Parts :

1. Marin IJ runs two Water related articles on the same pages A1,3 discussing pools  
And water: MMWD will vote 4/20 to pass MANDATORY water restrictions and  
On same page MARIN ACADEMY building new massive pool (25 YARDS x 36 YARDS)  
MMWD MUST VOID MARIN ACADEMY's NEW POOL FILLING: PERIOD if they refuse  
Homeowners to topping up existing pools....which I already have solar blanket cover on.

2. As A MMWD customers since 1963, we have been through previous Droughts by  
Pool blankets; replacing lawn with Artificial grass; SMART Meters; Bucket recycling  
to save dying plants, lower GPF Toilets, reducing flushing, rock replacing plants..  
So water usage is now a trickle Without EVER getting any promised rebate since  
Your rebate \$\$ is always gone....But you Tack on fees for meters, watershed etc.  
Delivering minimal water but no revenue loss to you.. So NO payback for diligent ratepayers.

This time, NO MORE GAMES please..instead of playing post installation rebate  
Games you don't honor, just bulk purchase targeted incentive items or materials  
And distribute them directly to customers from your facilities..... OR.....  
issue preapproved individual COUPONS to Requesting Ratepayers to REDEEM at  
preselected Locations for them to recover/redeem.

I'm certain Marin Sanitary would cooperate with bulk materials (Rock, mulch,  
Stepstones) at their subsidiary site and other Home Product suppliers ( wholesale or  
Retail) would supply toilets, smart meters, drip irrigation supplies, pool blankets etc.

Going further, as Marin has so many SENIORS, like us who can no longer physically do  
Or Financially afford re-landscaping or re-plumbing themselves, perhaps you could  
Work out full no cost retrofitting/permitting with City Planning and organizations  
Like Rotary (who do senior home weatherizing) or Marin (Youth) Corps or another  
Skills training facility.

I personally would consider removing more landscape if suitable river rock, brick,  
Aggregate, mulch was available and another toilet retrofit from 1.6 GPF to dual  
Flush if no/low cost installation were possible....saving HUGE # of water....

3. Extend cooperation with Las Gallinas Sanitary wastewater treatment to reduce  
Potable water Usage with non potable water or Electric Insolets.  
MCGinness Golf Club, just down from Las Gallinas recycle plant, could use  
non potable water for Grass and toilets....

4.Reconsider DESALINATION plant you rejected earlier @ Marin Rod and Gun Club  
As current "\*\*\*\*\*" processes are far cheaper than back then.

So much to consider, BUT on 4/20 when you vote to shit off pool refills, rescind  
Any prior approval to Fill any NEW POOLS, especially Marin Academy's massive pool.

Thanks,

Charles Salinas  
Charliejamul@aol.com

415.479.3897

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [SHERRI MCDANNOLD](#)  
**To:** [Terrie Gillen](#)  
**Subject:** Board Comment  
**Date:** Monday, April 19, 2021 2:29:42 PM

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Dear Terri,

With mandatory water conservation likely to be approved tomorrow, all building permit applications for vacant lots should be suspended during the drought. Redevelopment or changes to buildings on existing properties can be approved, but only if the applicant proves the building's new water usage will be equal or less than its monthly usage in the year before the tier was triggered.

Building moratoriums will interfere with economic growth, but these are increasingly desperate times for water-hungry California. At present, water conservation trumps almost any other consideration for a municipality, and indeed, for individuals.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sherri McDannold  
6 Main St.  
San Quentin 94964

**From:** [Maureen McRae](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Directors meeting/April 20, 2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:10:26 PM

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Dear Board of Directors at Marin Water,

Regarding the proposed Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program, in efforts to conserve water during Marin County's currently low water supply, I am deeply concerned about some of the prohibitions, particularly the prohibition on irrigation.

**PROHIBIT IRRIGATION MORE THAN ONE DAY PER WEEK**

Unreasonably restrictive, unsustainable and may have severe negative side effects such as: Death to many plants, vegetation, trees and their subsequent natural wild life and habitat. Creates dry and/or dead vegetation, exacerbating the already severe wild fire conditions in Marin County.

Contributes to Global Warming, whereas healthy, green plants absorb carbon dioxide and dead plants do not.

Thwarts and/or will not sustain home vegetable gardens, many of which were created during Covid-19 restrictions to promote healthy diets and family recreation.

**PROHIBIT INSTALLING NEW OR EXPANDED LANDSCAPING**

Would possibly result in devastating consequences for the Garden Industry (Garden Designers, Garden Landscapers, Garden Maintenance Companies, and Garden Nurseries) including job loss and business closures during an already compromised economy.

**PROHIBIT REFILLING OR AS MAKE-UP WATER FOR DECORATIVE FOUNTAINS OR RECREATIONS POOLS**

May create conditions from water stagnation and promote disease bearing insects.

In Summary the residents of Marin County are environmentally eco-conscious and from what I experience, most residents voluntarily comply with drought practices. If mandated to do more to conserve water, I would think most residents would follow the mandate. However, I suspect that the above mentioned prohibitions would create serious additional problems to the low water supply.

I personally would feel nothing but shame and loss over a garden filled with dead plants, contributing to existing dangerous wild fire conditions, loss of wild life and habitat, and the loss of jobs and businesses within the Garden Industry, during an already weakened economy.

Please consider the following:

**RECYCLED WATER PRODUCTION WAS 0.00 IN 2019 & 2020**

The completion of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's Secondary Treatment Plant Upgrade was anticipated to occur in late 2020.

When will Marin County see the benefits of this upgrade? Why is this plant not producing recycled water yet? Is there existing infrastructure to transport recycled water to Marin County?

Prohibit irrigation more than two days per week



Restrict future turf/lawn installations

Increase incentives to replace turf/lawns

Thank you,

Maureen McRae

Resident of San Rafael, CA

**From:** [Tom Flynn](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Comments regarding water conservation  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:15:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [MMWD 4.20.21 Tom Flynn.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Dear Friends at MMWD

See attached.

Thank you,  
Tom Flynn  
[tomflynn@sonic.net](mailto:tomflynn@sonic.net)  
415-328-8636

### **Comments MMWD Board Meeting April 20, 2021 by Tom Flynn**

Honorable MMWD Board members, you're taking the right, necessary steps with your water conservation ordinance. Saving water is today by far our most cost effective way to help ensure a secure and adequate water supply.

I've been with Marin Conservation League's Climate Action Working Group for more than a decade, and am a lead of [GreenChange.net](#), a rapidly growing volunteer online local network of now over a thousand participants---that's sharing information on ways to help protect our environment, make our way of life economically and otherwise sustainable, and fight climate change.

We want to help you in making MMWD sustainable--in providing reliable, clean and affordable water. And we want to help in getting out the word and in doing demonstration projects on water saving measures-- like replacing lawns with more drought tolerant landscape, water efficient fixtures, fixing leaks, and shower cutoff valves, etc. while also generating green jobs doing this work.

As we enter the second year of a severe drought, we should also be thinking about higher penalty rates for those who are using very large amounts of water per capita, and who can afford it.

We also want to help by exploring ways to reduce one of your biggest operating costs--energy. The California Energy Commission found that in California water-related energy use consumes 19 percent of the state's electricity, 30 percent of its natural gas, and 88 billion gallons of diesel fuel every year. For example, electric utilities are increasingly moving to new early-evening time-of-use fees when water demands are also high. If we MMWD customers of all sizes were using less water, especially for landscaping, at peak energy use hours around 5 to 9 PM in the evening, MMWD could avoid pumping our water at the most expensive time of day.

I've also done a lot of work in helping hospitals, corporations, and universities save millions of dollars over time through saving energy. My colleague Gary Klein, who led the Energy Commission water energy nexus study above and I met with your former manager Krishna Kumar about 5 years ago. We helped MMWD tap into free energy auditing services through the State that identified ways for MMWD to save on energy costs and fight climate change. And of course with climate change, our precious water is unfortunately also needed increasingly to fight fires.

Saving water today is a necessary means to both adapt to and mitigate climate change. I applaud MMWD for going all renewable electricity with MCE's Deep Green. But the state and country as a

whole is still getting the vast majority of its electricity from fossil fuels. We are rapidly scaling up renewable energy, but one of the quickest, most cost effective ways to meet our electrical demand with renewable energy is to lower our electrical demand by saving energy. This also reduces the resources needed to create this renewable energy. So let's work together to coordinate saving water and other precious resources for a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future.

## Comments MMWD Board Meeting April 20, 2021 by Tom Flynn

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**From:** [Jody Brockett](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Beverly Brewster](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns on water restrictions in growing food for hunger program  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:12:21 PM

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Dear Marin Water Board members,

I'm the Clerk of Session at Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church. I've recently become aware of upcoming water restrictions which would greatly impact our Justice Garden where we grow food for hunger programs.

We are hoping that an exemption will be put in place for well managed gardens which support hunger programs.

Thank you,  
Jody Brockett

**From:** [Soren Jensen](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Subject:** Drought  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:26:00 PM

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Dear President Koehler,  
I would like to thank you for enduring everybody's comments during the public hearing part of tonight's board meeting.

I truly appreciate your summary of the input from the public, everybody is onboard we just want some freedom to do it our own way.

As I mentioned having better tools as customers would significantly help in our individual efforts to conserve and consume efficiently. A monthly or biweekly billing period or some means to get consumption information on a more frequent basis. If MMWD can collect the information from consumer's meters then a simple phone app should be adequate for customers to view consumption and maybe get warnings if the conservation goals are not met.

I would definitely be interested in the Flume product and I'm sure that most of my neighbors would be too.

Another tool would be providing a lower grade water meter to customers to be used on their irrigation circuits, which will provide a tool to identify consumption and help facilitate consumption. It could be offered for a reduced fee, maybe this is something that could be covered by state or federal grant.

I would suggest that MMWD contact high water users with letter/email re-enforcing the need to conserve and point out that they are high use customers and maybe show how much more they use compared with the average user.

As a pool owner I would welcome a requirement for covers to be used across the district.

Finally, I would like to iterate my suggestion to use the NRG network and other local groups to reach customers with conservation tips and guidelines.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Soren T. Jensen  
415.200.5894

**From:** [Koren Grubb](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** for your board meeting tonight, 04/20/21  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:44:43 PM

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Dear Marin Water Board Members,

I am a volunteer at the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church, home of the Justice Garden, where we grow hundreds of pounds of organic vegetables for hungry families in Marin every year.

For eight years we have been growing food to feed the hungry, attending carefully to watering conservatively, all drip, carefully monitored, with a rainwater catchment tank in use.

This year in COVID we have expanded our hunger relief ministry to meet the surging need, and we have served hungry families all over Marin, especially in the Canal, West Marin, Novato, San Rafael, with a focus on hungry children and seniors.

We respectfully ask for an exemption to the imminent mandatory water restrictions for food grown for the benefit of the hungry. Once weekly would not be adequate to keep our plants alive, and our volunteers just put 200 plants in the ground last weekend. We had nurtured them from seeds in our homes since February.

Thank you so much for your service to the community in this challenging time.

Sincerely,  
Koren Grubb



**From:** [Catherine Caldwell](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Justice Garden  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:03:33 PM

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Dear Water Board,

My church, Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian, has grown vegetables in our Justice Garden every summer to support hunger programs. We have provided vegetables for food boxes delivered to the needy in Marin. Several thousand dollars from selling our produce at a farmstand is donated to hunger programs in Marin. Please grant us an exemption to weekly watering, to responsibly use water for the food program. Catherine Caldwell

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robin Holway](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Mandatory Water Conservation Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:29:58 AM

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Dear board members,

Thank you for taking action for mandatory water conservation during this severe drought. Strict conservation is crucial this year.

The Marin Board of Supervisors assisted our Justice Garden with seed money to build a waterwise garden to feed the local hungry. We produce hundreds of pounds of veggies each year to feed the local hungry. For example, we've provided fresh organic produce to the Marin Food Bank, the Bennett House and Victory Village, and more. We produce tomatoes, green beans, chard, kale, squash, cucumbers, and other produce. We've nurtured hundreds of tomato plants from seed in our homes all winter. Last week, we planted them.

We use drip irrigation and have a water catchment system whereby our roof rain gutters feed water to our water tank and our water tank pumps water to the veggie garden powered by our solar panels. The garden is organic. We truly try to do our best to be good stewards to the earth, including water conservation. However, this small farm will not make it with irrigation only once a week.

**We are asking for an exemption for reasonable and conservative water use as essential to grow food for the hungry in our church Justice Garden.**

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Robin Holway, Deacon of Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo  
[robinhh@yahoo.com](mailto:robinhh@yahoo.com)

*In the dark, look for the light and build around the light*

**From:** [Beverly Brewster](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Jody Brockett](#); [scott hamilton](#); [Koren Grubb](#); [karen stead baigrie](#); [A Aly](#); [Sharon Adams](#); [Bridget Clark](#); [Michael Durphy](#); [Robin](#); [Lisa Bane](#); [sharon hamilton](#)  
**Subject:** FOR APRIL 20 MEETING Agenda Item 6(2) Request for exemption from once weekly irrigation restriction for food production for hunger relief  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:32:45 AM

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Dear Marin Water Board Members,

I am the Pastor of the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church, home of the Justice Garden, where we grow hundreds of pounds of organic vegetables for hungry families in Marin every year.

Our Officers and Justice Garden team leader are copied.

For eight years we have been growing food to feed the hungry, attending carefully to watering conservatively, all drip, carefully monitored, with a rainwater catchment tank in use.

This year in COVID we have expanded our hunger relief ministry to meet the surging need, and we have served hungry families all over Marin, especially in the Canal, West Marin, Novato, San Rafael, with a focus on hungry children and seniors.

We respectfully ask for an exemption to the imminent mandatory water restrictions for food grown for the benefit of the hungry. Once weekly would not be adequate to keep our plants alive, and our volunteers just put 200 plants in the ground last weekend. We had nurtured them from seeds in our homes since February.

Thank you so much for your service to the community in this challenging time.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or for further information.

In peace,

The Rev. Bev Brewster

The Rev. Bev Brewster, Pastor  
Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church  
100 Tarry Road  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
415-453-8221; **415-446-8267 cell**  
[beverlybrewster@comcast.net](mailto:beverlybrewster@comcast.net)  
[www.sleepyhollowchurch.org](http://www.sleepyhollowchurch.org)

**From:** [Craig Zellers](#)  
**To:** [Larry Bragman](#)  
**Subject:** Mill Valley Golf Course  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:33:21 AM

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Dear Larry

We are currently in conversations with the City of Mill Valley Golf Course to provide our irrigation consulting services. In light of the drought, they are very much aware that they need (and want) to find ways in which to decrease irrigation water use by improving the efficiencies of the irrigation system. Helping them do so is what we do and have done on dozens of golf courses in California and around the world. We have been informed that the MMWD Board of Directors is discussing a mandatory irrigation water cut back as well as a limit as to how many days per week that the golf course can irrigate the turf. We are asking that prior to implementing any of these limits and regulations that you consider allowing the golf course to first, continue their water conservation efforts and find ways to improve the efficiency of the irrigation system. In southern California where the water districts and the golf course industry representatives formed a task force to better understand the needs and pending results of water conservation by both parties. In the end the water districts allowed the golf courses to irrigate on multiple days as long as they met the mandatory percent decrease in water use.

We ask that the MMWD Board of Directors allow Mill Valley to pursue their endeavors prior to enacting any severe mandatory regulations. I live in Fairfax and would be happy to meet with the BOD to discuss water issues and golf at any time.

Thank you,

Craig

**Craig F. Zellers - Principal**

[GolfIrrigationConsultants.com](http://GolfIrrigationConsultants.com)

Cell: 415-342-1030

Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor #67441

Contractor License CA-C 27 #958615

[Irrigation Design](#) - [GPS Mapping](#) - [Satellite Installation](#) - [Water Audits](#) - [Programming](#)

**From:** [Craig Zellers](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Subject:** Mill Valley Golf Course  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:34:03 AM

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Deary Cynthia,

We are currently in conversations with the City of Mill Valley Golf Course to provide our irrigation consulting services. In light of the drought, they are very much aware that they need (and want) to find ways in which to decrease irrigation water use by improving the efficiencies of the irrigation system. Helping them do so is what we do and have done on dozens of golf courses in California and around the world. We have been informed that the MMWD Board of Directors is discussing a mandatory irrigation water cut back as well as a limit as to how many days per week that the golf course can irrigate the turf. We are asking that prior to implementing any of these limits and regulations that you consider allowing the golf course to first, continue their water conservation efforts and find ways to improve the efficiency of the irrigation system. In southern California where the water districts and the golf course industry representatives formed a task force to better understand the needs and pending results of water conservation by both parties. In the end the water districts allowed the golf courses to irrigate on multiple days as long as they met the mandatory percent decrease in water use.

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Thank you,

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**From:** [Christine Young](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item 06 (Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:21:59 AM

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To the Board of Directors:

Regarding the proposed Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program ("Program"), I urge the District to consider implementing a maximum water allocation per customer. Focusing solely on reducing outdoor water waste is difficult to enforce and unfair to those who are careful about their indoor water use. If the District were to impose usage maximums, both the District and customers could easily monitor water use and customers could choose how to use their water allocations. If customers exceed their maximums, the District could impose fines or charge higher rates, much like it does now. If people want to let their lawns die but water their vegetables twice a week, they should be allowed to do that, assuming they do not use more than their maximum allocations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christine Young

**From:** [Margit Dijkstra](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Re: MWB mandatory water restriction proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:37:21 PM

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To MWB Board Members,

As a volunteer gardener at the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church (SHPC) Justice Garden, I would like to voice my concern at the proposed once-weekly garden watering restriction which I understand has been proposed by your group. The SHPC Justice Garden generates significant amounts of produce. These items are sold locally, with proceeds donated to local food relief organizations. In addition, produce has been packaged and donated directly to residents in underserved communities who have suffered greatly during the COVID epidemic.

It is my deeply felt hope that you will consider organizations such as ours to be exempt from water restrictions, given the measurable impact our garden's yield has on those most in need.

Sincerely,  
Margit Tagliaferri, MD



**From:** [Joy Phoenix](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: reduction of irrigation of 40%, etc.  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:08:24 PM

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Hello,

I have been on your meeting this evening. I appreciate how difficult this is for MMWD. I remember this in the 70's...

Could you explain how a homeowner can gauge whether they are cutting back 40% for irrigation. What if homeowners want to not shower as often, or whatever, so that they can water their plants?

Some of us already have a bucket in the shower to use outside. We do not wash our cars, let the water run while we brush our teeth, and on and on.

Some of us take any water that was used for boiling eggs, cleaning vegetables, etc. (for years) for the garden. Does that count in the 40%?

Going forward - I think that the percentages are really hard for the average person to deal with. This would be no easier to understand than the 40% reduction was that was explained this evening as a district-wide goal.

If there are those out there, as someone said, that are watering large lawns 5 days a week then maybe they should be brought into compliance.

Also - it is still not clear to me about this "make-up water" for pools, etc. Someone said this evening one could put in water for maintenance. Does that mean one can put in enough to keep a pump running? It's not clear.

I realize this is a challenge and appreciate all of your efforts. Many of us are trying our best to conserve.

I would suggest that any prohibitions or allowances be in clear terms on the website. Hard enough to get through all of this when one cannot figure out the rules.

Thanks much for "listening".

Best,  
Joy Phoenix

Joy Phoenix  
cjphoenix22@comcast.net  
PO Box 150629  
San Rafael, CA 94915-0629

**From:** [sharon.hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request for exception for Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian church water usage  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:12:17 PM

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Dear members of the board, as a San Anselmo resident and deacon of the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church, we have been helping to feed the hungry through raising vegetables, selling and donating them, then sending revenues to the food bank. Our raised beds will require more than once a week watering. We ask that you all consider exempting us from the proposed once a week watering as we enter the growing season. As a church, we have done our part to be sustainable. We have solar and a water catchment system. We would be judicious in our watering use. It's also also worthwhile to note that this church community garden provides opportunities for our youth to volunteer and brings community together. Thank you for your consideration, Sharon Hamilton

**From:** [PATTI R VANCE](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water restrictions for Community Gardens  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:42:14 AM

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To: the MMWD Board -

This letter addresses the upcoming discussion on water restrictions for Marin.

I am an active volunteer with the Sleepy Hollow Church - Justice Garden Project that has provided organic produce for needy families and the Marin Food Bank for over 6 years. In addition we have been able to donate approximately \$24,000 to hunger programs from our farmstand sales during the summers.

It is imperative that we receive a compensation on water use to continue this important service to our community.

**All our growing beds are on a drip system and we also installed a 2,500 water tank to help with water conservation.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

Patti Vance

**From:** ["oi"](#)  
**To:** [opinion@marinij.com](mailto:opinion@marinij.com); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Jack Gibson](#)  
**Subject:** Water  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:08:53 AM

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I have lived in Marin for coming on 49 years and have heard the Water District whine, over charge us and mostly did nothing to help the water issue during a drought. I remember in the great drought of the 1980s, the district moved all water from Lake Nicasio to the deeper lakes. I saw them bring water from the east bay over the Richmond Bridge. I saw the need to water the plants with wash water and I saw the tier level and the higher cost of water with less consumption. Get that concept.

If you use less water you will pay more. There are never layoffs, just higher prices. In my 49 years the water district has done nothing to insure we have enough water. Everyone know we have cycles of droughts and limited storage, but the district doesn't know that. I see a years of heavy rains where water flows out of the Manuel Freitas ditch into the ocean with no attempt to harness that water. I see no imagination. There excuse is "we have limited water". Not so.

We have the Pacific ocean next door and there is plenty of water. We need to build a desalination plant to insure water for generations. It's not like it is new technology, it's used in the Middle East and Tampa Bay. How about building a permanent pipe from the Sierra for more water. But no, they sit by and tell us to conserve water. Maybe we just need new thinking on the board. Maybe so.

Robert A. Casper, SR  
San Rafael, CA

**From:** [Richard McKeague](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Subject:** Zoom Meeting Tonight  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:18:31 PM

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Dear Director Koehler:

It was very interesting for me to sit in on the Board's Zoom Meeting tonight, witnessing how you kept the panel on topic, intervened when necessary for clarification, and was the one most clear in your explanations, in my opinion.

I am willing to conserve water as a home owner in Greenbrae, and my main focus on tonight's meeting was how the board would handle my swimming pool water issue.

I was pleased with those community voices that expressed legitimate concerns as to what mandatory restrictions might be placed on pool owners.

I was more pleased with the fact that they were heard and the topic discussed by your board, thoroughly enough so that the consensus was that it was tabled until more input was obtained.

Thank you for your work.

Regards,

Richard McKeague

Sent from my iPhone