

Commenter #3



TERESA JORDAN  
3152 SHAD COURT  
SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063  
TELEPHONE NO. (805) 522-5016

TO: DWR  
Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers  
Attn: Gwen Huff  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

FAX NO.: (916) 653-4684

DATE: May 13, 2009

NO. OF PAGES: 6 (includes cover sheet)

RE: Notice of 2nd 15-day comment period for the  
Proposed Modifications to the regulation made/  
Water efficient landscape ordinance (Title 23,  
Sections 490-495). P.S. Please, include a  
facsimile number to submit written comments.  
Mrs. Teresa Jordan

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3152 Shad Court  
Simi Valley, CA 93063  
May 13, 2009

DWR  
Office of Water Use Efficiency  
and Transfers  
Attn: Gwan Huff  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: NOTICE OF 2<sup>ND</sup> 15-DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED  
MODIFICATIONS TO THE REGULATION MODEL WATER EFFICIENT  
LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE TO CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS,  
TITLE 23 SECTIONS 490-495.

Dear Ms. Huff:

I just read the aforementioned notice and have read the modified text of proposed regulation. Though this subject is way out of my league as far as the mathematical and technical aspects, as a homeowner and as a concerned citizen I am addressing it from a layperson's perspective.

Ms. Huff, please note that on May 11, 2009, the City of Simi Valley City Council held a public hearing on the water use conservation ordinance. At the meeting, during the members discussions, the Mayor brought up revisiting the City's landscape requirements. Since the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 9 proposed ordinance involves penalties, and levels of water shortage conditions, I was surprised to hear that the City did not have a plan. Since I was helping out with my Mom, I didn't attend the meeting, but once home I watched the proceedings on the computer. I did submit a letter to the City Council. Enclosed is a copy of my May 11, 2009 letter (3 pages). DWR's modified model water efficient landscape ordinance is long overdue.

Ms. Huff, the following are my comments on the modified text for the model water efficient landscape ordinance.

#1 - Page 2, Section 490.1(a)(1), it is stated "...a landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet..." For over 17 years, anytime that

I have participated in residential and commercial development projects before the City of Simi Valley's Planning Commission, and City Council, I have only been privy to discussions involving percentages with regards to landscaped areas of 10%, 15%, and some as high as 20%. It would be helpful to the reader to know what 2,500 sq. ft. approximately translates into as a percentage.

- #2 - Page 3, Section 490.1(a)(2), it is stated "...a landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet..." Same comments as #1.
- #3 - Page 3, Section 490.1(a)(3), it is stated "...a total project landscape area equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet..." Same comments as #1.
- #4 - Page 3, Section 491, for consistency purposes, include "Definitions" in bold print.
- #5 - Page 4, Section 491.(t), is Astroturf considered a "durable material"?
- #6 - ~~Page 6, Sections 491.(uu) and 491.(vv), reverse the order of "pervious" (uu), and "permit" (vv) to read (uu) "permit", and (vv) "pervious".~~
- #7 - Why are the words "groundwater", and "potable water" not included under the Definitions?
- #8 - Page 15, Section (d)(1), add a percentage column to the example chart.
- #9 - Page 33.13, APPENDIX A, under the column "County and City" add Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Simi Valley. Please note that "Piru" is not one of the ten County of Ventura Cities-- Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Ventura (Buena Ventura). Piru is a "community".

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Teresa Jordan*  
Mrs. Teresa Jordan

Commenter #3

3152 Shad Court  
Simi Valley, CA 93063  
May 11, 2009

City Council  
VCWWD No. 8 Board of Directors  
City Hall  
2929 Tape Canyon Road  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Re: Agenda Item 2C (A Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Ordinances Establishing a Water Conservation Program in VCWWD No. 8 Service Area and the City).

Dear Members of the Council/Board:

It is unfortunate that this item was not agendaized when 49 out of the 50 states were impacted by drought conditions of one sort or another at the same time just a few years ago. Most Californians have been living like there is no tomorrow with their water use because their government representatives have not been quick to implement water conservation programs, or to set the example. It would not have taken much to say "Look people this is what I am doing to cut back on my own use of water". I just hope that the Ordinances you approve do not lead to neighbors turning in neighbors in order to settle all types of scores.

Members of the Council/Board, since Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared an emergency, does this action not in itself put all California cities and towns in an emergency condition, thus your constituents are actually facing at the most the implementation of the Level 1 water use requirements? If not, why not?

Members of the Council/Board, the staff report should have been accompanied by the District's Schedule of Service Charges for your constituents to realize the extent of the monetary fines should they not be in compliance of the regulations. It is not enough to state "then in effect" (Staff Report, Pages 24 and 25, Section (7)).

Members of the Council/Board, the staff report states on Page 21, Section (a) that public notification for shortage Levels 1, 2, and 3 will be done through publishing a copy

of the Board's declaration in a newspaper. This is not enough. Notification must also be done through: 1. modern technological tools (cell phones, computers, the City's Website, etceteras), 2. the water bills, 3. the Simi Valley Acorn, 4. the City information dedicated television channel, 5. printed materials in the Library, City Hall, the Environmental Services Department facility, the Senior Center, 6. printed materials in the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District headquarters, 7. printed materials in the various social services' headquarters, 8. printed materials in the Simi Valley Unified School District's center and schools, and 9. printed materials in various businesses.

Members of the Council/Board, missing from the staff report and the Ordinances is a list of water saving tips for indoor use. Outdoor water use is unduly targeted. There must be specific requirements for hospitals, and medical clinics so that they can continue to provide preservation of life services.

Members of the Council/Board, it is stated in The Boeing Company's newly LARWQCB approved Tentative NPDES Permit, under Description of Waste Discharge, that the "SSFL has the potential...to discharge a total of approximately 168 million gallons per day (MGD) of storm water runoff..." Since potable water from the VCWWD No. 8 is used by the SSFL due to the 1970's agreement between the VCWWD No. 8 and Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17, do the SSFL's wastewater discharges qualify as "Actively irrigated environmental mitigation projects" (Page 20, Section (b)(vi))? Does the City have a list of these environmental mitigation projects--past, present, and future?

Members of the Council/Board, how did staff arrive at the 15 minutes of watering per day per station duration limit? Were 10 minutes considered by staff? Does the 15 minutes duration limit take fertilizing into consideration?

Members of the Council/Board, it is not enough to state that the water supply shortage "Levels" three and two watering days limits will be accomplished through "a schedule established and posted by VCWWD" (Staff Report, Pages 18 and 19). This emergency situation is unlike getting a high school or college subject schedule at the umpteenth hour. In order to avoid panicking constituents, this subject must go through the public participation process long before the "Levels" programs are implemented.

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People need to know if the City is planning a schedule set by: 1. last name alphabetically, 2. tract neighborhoods, 3. Neighborhood Councils' areas, 4. lottery, and 5. etceteras.

Members of the Council/Board, what is the status of allowing the use of: 1. AstroTurf in place of grass (long-term), 2. painting real grass "green" (short-term), 3. planted decorative greenery (artificial flowers and trees-- the quality has improved considerably-- (short-term)), and 4. desert environmental settings in front yards?

Members of the Council/Board, there is no requirement for a moratorium in swimming pool construction.

Members of the Council/Board, there is no requirement for a building moratorium.

Members of the Council/Board, there is no requirement for a decorative pond/decorative fountain moratorium.

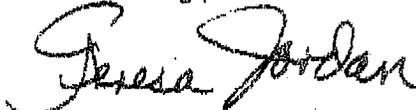
Members of the Council/Board, there is no flexibility built into the Permanent Water Conservation Requirements' No Excessive Water Flow or Runoff section with regards to windy conditions which can reach up to 70 MPH some days. Such an oversight might be what leads to neighbor reporting neighbor situations.

Members of the Council/Board, it is stated in Section 6-11.110 (Enforcement) (a), on Page 23, that "No customer of VCWWD shall make, cause, use, or permit the use of water in a manner contrary to any provision of this article. Each customer shall be guilty of a separate offense for each day during which such violation of this article occurred." A list of these types of prohibited uses must be available.

Members of the Council/Board, Section b. on Page 19 is incorrect. The correct Section is "(b)". Also, the text on Page 25 is exactly the same as that on Page 24.

Members of the Council/Board, have you been practicing outdoor water conservation to date? If not, why not?

Sincerely,

  
Teresa Jordan