
From: Sue Stephenson [mailto:stephenson@drsrd.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 11:44 AM

To: Huff, Gwen

Cc: Dan Gallagher

Subject: Comment letter re AB2717

Gwen

I hope this is the correct place to send a comment letter regarding AB2717. If not, please advise.

Thank you

Sue



March 27, 2008

Ms. Gwen Huff
Office of Water Use Efficiency & Transfers
Department of Water Resources
901 "P" Street, Room 313-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter AB 2717, Water Smart Landscapes for California

Dear Ms. Huff:

We applaud you for your efforts to extend California's water supply and maintain the beauty of our urban environment via AB 2717, Water Smart Landscapes for California. We are especially supportive of Recommendation 27 to Promote Recycled Water.

However, we implore you to exclude recycled water from the restrictions contained in the draft model landscape ordinance for the following reasons:

1. Recycled water is an entirely different product than potable water and it should be treated as such. By using recycled water to irrigate school grounds, roadway medians, golf courses, parks and sports parks, Californians are saving precious drinking water. It is inappropriate and potentially damaging to our efforts to expand recycling if the model ordinance considers potable and recycled water as one and applies the same restrictions to both.
2. When water districts are forward-thinking enough to provide recycled water to their customers, many of whom are schools and municipal parks; it is counter productive to punish these types of users by imposing a water budget. These districts and customers have gone to great expense to provide recycled water to irrigate public use facilities and conserve potable water, and now they are being lumped in with all the other water consumers with a "one-size-fits-all" water budget.
3. There is still much work to be done to encourage consumers to accept and embrace recycled water, and this legislation will work against those endeavors. We agree with the suggestion that was made at the CUWCC Plenary Meeting held in San Diego on March 12 that perhaps it might be more appropriate to restrict large Turfgrass areas and other non-drought tolerant plantings to areas where recycled water will be used for irrigation. Such a restriction would work to encourage more customers to use recycled water, while still allowing officials to plan and build the types of parks that their communities demand.

If you feel that it is necessary to mention recycled water in this legislation, then we feel the model landscape ordinance should acknowledge and encourage the positive contribution recycled water use is making to California's economy and overall water supply. Therefore, we strongly recommend that DWR remove any and all restrictions on the use of recycled water in the model landscape ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Gallagher', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Dan Gallagher
Operations Manager