

Hi Julie,

I hope you received my letter to you of June 19 regarding this subject. I did a lot of driving last week so I had more time to think about the water conservation challenge we are all having in California. My first point is that even drought tolerant plants need an establishment period during which they will require water until their roots become deeply established. There are exceptions such as Bottle Palms and certain Cactus but they are not the norm. My second point is more of an alarming concern that the assumptions made by our people who plan for the water needs of this and other states apparently need to revisit and revise their assumptions about society's appropriate safety net for our water needs. It would be interesting to see what those assumptions have been but that is in the past and what has been done can't be changed. As we move forward it is evident that the exponential increase in our population needs to be matched by an exponential increase in the water supply. If the water supply can not keep pace with the increase in population then obviously it would be irresponsible and an injustice to the people of California to allow more people into the state than the state can accommodate. What would we do if we were running out of oxygen in California? This is a tough call but one that is going to have to be made unless we want to lower our quality of life and standard of living to a level of mere survival (and no politician wants to touch that subject). So are we doomed to plant our heads deeply in the sand and hope the challenge goes away for the next many winters or is someone or some group going to take the opportunity solve the problem and become a hero? Our population is increasing due to immigration even though our national birth rate is at a break-even level. Now there is a subject that can be controlled but it will take some leadership that presently does not exist. It is easy to say that "that is not my job" but it is going to have to be someone's job and the sooner the better for all of us. State priorities need some rapid adjustment. Is a bullet train to and from nowhere really more important than our water supply? Quite simply, it is time to look at the BIGGER picture and do the math.

Sincerely,

Roger DeWeese, FASLA