

RESOLUTION NO. 540

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SUNNYSLOPE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT REGARDING LONG-TERM WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT POLICY IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, local California water agencies have invested nearly \$20 billion in the past 20 years to build and prudently manage diverse water supply portfolios to meet their customers' needs and provide reliable supplies during times of drought; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hollister, San Benito County Water District, and the Sunnyslope County Water District have been jointly investing millions of dollars on water supply and treatment projects to improve water quality, increase supply flexibility, and supply reliability; and

WHEREAS, these local investments throughout the State in everything from water recycling, to local and regional water storage, to desalination of brackish groundwater, and ocean water were made with the public's support and are widely credited with keeping California's economy largely intact throughout the current multiyear drought; and

WHEREAS, the emergency drought regulation adopted in May 2015 and extended in February 2016 by the State Water Resources Control Board largely overlooked these investments and required local urban water suppliers to impose mandatory reductions in water use on their customers, even where hydrology and available local supply options did not warrant such stringent reductions; and

WHEREAS, Californians responded heroically to the drought emergency and largely met the statewide goal of reducing urban water use by 25% through February 2016; and

WHEREAS, Sunnyslope County Water District reduced water use by 32.2% from June 2015 through February 2016; and

WHEREAS, as the state's focus transitions from the emergency regulation to a potential long-term policy approach to conservation, local water agencies believe it should be the state's policy to emphasize investments in drought-resiliency and ongoing water-use efficiency and to leave discretion with local water agencies to choose appropriate management strategies; and

WHEREAS, California water agencies affirmatively support a long-term policy that demands high levels of water use efficiency, promotes innovation in developing water shortage contingency plans, requires high levels of accountability at local water agencies, and preserves local control over water management decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Sunnyslope County Water District supports a long-term policy that will result in a highly efficient and resilient water future and will allow local water agencies to continue planning for and investing in the water supply reliability actions needed to meet California's 21st century water needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sunnyslope County Water District believes long-term water management policy is most appropriately developed and administered by the California Department of Water Resources, which already has the lead role in managing the state's Urban Water Management Plan / Water Shortage Contingency Plan process.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION on a motion by Director Johnson and second by Director Villalon is duly adopted this 19th day of April, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Alcorn, Hill, Johnson, Meraz, and Villalon

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

SUNNYSLOPE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

BY: 

Kathleen A. Hill, President

(S E A L)

ATTEST:



Donald G. Ridenhour, General Manager