

Michele King

Subject: FW: water restrictions for Saratoga

From: Susan Cohen <susanco@gmail.com>
Date: June 9, 2016 at 10:21:13 AM PDT
To: <nhsueh@valleywater.org>
Subject: water restrictions for Saratoga

Dear Ms. Hsueh,

I understand that you represent the city of Saratoga and I am writing to you in order to express my concerns about the current water restrictions in place for Saratoga residents. I understand that there is a board meeting convened for next Tuesday, June 14, to evaluate the current status of the water supply and to reevaluate the restrictions currently in place.

As you know, many of us who live in Saratoga live in high fire danger areas. We also tend to have larger lots with many plantings and trees. Last year, those of us served by SJ Water Company faced restrictions on water usage based not on our actual water usage or on our considerable conservation efforts but based on a theoretical number that they assert is an “average” usage for a family of four. Even though many of us (every person I have spoken to) recognized the severity of the drought and took extreme measures (50-70% less usage) to conserve water, every one of us was penalized for our usage. In addition, we were informed that those who had fewer people in their home and fewer watering needs were actually able to *increase* their usage without penalty. How does that promote and reward conservation efforts?

Moreover, that sort of conservation is not something we can continue indefinitely. If we do not water our trees and plants, they become kindling and during fire season, we are at higher risk for devastation. During a storm and flood, we are also at increased risk of injury from stressed trees that have not been provided adequate water for a sustained period of time.

Please, given that we have had a year of normal rainfall, recommend easing the restrictions on Saratoga residents. At least tie the conservation targets to *actual* usage rather than a theoretical number that automatically penalizes so many of us.

Thank you.

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