

Submitted by staff
at 11/17/14 Board Meeting
November 15, 2014 Item 15

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MPWMD

Chair Dave Potter and Directors of the Board
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Building D
Monterey, CA 93940

**RE: Item #15 Consider Adoption of Policy on Outdoor Restaurant Seating
Continued to December 12, 2014**

Dear Chair Potter and Directors:

On January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency. In his proclamation he ordered a statewide water conservation campaign encouraging personal action to reduce water usage, calling for Californians to reduce their water use by 20%. The Governor did not make a distinction between residential and commercial use; it was all inclusive.

In October of this year, the MPWMD launched a new campaign, "Save Water, Go Blue" which also calls on both residents and commercial to reduce their water consumption. An article in the Herald (10/14/2014) stated that district residents average just below 60 gallons per person per day. As a residential water user I am being asked to conserve more and more. There has to be equity for all in this drought state of emergency.

Water permits for restaurants are issued based on a certain number of seats. As stated and I agree with, whatever combination of indoor vs. outdoor seating that an establishment wants to use is up to them; however, the specific number of seats they are permitted should remain the same.

In my hometown of Pacific Grove the city is ripping up 10,000 square feet of turf at our beautiful Lovers Point Park to reduce water use. Electeds on the Peninsula are attempting to get the implementation of the CDO pushed out. The Governor has declared California a drought state of emergency. One of your legislative functions is to promote water conservation.

Therefore, I encourage you to follow rules already in place. It is imperative that we continue to demonstrate consistent efforts with water conservation. Collectively we have done a great job and to ignore your own procedures and allow for additional seating (outdoor) beyond what is permitted at this critical time would compromise what has already been achieved.

Sincerely,

Carmelita Garcia

Carmelita Garcia, Resident of Pacific Grove