

From: [KJ Herrera](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: concerns about ordinance 449
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:58:15 PM

To whom it may concern:

While appreciating that we are in a drought, my concerns about the proposed ordinance 449, particularly only allowing irrigation one day a week and a moratorium on new gardens or expansion of current gardens, are as follows:

- significant habitat death for birds and insects
- lost revenue & employment for landscapers and gardeners

I hope that these concerns can be addressed in a reasonable manner.

Thank you,
-Kristin Herrera
Resident of San Rafael

From: [Deborah Doherty](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Mandatory Water Conservation Measure
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:45:02 AM

Thank you for considering my email/letter regarding the proposed mandatory water conservation measure.

Please read my letter at the meeting.

I am opposed to the measure.

My yard is a certified wildlife/bird & butterfly & bumblebee sanctuary because of the flowering plants, bushes, and trees. Many other yards in Marin would likely qualify.

If plants die, as they most certainly would with once per week watering, the impact on WILDLIFE would be enormous (and unrecognized). The bee population is declining. The death of flowering plants will be the final blow.

While I think it is worthwhile to encourage residents to cut down garden watering, a reduction of this magnitude would kill fruit and vegetable plants as well as flowering plants in addition to destroying the habitat for many bees, birds, and butterflies.

I am very much opposed to the proposed measure!

Thank you.

Deb Doherty
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pamela Scott](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: MMWD Proposed Restrictions
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:17:05 PM

Dear MMWD Board,

In the interest of community economic sustainability and well-being I sincerely hope that you reconsider revising your proposed water restrictions as they are written. If implemented they will disastrously affect fire safety, the livelihood of many workers, the very existence of businesses that have already been impacted by the restrictions of the COVID-19 Virus.

Very Truly Yours,
Pamela Scott

From: [Margie Ellis](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: MMWD PROPOSED WATER REESTRICTIONS
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:40:29 PM

DEAR MMWD BOARD,

I have reviewed the proposed water restrictions and am concerned that these overly strict rules will cause much unneeded pain to the communities in Marin. We have a very good record of conserving water when necessary. These proposed restrictions will impact fire safety, as well as cause economic hardships on many local businesses and workers. Rather than make it an impossible task for the residents of Marin County, I hope you will review and find a more equitable solution, one we can all embrace as a community, that has a long proven history of working together during other "dry" times.

Best

Margie Ellis

Margie Ellis

415-453-5870

margie@margieellis.com

From: [SYDNEY PARK](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Proposed restrictions
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:40:48 PM

I realize we are in a very scary drought situation. However

I would encourage you to eliminate washing of cars, etc.

I would discourage you from stating that there would be “no new planting anywhere” as it would put our local nurseries out of business.

A 50% increase in fees seems exorbitant.

SYDNEY PARK

slpark@comcast.net

From: [Elizabeth Cella](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: proposed restrictions
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:29:59 PM

Dear Board: the proposed once-weekly watering of residential gardens is unrealistically harsh. Almost certainly most garden plants, even the most water-wise and established, will die over the summer without adequate water. This will affect pollinators and habitats that have been long established. And after that? Re-establishing home gardens will require more intense watering in their early days.

Better to allow home gardens to be carefully but adequately maintained. Many of us already have chosen low-water plants and have substituted low-water alternatives to thirsty green turfs.

Will all Marin public recreational properties be similarly restricted? Schools, sports fields, and golf greens? How can Marin continue to issue residential building permits if new homes cannot include greenery?

Please reconsider your plan. It is unrealistic.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Cella
Kentfield

From: [Linda Peltzman](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Restrictions on water exceptions
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:36:21 PM

I volunteer for a community garden that has provided a lot of nutritious fresh produce to homeless and financially disadvantaged families here in Marin. SHPC Justice Garden is not sustainable with less water than we use. We are prudent with our use and have a rain catchment system.

Please consider having exceptions for gardens such as this. The need is great.

Thank you

Linda Peltzman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marco Marchesini](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: water restriction
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:36:30 AM

as a landscaper in marin, i strongly believe that the water restriction ordinance on vote for today has many flaws that will affect the garden landscape in many ways. for example, deep watering once a week on sloped areas won't conserve as much water as watering twice a week with limited water emission.

in addition, many people in the past years converted lawns into vegetable gardens which wont survive on a once a week irrigation management.

i totally understand the gravity of the draught, but i believe in a more fair water re-distribution plan instead.

m. marchesini

From: [Douglas Scherf](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water restrictions
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:14:19 PM

When you evaluate how to apply restrictions on water usage, please remember that a house with 1/2 an acre of landscaping needs much more water than an apartment or condominium.

We have spent 40 years developing our garden and do not want to lose it. Also, a soils engineer's report indicates that we have a possibility of subsidence or collapse on some of our steep hillsides. We need a substantial number of plants and ground cover to provide the necessary root structure.

We have a landscaping specialist working on our watering system this week. He is changing to low usage drips as much as possible and eliminating any watering for mature shrubs and trees.

Since we need water for our yard, we are reducing our usage elsewhere. We are now using paper plates and plastic cups. We are taking a very short shower once a week. We are taking our laundry to a laundromat. We are not washing our cars.

We understand the need to conserve water, but please be reasonable when you establish restrictions. Also, consider pursuing other options such as more reservoirs, a desalination plant, purchasing more water from Sonoma County and re-installing the pipeline to EBMUD in the East Bay.

Sincerely, Douglas Scherf

From: [Vonesmarch](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water Shortage Emergency action
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:21:05 PM

In regards to the proposed Water Shortage Emergency action, the measures and restrictions are too harsh and should be reconsidered and reworked.

From: [Sharon Adams](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: water usage
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:41:57 PM

I am a member of the Sleepy Hollow Church and participate in the large garden that we have there that supports hunger in Marin. We are concerned that watering once a week will not be sufficient for the garden. We use drip and are very careful with our usage. I hope an exemption can be made in our case. Thanks you, Sharon Adams

From: annhmaddox@aol.com
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Watering my garden - please read!
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 6:33:02 PM

Please read this at the upcoming meeting!

I am VERY concerned about the new rules being proposed for Marin County water usage! I understand golf courses have no limits for their greens and tees, and yet residents are to be allotted water for our gardens only once per week?! As taxpayers, and as citizens who are concerned with the birds, bees, and other pollinators, and are trying to be eco-conscious in plantings (no lawns, in other words), it is unimaginable that we would not be able to sustain our green space. I have been trained to water efficiently in the very early morning (sometimes when it is still dark), with timed irrigation twice or three times per week at the minimum level that allows plants to grow, but does not allow runoff. I use a thick layer of mulch to limit evaporation. The practices I use have been recommended by scientists and horticulturists, not suggested randomly.

It is amazing to me that you would favor golf course owners over the thousands of employers and employees involved in the horticultural industry in California, from the growers to the retail stores, to the landscapers and myriad people weeding, trimming, producing compost and mulches, and so forth. There have been no limits or suggestions set for the construction industry. You allow people to wash their cars (creating runoff and using water much less efficiently than do car washes that recycle and re-use the water. Our gardens and garden industry are much more critical than having a clean car!

it seems as if you have disdain for a whole segment of the Marin County economy and for the needs of homeowners, all of whom are trying to conserve water and minimize its use during the current drought conditions and even when water has been plentiful!

With respect,

Ann Maddox
Fairfax resident

From: [Robin Holway Abu-Aly](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:50:09 AM

I am grateful Marin will institute mandatory water rationing. So very critical during this drought. I wholeheartedly support all of this program, EXCEPT, where food production and pollinator plants are concerned.

I feel strongly that **exemptions should be made for fruit and veggie production** and perhaps for pollinator plants.

At my home, we've 5 organic, sustainably raised, fruit trees; orange, lemon, pomegranate, nectarine, and plum. We've drip irrigation on these trees. We normally water them once a week. However, during extreme heat, we need to water them twice a week. Additionally, we've raised beds with blueberry bushes and veggies. Again, drip irrigation.

Our front yard is full of a variety of drought tolerant pollinator plants. Pollinators are dying out rapidly. We must encourage their survival. Even drought tolerant plants require water twice a week during the summer. Also drip irrigation and organic.

I am perfectly willing to let the rest of my plants die during the drought.

Lastly, when rate hikes occur, please increase the third tier the most, the second tier the second most, and not the first tier. Increasing the rates for the first tier is an undue economic hardship for those who are not affluent.

Thank you,

Robin
Robin Holway Abu-Aly

In the dark, look for the light and build around the light

From: [Lezley Blair](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water restrictions
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:08:25 PM

Hi,

I am thoroughly aware of the drought and water crisis we are facing here in Marin and I completely support maintaining our water supply with necessary restrictions. I'm also a volunteer with the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church Justice Garden, where we grow produce during the summer to donate directly to hungry families, Marin Food Bank, and other charities. Can the SHPC Justice Garden have exemption for very conservative and reasonable watering to keep the produce growing for the hungry? The church already stores rainwater for hand watering but still relies some on MMWD for irrigation.

Thank you,

Lezley Blair

45 Tarry Rd

San Anselmo

Cell 415-828-2641

From: [Kit Argilla](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water restrictions for Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:55:33 PM

Sirs,

I am a member of this small Church in Sleepy Hollow. For years we have lovingly tended a justice garden which produces produce for the needy and any funds we earn selling produce goes directly those in need of food in Marin County.

I totally understand the need for drastic changes and water usage rules. I respectfully ask that you ease the new restrictions for this little church. We carefully watch our water usage always. But we fear if we don't get an exception, our garden will fail and the people we serve will go wanting.

Katherine Argilla
4 Irving Dr
San Anselmo

Travel is the sorbet between courses of reality.

From: [Maureen McRae](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Board of Directors meeting/April 20, 2021
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:10:26 PM

Dear Board of Directors at Marin Water,

Regarding the proposed Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program, in efforts to conserve water during Marin County's currently low water supply, I am deeply concerned about some of the prohibitions, particularly the prohibition on irrigation.

PROHIBIT IRRIGATION MORE THAN ONE DAY PER WEEK

Unreasonably restrictive, unsustainable and may have severe negative side effects such as: Death to many plants, vegetation, trees and their subsequent natural wild life and habitat. Creates dry and/or dead vegetation, exacerbating the already severe wild fire conditions in Marin County.

Contributes to Global Warming, whereas healthy, green plants absorb carbon dioxide and dead plants do not.

Thwarts and/or will not sustain home vegetable gardens, many of which were created during Covid-19 restrictions to promote healthy diets and family recreation.

PROHIBIT INSTALLING NEW OR EXPANDED LANDSCAPING

Would possibly result in devastating consequences for the Garden Industry (Garden Designers, Garden Landscapers, Garden Maintenance Companies, and Garden Nurseries) including job loss and business closures during an already compromised economy.

PROHIBIT REFILLING OR AS MAKE-UP WATER FOR DECORATIVE FOUNTAINS OR RECREATIONS POOLS

May create conditions from water stagnation and promote disease bearing insects.

In Summary the residents of Marin County are environmentally eco-conscious and from what I experience, most residents voluntarily comply with drought practices. If mandated to do more to conserve water, I would think most residents would follow the mandate. However, I suspect that the above mentioned prohibitions would create serious additional problems to the low water supply.

I personally would feel nothing but shame and loss over a garden filled with dead plants, contributing to existing dangerous wild fire conditions, loss of wild life and habitat, and the loss of jobs and businesses within the Garden Industry, during an already weakened economy.

Please consider the following:

RECYCLED WATER PRODUCTION WAS 0.00 IN 2019 & 2020

The completion of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's Secondary Treatment Plant Upgrade was anticipated to occur in late 2020.

When will Marin County see the benefits of this upgrade? Why is this plant not producing recycled water yet? Is there existing infrastructure to transport recycled water to Marin County?

Prohibit irrigation more than two days per week

Restrict future turf/lawn installations

Increase incentives to replace turf/lawns

Thank you,

Maureen McRae

Resident of San Rafael, CA

From: [Tom Flynn](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Comments regarding water conservation
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:15:44 PM
Attachments: [MMWD 4.20.21 Tom Flynn.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Dear Friends at MMWD

See attached.

Thank you,
Tom Flynn
tomflynn@sonic.net
415-328-8636

Comments MMWD Board Meeting April 20, 2021 by Tom Flynn

Honorable MMWD Board members, you're taking the right, necessary steps with your water conservation ordinance. Saving water is today by far our most cost effective way to help ensure a secure and adequate water supply.

I've been with Marin Conservation League's Climate Action Working Group for more than a decade, and am a lead of [GreenChange.net](#), a rapidly growing volunteer online local network of now over a thousand participants---that's sharing information on ways to help protect our environment, make our way of life economically and otherwise sustainable, and fight climate change.

We want to help you in making MMWD sustainable--in providing reliable, clean and affordable water. And we want to help in getting out the word and in doing demonstration projects on water saving measures-- like replacing lawns with more drought tolerant landscape, water efficient fixtures, fixing leaks, and shower cutoff valves, etc. while also generating green jobs doing this work.

As we enter the second year of a severe drought, we should also be thinking about higher penalty rates for those who are using very large amounts of water per capita, and who can afford it.

We also want to help by exploring ways to reduce one of your biggest operating costs--energy. The California Energy Commission found that in California water-related energy use consumes 19 percent of the state's electricity, 30 percent of its natural gas, and 88 billion gallons of diesel fuel every year. For example, electric utilities are increasingly moving to new early-evening time-of-use fees when water demands are also high. If we MMWD customers of all sizes were using less water, especially for landscaping, at peak energy use hours around 5 to 9 PM in the evening, MMWD could avoid pumping our water at the most expensive time of day.

I've also done a lot of work in helping hospitals, corporations, and universities save millions of dollars over time through saving energy. My colleague Gary Klein, who led the Energy Commission water energy nexus study above and I met with your former manager Krishna Kumar about 5 years ago. We helped MMWD tap into free energy auditing services through the State that identified ways for MMWD to save on energy costs and fight climate change. And of course with climate change, our precious water is unfortunately also needed increasingly to fight fires.

Saving water today is a necessary means to both adapt to and mitigate climate change. I applaud MMWD for going all renewable electricity with MCE's Deep Green. But the state and country as a

whole is still getting the vast majority of its electricity from fossil fuels. We are rapidly scaling up renewable energy, but one of the quickest, most cost effective ways to meet our electrical demand with renewable energy is to lower our electrical demand by saving energy. This also reduces the resources needed to create this renewable energy. So let's work together to coordinate saving water and other precious resources for a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future.

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From: [Jody Brockett](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Beverly Brewster](#)
Subject: Concerns on water restrictions in growing food for hunger program
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:12:21 PM

Dear Marin Water Board members,

I'm the Clerk of Session at Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church. I've recently become aware of upcoming water restrictions which would greatly impact our Justice Garden where we grow food for hunger programs.

We are hoping that an exemption will be put in place for well managed gardens which support hunger programs.

Thank you,
Jody Brockett

From: [Koren Grubb](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: for your board meeting tonight, 04/20/21
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:44:43 PM

Dear Marin Water Board Members,

I am a volunteer at the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church, home of the Justice Garden, where we grow hundreds of pounds of organic vegetables for hungry families in Marin every year.

For eight years we have been growing food to feed the hungry, attending carefully to watering conservatively, all drip, carefully monitored, with a rainwater catchment tank in use.

This year in COVID we have expanded our hunger relief ministry to meet the surging need, and we have served hungry families all over Marin, especially in the Canal, West Marin, Novato, San Rafael, with a focus on hungry children and seniors.

We respectfully ask for an exemption to the imminent mandatory water restrictions for food grown for the benefit of the hungry. Once weekly would not be adequate to keep our plants alive, and our volunteers just put 200 plants in the ground last weekend. We had nurtured them from seeds in our homes since February.

Thank you so much for your service to the community in this challenging time.

Sincerely,
Koren Grubb

From: [Catherine Caldwell](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Justice Garden
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:03:33 PM

Dear Water Board,

My church, Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian, has grown vegetables in our Justice Garden every summer to support hunger programs. We have provided vegetables for food boxes delivered to the needy in Marin. Several thousand dollars from selling our produce at a farmstand is donated to hunger programs in Marin. Please grant us an exemption to weekly watering, to responsibly use water for the food program. Catherine Caldwell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robin Holway](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Mandatory Water Conservation Program
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:29:58 AM

Dear board members,

Thank you for taking action for mandatory water conservation during this severe drought. Strict conservation is crucial this year.

The Marin Board of Supervisors assisted our Justice Garden with seed money to build a waterwise garden to feed the local hungry. We produce hundreds of pounds of veggies each year to feed the local hungry. For example, we've provided fresh organic produce to the Marin Food Bank, the Bennett House and Victory Village, and more. We produce tomatoes, green beans, chard, kale, squash, cucumbers, and other produce. We've nurtured hundreds of tomato plants from seed in our homes all winter. Last week, we planted them.

We use drip irrigation and have a water catchment system whereby our roof rain gutters feed water to our water tank and our water tank pumps water to the veggie garden powered by our solar panels. The garden is organic. We truly try to do our best to be good stewards to the earth, including water conservation. However, this small farm will not make it with irrigation only once a week.

We are asking for an exemption for reasonable and conservative water use as essential to grow food for the hungry in our church Justice Garden.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Robin Holway, Deacon of Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo
robinhh@yahoo.com

In the dark, look for the light and build around the light

From: [Beverly Brewster](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Jody Brockett](#); [scott hamilton](#); [Koren Grubb](#); [karen stead baigrie](#); [A Aly](#); [Sharon Adams](#); [Bridget Clark](#); [Michael Durphy](#); [Robin](#); [Lisa Bane](#); [sharon hamilton](#)
Subject: FOR APRIL 20 MEETING Agenda Item 6(2) Request for exemption from once weekly irrigation restriction for food production for hunger relief
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:32:45 AM

Dear Marin Water Board Members,

I am the Pastor of the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church, home of the Justice Garden, where we grow hundreds of pounds of organic vegetables for hungry families in Marin every year.

Our Officers and Justice Garden team leader are copied.

For eight years we have been growing food to feed the hungry, attending carefully to watering conservatively, all drip, carefully monitored, with a rainwater catchment tank in use.

This year in COVID we have expanded our hunger relief ministry to meet the surging need, and we have served hungry families all over Marin, especially in the Canal, West Marin, Novato, San Rafael, with a focus on hungry children and seniors.

We respectfully ask for an exemption to the imminent mandatory water restrictions for food grown for the benefit of the hungry. Once weekly would not be adequate to keep our plants alive, and our volunteers just put 200 plants in the ground last weekend. We had nurtured them from seeds in our homes since February.

Thank you so much for your service to the community in this challenging time.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or for further information.

In peace,

The Rev. Bev Brewster

The Rev. Bev Brewster, Pastor
Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church
100 Tarry Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960
415-453-8221; **415-446-8267 cell**
beverlybrewster@comcast.net
www.sleepyhollowchurch.org

From: [Christine Young](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Item 06 (Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program)
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:21:59 AM

To the Board of Directors:

Regarding the proposed Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program ("Program"), I urge the District to consider implementing a maximum water allocation per customer. Focusing solely on reducing outdoor water waste is difficult to enforce and unfair to those who are careful about their indoor water use. If the District were to impose usage maximums, both the District and customers could easily monitor water use and customers could choose how to use their water allocations. If customers exceed their maximums, the District could impose fines or charge higher rates, much like it does now. If people want to let their lawns die but water their vegetables twice a week, they should be allowed to do that, assuming they do not use more than their maximum allocations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christine Young

From: [Margit Dijkstra](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Re: MWB mandatory water restriction proposal
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:37:21 PM

To MWB Board Members,

As a volunteer gardener at the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church (SHPC) Justice Garden, I would like to voice my concern at the proposed once-weekly garden watering restriction which I understand has been proposed by your group. The SHPC Justice Garden generates significant amounts of produce. These items are sold locally, with proceeds donated to local food relief organizations. In addition, produce has been packaged and donated directly to residents in underserved communities who have suffered greatly during the COVID epidemic.

It is my deeply felt hope that you will consider organizations such as ours to be exempt from water restrictions, given the measurable impact our garden's yield has on those most in need.

Sincerely,
Margit Tagliaferri, MD

From: [sharon.hamilton](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Request for exception for Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian church water usage
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:12:17 PM

Dear members of the board, as a San Anselmo resident and deacon of the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church, we have been helping to feed the hungry through raising vegetables, selling and donating them, then sending revenues to the food bank. Our raised beds will require more than once a week watering. We ask that you all consider exempting us from the proposed once a week watering as we enter the growing season. As a church, we have done our part to be sustainable. We have solar and a water catchment system. We would be judicious in our watering use. It's also also worthwhile to note that this church community garden provides opportunities for our youth to volunteer and brings community together. Thank you for your consideration, Sharon Hamilton

From: [PATTI R VANCE](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water restrictions for Community Gardens
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:42:14 AM

To: the MMWD Board -

This letter addresses the upcoming discussion on water restrictions for Marin.

I am an active volunteer with the Sleepy Hollow Church - Justice Garden Project that has provided organic produce for needy families and the Marin Food Bank for over 6 years. In addition we have been able to donate approximately \$24,000 to hunger programs from our farmstand sales during the summers.

It is imperative that we receive a compensation on water use to continue this important service to our community.

All our growing beds are on a drip system and we also installed a 2,500 water tank to help with water conservation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

Patti Vance