

From: [DELOS PUTZ](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Judy Arnold](#); [Damon Connolly](#); [Moulton-Piers, Stephanie](#); [Katie Rice](#); [Dennis Rodoni](#)
Subject: Re: Please impose rationing
Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 5:12:04 PM

I sent this request to you on 3/1/22. I assume others have sent similar messages. As far as I am aware, no mandatory restrictions on water use have been imposed. Prudence requires that Marin conserve the water it has. I URGE THE BOARD TO IMPOSE WATER RATIONING RESTRICTIONS IMMEDIATELY.

C. Delos Putz
San Geronimo

03/01/2022 8:20 AM DELOS PUTZ wrote:

We are in a drought. The water in the reservoirs has to last. **PLEASE IMPOSE WATER RATIONING RESTRICTIONS IMMEDIATELY.** We cannot afford to waste water on lawns and gardens in the middle of a drought. We need to conserve water for people.

C. Delos Putz

From: [Steve Moore](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Doris Toy](#); [R.J. Suokko](#); [Jason Dow](#)
Subject: Operations Committee of MMWD, 4/15/22 Meeting, Comments on Agenda Item 5, Conservation Measures
Date: Friday, April 15, 2022 7:30:36 AM

Dear Board Members of the Marin Municipal Water District,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the discussion of the possible extension of various conservation measures during this drought period, enacted last year under Ordinance 449.

We want to support the MMWD to effectively manage water resources and be as cost-effective as possible in its operations, as we co-manage the One Water in our service areas, and serve One Ratepayer.

I am writing to provide input from the perspective of RVSD and the other sanitary districts and sewer departments of the various cities in the District's service area on the prohibition of the use of potable water for "sewer flushing". Universally we agencies believe this prohibition was hastily enacted last year without any input from our agencies, and all 15 of us learned about the prohibition after-the-fact.

We appreciate that MMWD staff reached out to us in advance of the current discussion, and look forward to providing substantive input in these policy decisions. Sewer flushing is an outdated term based on dated techniques to flush systems with full pipes of hydrant water. We use the term "sewer cleaning", which reflects the current technology of more precise hydrojetting with various pressures and appurtenances.

Sewer cleaning is a health and safety use of potable water to ensure that sanitary systems convey wastewater safely to treatment plants and do not overflow or back-up into buildings and cause nuisance or threats to public health. During drought, the tree and plant roots more aggressively seek the wastewater in our older, narrower system (RVSD may be the oldest district in the state) and restrict flow leading to backups and overflows. Sewer cleaning activities need to incrementally increase during drought to keep the system working, with increase in our water use, and is a key function that mirrors the MMWD water use that is conveyed.

Based on my experience as a State Water Board member during the 2012-2016 drought, no local districts enacted such prohibitions on use of potable water for sewer cleaning unless a nonpotable tertiary water distribution system was available more-or-less throughout their service area. In MMWD this is only available in the northernmost corner, North San Rafael, in the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. Therefore I believe that this prohibition for sewer cleaning should be deleted from the ordinance.

We appreciate and support the opportunity to conserve water in all of our operations, and RVSD pioneered re-use of CMSA secondary-23 recycled water for sewer cleaning in August 2019. When Ordinance 449 was enacted, we built on what we were learning about optimizing this water reuse within our operations. We were able to peak at 97% recycled water in July-Aug 2021, but we had to use more potable water for various reasons and are now down to about 65% recycled water for the year, still a great achievement.

This past year our productivity in sewer cleaning declined because of more truck trips to CMSA to refill water tanks, typically 3 to 4 times a day. Some of our truck trips are as much as 45 minutes from Fairfax and Sleepy Hollow to San Rafael. We believe two costly sewer backups (over \$500,000 in damages) into residences in October were due in part to having to use only recycled water, which caused us to fall behind in our high frequency cleaning lines in Greenbrae, where roots are especially problematic.

The higher salt, chlorine and solids in CMSA recycled water causes wear and tear on our expensive specialized sewer cleaning vehicles. We had to replace a pumping system on our low volume, high pressure Harben vehicle in 1 1/2 years of using only recycled water. The expected life of these pumps is 5 years.

We have learned that conserving water through use of recycled water for sewer cleaning is an optimization exercise. We need to use potable water to freshen our systems to keep the equipment from degrading quickly.

We believe the optimal approach for RVSD is to fill up tanks at the end of the day, empty the tank, and refill with potable water when necessary, which is 0 to 4 times a day depending on the operation. We can achieve about 60% recycled water and 40% potable water use with this approach.

CMSA nonpotable water was down all the month of January due to operational issues that come up periodically. We were not able to use any recycled water during this one-month period and comply with a strict prohibition. Traveling to Las Gallinas is not feasible.

The annual use of potable water for sewer cleaning in our service area does not have a significant water supply impact. It is on the order of the annual use of about 15-16 homes. Therefore the cost-benefit of the ordinance does not "pencil out" and we believe we should stay with our voluntary program.

For these reasons, we ask MMWD to delete the sewer cleaning prohibition. Recycled water at CMSA should be dedicated to potable reuse in the future and we are actively working with MMWD and CMSA staff to make this exciting and sustainable prospect a reality. There is

enough water there to equal what is imported from Sonoma County today.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Moore, P.E., General Manager
Ross Valley Sanitary District