



## Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

19400 Hartmann Road  
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March 26, 2018

State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

**Subject: Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Water System ID #1710015  
Compliance Order No. 02\_03\_14R\_004 (Meter Moratorium)**

Dear Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair:

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (District) received Compliance Order No. 02\_03\_14R\_004 on October 17, 2014 from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. This compliance order stated that the District violated section 116555 of the California Health and Safety Code. Section 116555 requires each public water system to have a reliable supply of water to serve its customers.

The compliance order states that, "Because of drought conditions and senior water right demands, the Water Board's Division of Water Rights determined that water was not available for the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District public water system's Grange Wells sources and notified the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District of the need to curtail its diversions. For this reason, the Division of Drinking Water has made the determination that the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District is not able to meet the requirements of section 116555." The compliance order concludes by stating, "This order does not require you to cease using the sources that have been curtailed to provide for the basic health and safety needs of your customers, but does require that you take specific steps in the interim to prevent new service connections and to secure a reliable long-term supply of water. Successful implementation of the directives contained in the order will ensure compliance with California Safe Drinking Water Act as well as the State's water rights system."

Noting that one of the leading factors stated for the issuance of Compliance Order No. 02\_03\_14R\_004 was, "Because of drought conditions..." The Governor of California removed those conditions in 2017, therefore, the District asks that the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water would reconsider Compliance Order No. 02\_03\_14R\_004.

The District believes that additional consideration should be given, noting that the community of Hidden Valley Lake (HVL) is the primary water user within the District. HVL is a planned community that was approved in the late 1960's. At that time, all parcels within HVL were approved for construction as it was determined that there was



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sufficient water for build-out. It has been determined that there are parcels included in that determination which are not suitable for construction due to natural streams that flow through them or the topography of the land (they are on cliffs). This reduces the original demand on the water system that was already approved for this community. A byproduct of this planned community is the developer-built dam which created Hidden Valley Lake allowing the water from Coyote Creek time to percolate into the Coyote Valley Groundwater Basin rather than simply running off.

Additionally, the District has over twenty years of groundwater monitoring reports (which include the most recent six years of drought). This data shows that the groundwater within the Coyote Valley Basin has not dropped significantly even during recognized drought years. Further, all twenty years of data indicate that every year, the natural stormwater flows from the surrounding mountains refill the Coyote Valley Basin and excess flow continues down Putah Creek to Lake Berryessa. This is supported by USGS data from their Guenoc Gauging Station, as well as more than twenty years of Watermaster reports, borne from Upper Putah Creek adjudication in 1996. To further confirm the annual recharge of this aquifer, Solano County Water Agency who oversees Lake Berryessa has stated their willingness to file a letter of support for the District to discontinue the annual supplemental water flow down Putah Creek from July 15<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Discontinuing the unnatural exportation of this valuable resource from its native groundwater basin and allowing the natural flow of water to return to Putah Creek would not only further strengthen the resiliency of the ground water basin but also benefit the environment. The current mandated discharge promotes the Red Legged Frog who feeds on the tadpoles and juvenile Foothill Yellow-Legged Frogs (an endangered species). In short, the State mandated exportation of the water resource may be adding to the demise of the Foothill Yellow-Legged Frogs (Per State recognized biologists studying Putah Creek. Data available upon request).

Finally, the District is one hundred percent (100%) self-sustaining in that all water pumped from Coyote Valley Basin through the three domestic wells is treated, stored and distributed to customers within the Coyote Valley Basin. Therefore, if customers were to use water on their landscape, garden etc., that water is returned to the Coyote Valley Basin. Similarly, all remaining water is discharged into the wastewater collection system owned and operated by the District. Once collected, the wastewater is transported to the Grange Rd. Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) where it is treated to the tertiary level. From the WWTP, 100% of the tertiary treated water is provided to the local golf course where all of the water is returned to the Coyote Valley Basin (minus minor loss due to evaporation).



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In closing, our District provides water to an approved, planned community whose groundwater aquifer is recharged annually (even during extreme drought years, providing a reliable supply of water to serve our customers) and is 100% self-sufficient due to our ability to return all pumped water back to the Coyote Valley Basin from which we draw our water.

The District notes that all Coyote Valley Basin Ground Water Monitoring Reports, Upper Putah Creek Watershed Watermaster reports, and Habitat Assessment report supporting this letter are on file and available for your review.

The District believes this issue to be of mutual interest to the State Water Board, the Regional Water Control Board (Santa Rosa Office), Hidden Valley Lake CSD, the Hidden Valley Lake Association, local realtors and developers, surrounding communities recently devastated by wildfire and those concerned with the health of our environment. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We ask that you honor Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District's request to lift the moratorium based on these findings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirk Cloyd".

Kirk Cloyd, General Manager  
Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

Cc:

Carolyn Graham, President, HVLCSD  
Linda Herndon, Vice President, HVLCSD  
Jim Lieberman, Director, HVLCSD  
Judy Mirbegian, Director, HVLCSD  
Jim Freeman, Director, HVLCSD  
Steven Moore, Vice Chair, State Water Board  
Tam M. Doduc, State Water Board  
Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Board  
E. Joaquin Esquivel, State Water Board  
Sheri Miller, District Engineer, Regional Water Control Board-Santa Rosa