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To: Mayor Bill Bogaard <bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Michael Beck <mbeck@cityofpasadena.net>, Margaret McAustin <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, Terry Tornek <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, Victor Gordo <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, Chris Holden <cholden@cityofpasadena.net>, Steve Madison <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, Jacque Robinson <jacqueroberinson@cityofpasadena.net>, Steve Haderlein <shaderlein@cityofpasadena.net>, Mark Jomsky <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: Phyllis Currie <pcurrie@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Water Conservation Ordinance - City Council meeting 5/18/09 - Agenda Item 8.A.(1)

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Council Members, and City Staff:

I have read the proposed water conservation ordinance scheduled for first reading at tonight's City Council meeting.

It is unfortunate that the only solution City of Pasadena can come up with in light of reduced water supplies is a draconian ordinance that imposes stiff fines on Pasadena residents as well as a potential for water shutoffs. It seems to me that law-abiding homeowners who are doing nothing more than minding their own business on their own property may not take too kindly to such measures, and will regard them as inappropriately harsh and profoundly unfair, especially when the most common complaint one hears from residents is that the City itself does not appear to make water conservation a priority in its own use.

It is my understanding that the City, PUSD, and other major landowners (Caltech, Art Center College of Design, CalTrans, etc.) could accomplish a 20% reduction in overall water consumption, which would eliminate the need for the City to ask for sacrifice on the part of homeowners. This begs the question: Is this ordinance more about burdening the homeowner in order to provide revenue for the City and less about water conservation?

Like a parent who produces an unhappy and unruly child by saying "do as I say, not as I do," the City of Pasadena, after approving this ordinance, may find an angry and uncooperative citizenry on its hands once fines begin to be imposed and sticker-shock-type water bills begin to show up in residents' mailboxes.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

05/18/2009

8.A.1.

Susan King
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