

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	08-AFC-08A
Project Title:	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
TN #:	204101
Document Title:	Marion Vargas Comments: HECA Hazards and the Drought
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Marion Vargas
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/9/2015 3:59:44 PM
Docketed Date:	4/9/2015

Comment Received From: Marion Vargas
Submitted On: 4/9/2015
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HECA Hazards and the Drought

Please terminate the application for certification process for HECA. The proposed project would increase air pollution, take prime farmland out of production, deteriorate Kern County roads, increase traffic and safety hazards, exceed Kern County's legal waste capacity, disturb sensitive wild life habitat, and contribute very little, if any, net energy to the grid while producing its volatile chemical fertilizers.

In this time of extreme drought, the worst impact of all, if the HECA project were to be built, may be that it would consume 6.6 million gallons of water daily for 25 years. HECA would produce approximately 1 million tons of fertilizer for domestic use, but we need water, not fertilizer.

Please take action, as soon as possible, to terminate the HECA application process.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

State

Metro Bakersfield water districts face full 35 percent reductions

BY SHARON BERNSTEIN
Reuters

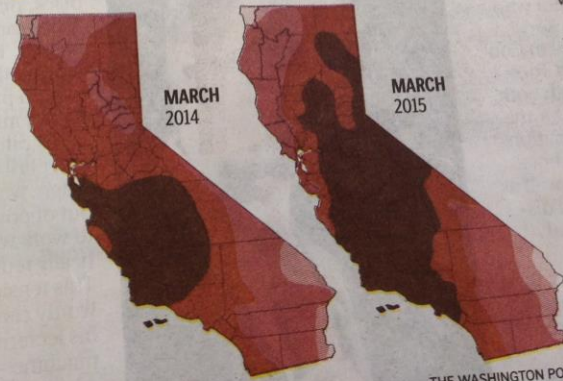
SACRAMENTO — California's cities and towns would be required to cut their water usage by up to 35 percent or face steep fines under proposed new rules released Tuesday, the state's first-ever mandatory cutbacks in urban water use amid ongoing drought.

All water districts serving metro Bakersfield are slated to face the full 35 percent reductions, according to a still-developing conservation plan posted on the State Water Resources Control Board website at about 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Communities that

The extent of drought in California

● Exceptional ● Extreme ● Severe ● Moderate ○ Abnormally dry



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

THE WASHINGTON POST

progress. Even the smallest districts would have to collect usage data and limit watering to two days per week.

So far, the proposed restrictions have focused on urban users, even though they account for only 20 percent of state water consumption, while the agricultural sector, which the Public Policy Institute of California uses 80 percent of consumption, has been exempt.

Ironically, the discussion of the ration order during the recent rain in Sacramento place as rain fell and as snow dropped on Sierra Nevada

restrictions in place to

tomers use more than 165
water per person