

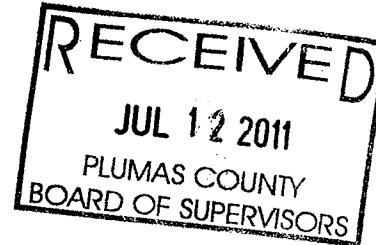
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



July 7, 2011

Ms. Lori Simpson, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors  
Plumas of County  
520 Main Street, Room 309  
Quincy, California 95971



Dear Ms. Simpson:

This is in reply to your letter to Governor Brown dated June 7, 2011 requesting a one-year extension of the State General Fund subsidy for watermaster service provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The only way that DWR can continue providing watermaster service for this year or beyond is if Plumas County can pay the full cost.

I understand the financial difficulty this shift from partial General Fund support to 100 percent funding by the water users will have on Plumas County residents. Unfortunately, as all Californians are now aware, our State budget situation is extremely dire, and tough choices must now be made.

The change is consistent with existing law, California Water Code (CWC), Section 4201, which was passed seven years ago in 2004. This section requires water rights holders receiving State watermaster service to pay the full cost of such service.

Prior to 2004, Plumas water right holders receiving watermaster service only paid 50 percent of the cost of providing that service. After CWC Section 4201 was changed in 2004, the State of California was able to provide additional General Fund augmentations to help ease the transition of having the water right owners pay the full cost for watermaster service. These General Fund augmentations are no longer available, and the fees must be increased.

Plumas County may require additional time to put in place measures to provide local watermaster service to comply with the procedural requirements of Proposition 218. During this time DWR can provide this service, but we must comply with current law, including CWC section 4201, requiring that watermaster service be provided at full cost.

Sincerely,

  
Mark W. Cowin  
Director