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Subject: Public Comment for April 13 meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:15:45 PM

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April 12, 2022

To the Water Resources and Watershed Committee:

I see on this month's agenda that you recommend implementing a Stage 2 Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Water Supply Shortage Ordinance. This is after deciding *last* month that there's enough water to supply the Castaic Lake Mountain Apartments – over 1,000 new units! Excuse me, but how in the world does that make sense? We all know that with climate change, water shortages are only going to get worse. In fact, several articles I've read indicate that climate scientists believe we're in the worst drought in 1200 years, and that it won't end anytime soon. The latest IPCC report confirms that we have an existential problem that's getting worse each year.

Given that fact, it is patently foolish to keep building new housing when we're already in deep trouble over water. I don't know by what calculation you managed to decide there will be enough water in the future, but I do know figures can be selectively used to prove just about anything you want them to prove. Public welfare and the common good is seldom the priority when there's money involved, and I wonder if that's what's behind the decision to approve the new units. It would be more money for the city, but predicated on gambling with water availability, a basic necessity of life.

If money was the motivation, or even if it wasn't, the approval of a thousand new housing units in the midst of a 1200-year drought is neither a reasonable nor moral decision for a group of "public servants" to make, and it should be reversed. This is not a time for business as usual. Ignoring our current climate reality – one we've never experienced as a civilization before – is nothing short of insane.

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