



**Statement from Chief Executive Officer Nicole Sandkulla about the  
Request from the City of East Palo Alto (EPA) for More Water  
August 5, 2016**

There has been media reporting and public speculation recently about EPA's request for more water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), its water supplier, to support new development projects and whether EPA has been treated unfairly. EPA is one of BAWSCA's 26 member agencies.

East Palo Alto is unique in that it incorporated in 1983 and is one of the newest cities in the Bay Area, and the City did not assume control of the water system until 2001. EPA's need for more water has increased as 11 important expansion projects, including low-cost housing, have been delayed, and a new primary school will be forced to open in a temporary location by the lack of water. EPA's per-capita water use is very low, making it impossible to conserve more water for these projects. EPA's City Manager Carlos Martinez said "We appreciate the support of BAWSCA and the SFPUC in finding solutions to EPA's water shortage."

In 1984, more than two dozen towns, cities and private utilities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties that purchased San Francisco's water considered allotments within the 184 million gallons per day (mgd) of perpetual supply assurance provided by San Francisco. Each agency participated in reaching an agreement to allocate specific amounts of water to all participants. In this process, EPA received 1.8 mgd. In 1994, the wholesale customers chose to create and adopt a permanent allocation of the 184 mgd.

At a meeting of the SFPUC on October 30, 2008, EPA City Manager Alvin James requested more water than its latest allocation, so that it could improve its basic services for residents. At that same meeting, the SFPUC adopted its State-mandated, multi-billion-dollar Water System Improvement Program and postponed decisions about more water for all its wholesale customers, including EPA, until 2018.

In 2009, when BAWSCA's member agencies renegotiated the Water Supply Agreement with the SFPUC, EPA's existing allotment of 1.96 mgd was included, but EPA realized then that it needed even more water to serve the expansion taking place in its small community.

EPA's limitation has remained for the past seven years, and a decision about its request by the SFPUC is scheduled by 2018 as part of a long-term planning process. Meanwhile, EPA's request remains on hold. More water is available, however, and BAWSCA strongly supports EPA's request to get now what it needs.

I testified at a Commission meeting on June 14, 2016 asking for immediate action to grant EPA's request and BAWSCA, EPA, San Francisco, and several BAWSCA agencies are working urgently together to make this water available. BAWSCA hopes that it will be provided shortly. I am very pleased that Congresswoman Jackie Speier, State Senator Jerry Hill and State Assembly Member Rich Gordon have joined this effort with powerful supporting statements.

For BAWSCA, EPA's water shortage is unacceptable and solvable.

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