



## Hiddenbrooke Property Owners Association, Inc.

c/o Valley Management Services

101 W. American Canyon, #508-PMB272

American Canyon, CA 94503

Phone: 707.644.0922

Fax: 707.638.0464

January 30, 2014

Mr. Donald Burton  
Landscape Maintenance Districts  
City of Vallejo  
555 Santa Clara Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590

### **Re: Support for Water Conservation—Hiddenbrooke Maintenance District**

Dear Don:

The Hiddenbrooke Maintenance District Advisory Committee (HMDAC) is taking this opportunity to express our concerns regarding the City of Vallejo's pending policy of severely restricting water usage during the drought which might include leaving irrigation systems turned off. It is our hope that the City can find a balance in its policy that addresses the issues of two highly unusual conditions, namely the drought and the damage to plants caused by the extended frost.

Although we recognize and support the need to conserve water, we are concerned that a lack of water will destroy thousands of plants throughout the Hiddenbrooke Community. The estimated cost to replace our landscaping which could be saved could run in excess of a million dollars. We agree with the decision to wait for several weeks to treat the damaged plants. Once we begin treatment, which involves trimming and fertilizing, it is critical to water the plants on a regular basis. As such, it will be critical for the irrigation systems to be activated at that time.

In the spirit of water conservation, the HMDAC is highly supportive of adding an irrigation component to our current landscape contract. The Hiddenbrooke Maintenance District has no on-going irrigation contract but calls upon D&H Landscaping on an "as needed" basis under a time-and-materials arrangement. A regular service contract with a proactive preventative procedure would save plantings and conserve water.

We support adding irrigation services to the Coast Landscaping contract immediately so preventative maintenance and repairs can be completed when the irrigation systems are reactivated. We also support extending the Coast contract for another year through June 30, 2015. This would give Coast a reasonable length of time to demonstrate their full-service capabilities for both irrigation and landscaping. We do not support a change in contractor on July 1 which would potentially result in duplication of expenses for testing the current irrigation lines.

Mr. Donald Burton  
January 30, 2014  
Page 2 of 2

The addition of an irrigation component to the contract is very timely as we believe the anticipated repairs and improvements to the current system will prevent waste and conserve water. Please take our concerns into consideration while formulating and enacting policy for our Landscape District.

Yours truly,



Kevin Smith  
President, Hiddenbrooke Property Owners Association

Electronic Copy:

Jill Mercurio, Assistant Public Works Director-Engineering, [jmercurio@ci.vallejo.ca.us](mailto:jmercurio@ci.vallejo.ca.us)

Bob Sampayan, City Councilman, [bsampayan@ci.vallejo.ca.us](mailto:bsampayan@ci.vallejo.ca.us)

Katie Miessner, City Councilman, [kmiessner@ci.vallejo.ca.us](mailto:kmiessner@ci.vallejo.ca.us)

HPOA Board

HMDAC Members

Elizabeth Mathern, for posting to HPOA Sever