**Subject: Support appropriate water conservation measures in our region**

To Mayor [Last Name] and Council,

I, [First and Last Name], am writing to you as a nursery grower and business owner in your community about concerns over water conservation measures. I appreciate the City’s intent to mitigate the potential drought this year with early conservation measures. However, these measures need to consider regionality since each regional micro-climate has different soil, plant, water resources, and climatic conditions. In addition, water conservation must be done in collaboration with and include all businesses, government and residents working together in the community to use and reuse water resources efficiently while maintaining soil and plant health.

Water conservation is a general practice in the nursery industry. Our nursery uses [ include the items that your operation uses] precision water application with drip irrigation, storage ponds and efficient irrigation systems, recycled our water, our own well water. It is important to note that nursery growers are growing young plants, such as bedding plants for gardens, and must water daily to keep them alive. Even though shrubs and trees can use water efficiently with the available soil medium, they are still young at 3 to 5 years old and require watering to live and mature.

Water restrictions and curtailment orders can have debilitating effects on soil and plant health, affecting food production, fire prevention and population health as well as the environmental health of landscapes. This is especially the case where restrictions are imposed year after year. To prevent this damage, when determining water use trade-offs, living things should be prioritized over inanimate water use (other than for health and safety reasons). Healthy plants increase resilience and reduce the risk of wildfires, reduce C02 in the atmosphere and provide improved air quality, food, cooling, pollinator food, soil support, and feed for domestic and wild animals as well as providing wellness benefits for people.

Keeping soil healthy is also important. Soil health and biomes are essential for nutrient cycling, carbon storage, and the mitigation of greenhouse gases. Maintaining a healthy moisture level not only protects this biome but also retains and uses less water than soil that is allowed to dry out.

Plant growers and the suppliers and services that support their success were designated essential during the pandemic due to their link to food and public resilience. They remain essential and must be prioritized in water management decision-making.

We support smart watering and water management while ensuring we keep our plants and environment healthy. Please also refer to BC Landscape and Nursery Association and CNLA program [HERE.](https://cnla.ca/plantsloveyou)

Sincerely,

Signature