

Date of Hearing: April 30, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair

AB 532 (Ransom) – As Amended April 22, 2025

SUBJECT: Water rate assistance program

SUMMARY: Requires the Department of Community Services (CSD) to, upon appropriation of funding by the Legislature, establish and administer a statewide Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (CA LIHWAP) to provide water rate assistance to residential ratepayers of specified water systems; and, separately, authorizes urban retail water suppliers to provide water rate assistance to their ratepayers.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Deletes statute authorizing the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), which was a limited-term, federally funded program that provided financial assistance to low-income households to reduce water and wastewater arrearages prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) Defines “urban retail water supplier” as a water supplier, either publicly or privately owned, that directly provides potable municipal water to more than 3,000 end users or that supplies more than 3,000 acre-feet of potable water annually at retail for municipal purposes.

Under the Statewide Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (CA LIHWAP):

- 1) Defines “covered water systems” as publicly and privately owned water systems that provide retail water service to 3,000 or less end users or that serve 3,000 or less acre-feet of potable water annually.
- 2) Defines “local service providers” as private, nonprofit, and public agencies designated in accordance with the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, as amended.
- 3) Provides that it is the intent of the Legislature to establish the CA LIHWAP to administer water rate assistance, which shall be administered by CSD in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).
- 4) Requires CSD to, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish and administer the CA LIHWAP to provide water rate assistance to residential ratepayers of covered water systems, and urban retail water suppliers with a service area that is made up of at least 50 percent disadvantaged communities, as measured by population.
- 5) Requires CSD to develop a state plan for the CA LIHWAP, including requirements and guidelines for the program. Exempts the state plan development from the Administrative Procedures Act.
- 6) Requires CSD to post a draft and final state plan to its internet website and hold a public meeting before the finalization of the state plan to allow for public comment.

- 7) Requires the CA LIHWAP guidelines to include household eligibility and prioritization criteria, public participation, data collection and reporting, structure of financial water assistance payments, among other elements.
- 8) Requires CSD to contract with and use local service providers to help administer CA LIHWAP. Requires the contract provisions to include monitoring by CSD, accountability and oversight of the local service providers' role in administering the program, and confidentiality provisions to protect consumer data.
- 9) Requires CSD to post on its internet website the eligibility requirements of the program, local service provider area, local service provider contact information, and total annual assistance available during the current fiscal year.
- 10) Requires CSD to oversee the local service providers to ensure compliance with the provisions of this bill.
- 11) Requires CSD to, beginning the first fiscal year after the CA LIHWAP has been established, and each year thereafter, provide a report to the Legislature that includes the total amount of assistance provided, total administrative cost of the program, an estimate of the number of households eligible for assistance, a description of methods employed to include public participation and encourage enrollment in the program, an estimate of the funding available for the next fiscal year, and total number of households served by the program during the previous fiscal year.
- 12) Provides that this bill does not prohibit an eligible system from offering assistance to ratepayers that is in addition to, or on top of, the assistance provided through CA LIHWAP.

Grants broad authority for urban retail water suppliers to provide water rate assistance as follows:

- 1) Authorizes an urban retail water supplier to provide water rate assistance to its ratepayers in any manner it determines will best sustainably meet its community's needs while permitting the efficient administration and distribution of any assistance provided. Authorizes a supplier to have the option of using third parties to administer or provide that assistance.
- 2) Authorizes an urban retail water supplier to, in providing the assistance authorized by this bill, provide water rate assistance to its residential ratepayers with an annual household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level, residential ratepayers with an arrearage or those likely to have an arrearage without assistance, or to other ratepayers if a supplier determines that offering assistance would allow it to better meet its community's needs, better administer or provide for a more sustainable program, or better balance competing policy objectives, such as water quality, water efficiency, and water affordability.
- 3) Authorizes an urban retail water supplier to, at its sole discretion, use any funding it has available to provide water rate assistance to its ratepayers provided it does not use any funding derived from a fee or charge levied pursuant to Proposition 218.

- 4) Authorizes an urban retail water supplier to, at its sole discretion, seek and use voluntary contributions of funds from its ratepayers and others to support a water rate assistance program for ratepayers. Authorizes voluntary contributions to be sought on a water bill or through any other legal means. Provides that any voluntary contributions of funds a supplier receives shall not be considered public funds.
- 5) Requires an urban retail water supplier to, in order to establish a water rate assistance program pursuant to this bill, hold a public meeting consistent with the Brown Act.
- 6) Requires, beginning January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, an urban retail water supplier to include in the technical report required by the State Water Board.
- 7) Requires the State Water Board to, by July 1, 2026, conduct a voluntary survey of urban retail water suppliers to determine whether the supplier provides water rate assistance to its customers.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Declares it to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. (Water Code §106.3)
- 2) Declares that access to an adequate supply of healthful water is a basic necessity of human life, and that it shall be made available to all residents of California at an affordable cost. (Public Utilities Code § 739.8 (a))
- 3) Establishes the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. (Health and Safety Code §§116270 – 116755)
- 4) Requires the SWRCB, by January 1, 2018, to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program, as prescribed. Requires the SWRCB, by February 1, 2018, to report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the feasibility, financial stability, and desired structure of the program, including any recommendations for any needed legislative action. Requires the plan to include, among other things, a description of the method for collecting moneys to support and implement the program and a description of the method for determining the amount of moneys that may need to be collected from water ratepayers to fund the program. (Water Code §189.5)
- 5) Establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury to help water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and long term. (HSC §116766)
- 6) Provides that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including water investor-owned utilities (IOUs). Defines “public utility” to include every water corporation and sewer system corporation where the service is performed for, or the commodity delivered to, the public or any portion thereof. (California Constitution Article XII and Public Utilities Code (PUC) § 2701)

- 7) Establishes the California Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the operation of public water systems and imposes on the State Water Board various responsibilities and duties relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. (Health & Safety Code (HSC) §§ 116270 – 116755)
- 8) Establishes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with regulatory authority over privately owned utilities, including water corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)
- 9) Requires the CPUC to consider programs to provide rate relief for low-income ratepayers of water corporations. (Public Utilities Code §739.8)
- 10) Declares that access to an adequate supply of healthful water is a basic necessity of human life, and that it shall be made available to all residents of California at an affordable cost. (Public Utilities Code § 739.8 (a))
- 11) Requires the CPUC to consider, and authorizes it to implement, programs to provide rate relief for low-income ratepayers. (Public Utilities Code § 739.8 (b))

Under the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) statutes:

- 1) Establishes the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) as a department within the California Health and Human Services Agency, and tasks CSD with implementing several types of federal assistance to help low-income households meet their energy needs. (Government Code §§12085-12091 and 16366.1-16367.8)
- 2) States that it is the intent of the Legislature that one-time funding appropriated for the LIHWAP shall be used to prioritize and expedite services that reduce arrearages for low-income households. (Government Code § 12087.2 (a))
- 3) Requires CSD to administer the LIHWAP in California, and requires CSD to receive and expend moneys appropriated and allocated to the state for purposes of that program, pursuant to the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. (Government Code § 12087.2 (b))
- 4) Authorizes CSD, without taking any further regulatory action, to develop and implement a state plan, requirements, guidelines, and sub grantee contract provisions for the LIHWAP. (Government Code § 12087.2 (c))
- 5) Requires the LIHWAP State Plan to include all of the following details regarding program implementation: household eligibility; prioritization; program design and implementation; funding allocation; financial water assistance payments; state oversight and program integrity; public participation; and, data collection and reporting. (Government Code § 12087.2 (d))
- 6) Requires that all expenditures of LIHWAP funding be prioritized for services that reduce the arrearages of eligible households that have past due balances. (Government Code § 12087.2 (e))

- 7) Requires CSD to, upon the execution of contracts for LIHWAP funding with local service providers, report to the Legislature and post to its website the following information by local service provider area: total allocation and allocation by service category. (Government Code § 12087.2 (f))
- 8) Requires CSD to, beginning six months after the execution of contracts for LIHWAP funding with local service providers, and every six months thereafter until funding is exhausted, provide a report to the Legislature that includes the following information by local service provider area: total allocation; allocation by service category; total expenditures; expenditures by service category; households served; and, households served by service category. (Government Code § 12087.2 (g))
- 9) Requires CSD to post a draft state plan to CSD's website and hold a public meeting prior to submission of the state plan to allow for public comment. Requires the final plan to be posted to CSD's website. (Government Code § 12087.2 (h))
- 10) Exempts from Public Contract Code all actions to implement the funding for LIHWAP, including entering into contracts for services or equipment. Authorizes CSD to award contracts for LIHWAP on a noncompetitive bid basis as necessary to implement the purposes of the LIHWAP grant funds. (Government Code § 12087.2 (h))

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill is keyed fiscal and will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for its review.

CUSTOMER COST IMPACTS: This measure proposes establishing a water assistance program to provide financial assistance to low-income households.

BACKGROUND:

Human Right to Water – AB 685 (Eng, Chapter 524, Statutes of 2012) established California as the first state to legally recognize the human right to water. The measure affirms that every person has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitation. Despite this landmark policy, California continues to face significant challenges in realizing this right. Challenges such as the need for an adequate supply of water suitable for drinking, the costs of constructing and maintaining treatment and distribution systems, and the number and nature of small public water systems – especially those in economically disadvantaged communities – among others continue to plague the State's progress in achieving this human right.¹

Regulation of California's Drinking Water Systems – The following describes the various entities with regulatory oversight of California's drinking water systems:

- The State Water Board has primary responsibility for regulating the state's drinking water quality, ensuring compliance with both federal and state standards.² It collaborates with the CPUC, which regulates investor-owned water utilities, and with local governments,

¹State Water Resources Control Board, "Report to the Legislature in Compliance with the Health and Safety Code Section 116365"; September 2021

²Ibid

which oversee municipal and special district water agencies, particularly regarding local rate setting, operational responsibilities, and infrastructure planning.

- *Water Publicly Owned Utilities (POUs)* — More than 80% of California’s residential water customers are served by publicly owned utilities (POUs), which are operated and governed by cities, special districts, and mutual water companies. Like investor-owned utilities (IOUs), POUs vary widely in size, ranging from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which operates and maintains over 700,000 water meters and service connections,³ to the City of Ukiah’s water system, which serves approximately 6,000 customers.⁴ Proposition 218, passed by voters in 1996 restricts these utilities from setting water rates above the cost of providing service, consistent with state constitutional and statutory requirements. As a result, POUs have limited flexibility to increase rates to fund additional programs or to subsidize rate relief for other customer groups.
- *CPUC* — The CPUC regulates over 100 water and sewer utilities IOUs providing water service to about 16% of California’s residents with annual water and wastewater revenues totaling \$1.4 billion.⁵ Approximately 95% of those residents are served by nine large water utilities each serving more than 10,000 connections. The majority of the CPUC-regulated water utilities (92) have service connections of 2,000 or less, and (87) of those have service connections of 500 or less. As with other IOUs, the CPUC regulates the rates charged to customers, ensuring that all costs collected through rates are just and reasonable, and consistent with statutory obligations.
- *Public Water Systems* – A public water system is not necessarily a public entity, and most are privately owned. Approximately 92% of PWS serve less than 1,000 connections.⁶ The State Water Board has primary responsibility for regulating all PWS, but other state agencies can also regulate certain aspects of specific classes of water systems: 1) the CPUC for IOUs, 2) the Division of Corporations for mutual water companies, and 3) the Department of Housing and Community Development for mobile home parks.

The High Costs of Water – The State Drinking Water Plan for California has indicated that water costs have, on average over a five-year period from 2012 to 2017, increased about 35% within all size groups of water systems.⁷ Average water costs remain highest in the San Francisco Bay Area, Central Coast, and Southern California, and lowest in the Central Valley/Agricultural (including Imperial County), Foothill, and Mountain/Desert regions.⁸ On average, customers of small water systems (serving fewer than 200 service connections) pay approximately 21% more for water than customers served by larger systems. Unfortunately, many economically disadvantaged communities are served by small water systems which face several funding barriers.

³ LADWP, “Provision of Water Service for Single-Family Residential Dwelling Units” December 2018

⁴ The Ukiah Daily, “Improving Ukiah water system’ has been a massive project’

<https://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/2021/05/12/improving-ukiah-water-supply-system-has-been-a-massive-project>

⁵ CPUC, “Water Division”; <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/water-division>

⁶ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/waterpartnership.html

⁷ Ranges between 23 to 40%. State Water Resources Control Board, Pg VIII; “Safe Drinking Water Plan for California.” September 2021

⁸ Ibid

Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program Report – To inform policy decisions on water affordability, Assembly Bill 401 (Dodd, Chapter 662, Statutes of 2015) directed the State Water Board, in collaboration with the State Board of Equalization and relevant stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive plan for funding and implementing a Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program (LIRA) for low-income ratepayers by January 1, 2018. The legislation also required the State Water Board to submit a report to the Legislature by February 1, 2018, detailing its findings on the feasibility, long-term financial sustainability, and preferred structure for a statewide assistance program, along with any recommendations legislative actions necessary to implement the program. In response, the State Water Board published the final “Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program Report” in February 2020.

The SWRCB recommends the creation of a statewide Water Rate Assistance Program funded through new revenue sources including, personal income taxes, business income taxes, and a bottled water tax, noting that most water systems are unable to fund low-income assistance programs through customer rates due to legal constraints such as Proposition 218. For qualifying customers, the program recommended by the State Water Board will support bill discounts, crisis assistance, and a tax credit for renters who pay for their water indirectly through rent. These bill discounts are modeled after existing assistance programs:

- Bill discounts are structured similarly to those offered by CPUC-regulated energy utilities under the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program.
- Crisis assistance follows the model of the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD).

The AB 401 Report also acknowledged that funding low-income water assistance programs at the individual system level, without violating constitutional restrictions, would likely be infeasible for most publicly owned water systems. While a system could attempt to impose a special tax to fund such a program, doing so would require submitting the measure to voters for approval by a two-thirds majority.⁹ For systems with a high proportion of eligible low-income customers, this could present significant political challenges, as ratepayers or voters may resist new taxes to subsidize water bills on a larger scale.

California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) – Established in 1964, the CSD is committed to improving the economic security of vulnerable Californians through programs and partnerships that support the state's diverse communities. Such programs include the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Low-Income Weatherization Program, and U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – In addition to its ongoing low-income energy assistance programs, the CSD administered the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) from December 2020 through March 2024.¹⁰ LIHWAP was a limited-term, federally funded program designed to provide financial assistance to low-income households for past-due water and wastewater bills, helping to prevent service disconnections

⁹ Cal. Const., art. XIIIIC, § 2, subd. (d)

¹⁰ CSD; “Low Income Household Water Assistance Program”; <https://www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill>

during and following the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. LIHWAP was first authorized when Congress appropriated \$638 million in emergency funding for the program nationwide¹¹ with California receiving approximately \$60-70 million given the state's share of the national population. Additional funding of \$500 million was later provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in March 2021.¹² Governor Gavin Newsom designated CSD as the state agency responsible for administering the program. LIHWAP provided grants directly to participating community-based service providers, which then assisted eligible low-income households by making payments on their behalf to water and wastewater service providers. Following the program's sunset in March 2024, CSD used remaining federal funds to issue a supplemental benefit to eligible households that had previously received LIHWAP assistance. This final distribution was intended to maximize the impact of remaining resources before the closeout of the program.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Author's Statement.* According to the author, "California families are struggling with the affordability of water, despite the right to safe, clean, and affordable water for basic needs. A 2020 report from the State Water Resources Control Board found that 34% of households earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level needed water rate assistance, and 21% of the state's water systems had unaffordable rates. The pandemic further highlighted this issue, with the federal Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program helping over 85,000 households in California, but the program ended in 2024 with no state program to replace it. AB 532 aims to address water affordability by creating a statewide Low-Income Household Rate Assistance Program, providing legal certainty for local water agencies to run their own assistance programs, and establishing reporting requirements. This legislation affords an opportunity for Californians, especially those in disadvantaged communities, to have access to affordable water."
- 2) *Complications with Financing Water Infrastructure.* Local governments in California are primarily responsible for providing water-related services, including water supply, wastewater (sewer) services, flood control, and storm water management. According to the Public Policy Institute of California's 2014 report, *Paying for Water in California*, there are four primary funding sources currently used to finance water services in the state:
 - Fees — including water and wastewater bills, property-related assessments, developer connection fees, and permitting fees;
 - Taxes — such as general taxes and special taxes, including parcel taxes;
 - Fines and Penalties — levied for violations such as excessive groundwater pumping or noncompliance with drought-related water use restrictions;
 - Bonds — including general obligation bonds and revenue bonds used to finance large-scale infrastructure projects.

¹¹ AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN & LIHWAP: Celebrating the Impact; "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN & LIHWAP; Accessed April 25, 2025.

¹² Ibid

However, these funding streams are often limited and are generally considered insufficient to sustainably finance broad-based water affordability programs across the state.

Unlike IOUs, POUs are subject to constitutional constraints on their ability to collect rates or fees to fund low-income rate assistance programs, due to Proposition 218 and Proposition 26 which ties charges to the cost of service. Specifically:

- Enacted in 1996, Proposition 218 requires that revenues derived from property-related fees and charges must not exceed the funds necessary to provide the corresponding service.¹³ It also mandates that the service funded by the fee must be immediately available rather than used for future, potential, or unrelated benefits.
- Enacted in 2010, Proposition 26 requires that local governments prove, “that any fee or charge imposed is, “no more than necessary to cover the reasonable cost of the governmental activity.”

As a result, water POUs are prohibited from using revenue collected from water bills to fund low-income assistance programs unless a separate, legally compliant funding source is identified. This creates ongoing challenges for public agencies seeking to address water affordability for vulnerable populations.

- 3) *Budget Deficit.* The first section of this measure focuses on small water systems and larger water systems serving disadvantaged communities. By doing so, it requires CSD to, upon appropriation of funding by the Legislature, establish and administer the statewide CA LIHWAP to provide water rate assistance to residential ratepayers of covered water systems, which it defines as:
 - i) Publicly or privately owned water systems that serve 3,000 or fewer end users or provide 3,000 or fewer acre-feet of potable water annually, and;
 - ii) Urban retail water suppliers whose service areas consist of at least 50 percent disadvantaged communities, as measured by population and defined in this bill.

While the legislative goal of creating a statewide water rate assistance program for low-income households—especially those served by small systems and in disadvantaged communities—is important, its reliance on future legislative appropriations may limit the program’s implementation in light of the state’s budget deficit.

- 4) *Where is CPUC?* The second section of the bill targets larger water systems by granting urban retail water suppliers broad authority to provide water rate assistance in a manner they determine best meets the long-term needs of their communities. Specifically, it authorizes urban retail water suppliers, at their sole discretion, to use any available funding to support rate assistance programs and to seek and use voluntary contributions

from ratepayers or other sources to further support such efforts. However, the definition of “urban retail water supplier” in the bill is inclusive of both public and private entities.

Public water suppliers are locally governed, subject to Proposition 218 cost-of-service requirements, required to operate transparently under open meeting laws, and directly accountable to their voters. In contrast, private water retailers are primarily governed by corporate boards and regulated by the CPUC. They are not subject to Proposition 218 and are required to obtain CPUC approval through regulatory proceedings for changes to rates and customer programs.

This bill while framed as a solution to meet the unique needs of public water systems, inadvertently provides private water corporations with the sole discretion to establish rate programs outside of CPUC review. This would be a monumental shift in utility policy: allowing private corporations ultimate authority and leaving their customers without a regulator to ensure consumers are not overcharged or to assure that the facilities are operated in a safe and reliable manner. The author acknowledges it was not the intent to remove necessary CPUC oversight for private water corporations; rather, they were seeking a program structure that was suitable to public water suppliers without much consideration to the private corporations also included. *As such, the committee recommends removing private water suppliers from this section and limiting this authority to establish water rate assistance programs – outside of state support – to only public urban retail water suppliers, upon approval by the supplier’s governing body. This would delete the language that grants sole discretion to the retail water supplier. Additionally, only public urban retail water suppliers—not private urban retail water suppliers—shall be required to submit a technical report to the State Water Board regarding the operation of the newly established water rate assistance program.* The author and committee may wish to consider potential options for including private water retailers in this section in the future, so long as CPUC regulatory oversight is preserved.

5) *Related Legislation*

SB 350 (Durazo, 2025) establishes the Water Rate Assistance Program and the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury, available upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income residential ratepayers. Status: Seante Committee on Appropriations.

6) *Prior Legislation*

SB 1255 (Durazo) would have required, on or before July 1, 2027, retail water suppliers that serve over 3,300 residential connections to establish a water rate assistance program (WRAP), as specified, to provide assistance to eligible ratepayers for their water and wastewater bills. Status: Status: This bill was held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

SB 222 (Dodd, 2021) would have created a Low-Income Water Rate Assistance program for all California water agencies. Status: This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

SB 200 (Monning) created the SAFER program to support rollout of safe and affordable drinking water for disadvantaged communities. Status: Chapter 120, Statutes of 2019.

AB 217 (E. Garcia, 2019) would have created the Safe Drinking Water for All Act (Act), which would have established the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (Fund) to provide a source of funding for safe drinking water for all Californians, and long-term sustainability of drinking water systems. Would have imposed several fees on agricultural activities and a charge on retail water systems that together would provide the source of revenue to the Fund. Status: This bill was subsequently amended into another subject.

SB 669 (Caballero, 2019) would have established the Safe Drinking Water Fund to assist community water systems in disadvantaged communities that are chronically noncompliant. Would have created Safe Drinking Water Trust Fund to receive funding from the state and provide the fund source to the Safe Drinking Water Fund. Status: This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 669 (Caballero, 2019) would have established the Safe Drinking Water Fund to assist community water systems in disadvantaged communities that are chronically noncompliant. Would have created Safe Drinking Water Trust Fund to receive funding from the state and provide the fund source to the Safe Drinking Water Fund. Status: This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 998 (Dodd) required all public water systems (with more than 200 connections) to have a written policy on discontinuation of residential water service, provide that policy in multiple languages, include provisions for not shutting off water for certain customers that meet specified criteria, prohibit the shutoff of water service until the bill has been delinquent for 60 days, and caps the reconnection fees for restoring water service. Status: Chapter 891, Statutes of 2018.

SB 623 (Monning, 2017) would have created the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, administered by the State Water Board, and would have imposed water, fertilizer and dairy fees to fund safe drinking water programs. Status: This bill was held in the Assembly Committee on Rules.

AB 401 (Dodd) required the State Water Board, in collaboration with the State Board of Equalization and relevant stakeholders, to develop a plan for funding and implementing a Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. Status: Chapter 662, Statutes of 2015.

AB 685 (Eng) declared the right to clean, safe, and affordable water for drinking and sanitation. Status: Chapter 524, Statutes of 2012.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Association of California Water Agencies
Burbank Water and Power
Ca-nv American Water Works Association
California Council for Environmental & Economic Balance (CCEEB)

California Municipal Utilities Association
California Special Districts Association
California Water Association
City of Roseville
City of Sacramento
City of Thousand Oaks
Contra Costa Water District
Desert Water Agency
East Valley Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Mission Springs Water District
Palmdale Water District
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho California Water District
Regional Water Authority
Santa Rosa; City of
West Valley Water District
Western Municipal Water District

Opposition

None on file.

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