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Irvine Ranch
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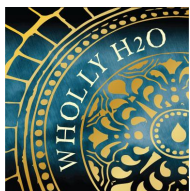
PSR LA
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles



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A NEW ECONOMY FOR ALL



City of
SACRAMENTO



June 8, 2026

Submitted Via Position Letter Portal

The Honorable Damon Connolly
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1125 (Menjivar) – Water Rate Assistance Program

Dear Assemblymember Connolly:

The undersigned organizations are deeply invested in ensuring water is affordable for California residents. That's why we are proud to support SB 1125 (Menjivar). SB 1125 would establish a first in the nation Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program to bring down utility costs and ensure that all Californians can access drinking water services regardless of income.

The Human Right to Water, enacted in California in 2012, calls for water to be safe, clean, *affordable*, and accessible. Yet water rate increases regularly outpace inflation; drinking water services increased by 45% between 2007 and 2015, and a 2025 [trade article](#) found that water and sewer bills for a typical U.S. household have increased 24% over the past 5 years. Meanwhile, public water systems are hindered in their attempt to assist their low-income ratepayers by the limitations of Proposition 218. For example, in 2024 courts overturned a low-income rate assistance program enacted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

At the individual system level, most public water systems face legal and financial barriers to establishing robust affordability programs. Only about half of California households are served by a public water system that offers low-income rate assistance, and those programs that do exist suffer from limited funding and low enrollment. These programs tend to be offered by the largest and most affluent of California's public water systems. Further, large systems, like the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, have faced significant legal challenges jeopardizing the very existence of their local affordability program, and hundreds of small water systems that serve California households lack the resources and capacity to even consider implementing an affordability program. The problem is particularly acute where the majority of households in a community are low-income. Without outside resources, these systems have no options for helping their customers. We need to address this severe gap in our social safety net.

We believe that SB 1125 is a vital step toward lowering utility costs, promoting water equity and ensuring that all Californians, regardless of income, have access to affordable water services. We urge an aye vote on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clary
California Director
Clean Water Action

Michael Claiborne
Directing Attorney
Leadership Counsel Action

Kelsey Hinton
Policy Director
Community Water Center

Molly Culton
Chapter Organizing Director
Sierra Club California

Katelyn Roedner Sutter
California State Director
Environmental Defense Fund

Jason A. Martin
General Manager
Rancho California Water District

Lauren Ahkiam
Climate Campaign Director
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Jim Lindburg
Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of California

Michael Rincon
Research and Policy Manager
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

Nayamin Martinez
Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Miguel Alatorre Jr
Executive Director/Co-Founder
UNIDOS Network

Madi Richards
Policy Manager
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Betsy Reifsnider
Sacramento Policy Associate
Mono Lake Committee

Raquel Mason
Senior Legislative Manager
California Environmental Justice Alliance

Sarah Erlich
Attorney and Policy Advisor
Center for Environmental Health

Suzanne Hume
Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Kevin Hamilton
Director
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air

Regina Q. Banks
Director
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - CA

Maura Monagan
Policy & Government Affairs Manager
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Akashdeep Singh, JD
Western States Policy Advocate
Union of Concerned Scientists

Dr. Elizabeth Dougherty
Executive Director
Wholly H2O

Robert W. Bowcock
Managing Director
Integrated Resource Management, Inc.

Erin Brockovich
Founder
Erin Brockovich Inc.

Krista Bernasconi
Mayor
City of Roseville

Caity Maple
Council Member, District 5. Chair, Law & Legislation Committee
City of Sacramento

James Peifer
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority

Joe Soria
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Lindsay

Gregorio Gomez
Councilmember
City of Farmersville

Bryan Osorio
Councilmember
City of Delano

Jose Sigala
Councilmember
City of Tulare

Tim Prado
President of Board
Lamont Public Utility District

Irene Cacho
Le Grand Resident
SAFER Advisory Group

Natalia Ospina
Legal Director
Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment

Eddie Valero
Supervisor
Tulare County District 4

Destiny Rodriguez
Vice President
**State Center Community College
District**

Denise Kadara
President
Allensworth Progressive Association

Kari Quintana
Trustee
**Sultana Community Services District
Board**

Irene Kao
Executive Director
Courage California

Paul Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District

Shannon Olivieri Hovis
Chief Strategy Officer
California Environmental Voters

Amy Schur
Campaign Director
**Alliance of Californians for
Community Empowerment (ACCE)
Action**

Katherine Chu
Legislative Director
**Asian Pacific Environmental Network
(APEN) Action**

Matthew Baker
Policy Director
Planning and Conservation League

Camerina Davidson
President
**California National Organization for
Women (CA NOW)**

Jennifer Capitolo
Executive Director
California Water Association

Debbie Michel
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
East Bay Municipal Utilities District

Soren Nelson
Senior Policy Advocate
**Association of California Water
Agencies**

Andrea Abergel
Director of Water
**California Municipal Utility
Association**

Dennis J. Herrera
General Manager
**San Francisco Public Utilities
Commission**

Morgen Snyder
Director of Policy and Programs
Restore the Delta

Jann Dorman
Executive Director
Friends of the River