

**State Water Resources Control Board**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a series of public meetings seeking recommendations on how to make drinking water affordable for low-income Californians. Anyone with ideas about how to develop and implement a statewide low-income rate assistance program is encouraged to attend and provide comments. We are also interested in hearing about existing rate assistance programs, and whether they have been successful at helping people to manage their water bills.

**Dates and locations of Public Meetings are listed below:**

Public Workshop	Scheduled Date & Time	Location
<b>Fresno</b>	October 12, 2016 6:00-8:00 pm	<b>Woodward Park Regional Library Meeting Room</b> 944 E. Perrin Ave Fresno, CA 93720
<b>Redding</b>	October 19, 2016 6:00-8:00 pm	<b>City Hall Building</b> 777 Cypress Avenue Redding, CA 96001
<b>Inglewood</b>	October 26, 2016 6:30-8:30 pm	<b>Inglewood City Hall Community Room</b> One Manchester Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90301
<b>Oakland</b>	November 7, 2016 6:00-8:00 pm	<b>East Bay Municipal Utility District</b> 375 11th Street Oakland, CA 94607
<b>Bakersfield</b>	November 9, 2016 6:00-8:00 pm	<b>Junior League Community Center</b> 1928 - 19th Street Bakersfield, CA 93303

*\*Spanish interpretation services will be made available at public meetings.*

*\*\*One or more of the State Water Board members may be present for the meeting, but no State Water Board action will be taken during the meeting.*



**Background**

State law provides that every Californian has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. The State Water Resources Control Board is developing a plan for a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance Program, which is required by A.B. 401 (2015, Dodd) to be released no later than February 1, 2018.



FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Submission of comments**

Please send written comments to Kathy Frevert at (916) 322-5274 or [Kathy.Frevert@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kathy.Frevert@waterboards.ca.gov). In your email message, please use the subject: "Comments on low-income rate assistance".

### **Additional Information**

Please direct questions about this notice to Esther Tracy at (916) 341-5908 or [Esther.Tracy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Esther.Tracy@waterboards.ca.gov)

## **Statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance Program Topics for Comment at Public Meetings**

- **Nature of the assistance that could be offered by the program**
  - What is a reasonable amount of assistance to low-income households?
  - What form should this assistance take (rebate, bill cost reduction, tax credit, other)?
  
- **Program eligibility**
  - How should a household's eligibility be determined?
  - What other entities besides households should qualify for assistance? (Schools? Day care centers? Health care centers?)
  - Should water quality challenges in a community be a priority for granting eligibility? For example, should the additional costs of bottled water be taken into account when water is purchased because tap water isn't safe?
  - What changes should increase or decrease the level of assistance?
  - What percentage of income spent on water should trigger eligibility?
  - Should enrollment in other programs serve as a basis for which to make an individual eligible? If so, which programs could serve this role: electric utility lifeline programs, telephone lifeline programs, Medicaid, other forms of government aid, other programs?
  
- **Program funding resources**
  - How much revenue is needed for the program?
  - How should the revenue be generated; what revenue sources are appropriate?
  - How should the revenue be collected?
  - How should the assistance be distributed?
  - How should the revenue be allocated across customer classes within systems?
  
- **Technical administration of the program**
  - Should the program be administered at the local or state level?
  - If at the local level, should it be administered by the water system or by local government?
  - If at the local level, should the State Water Board be involved in administration?
  - What measures should be in place to ensure proper program oversight?
  - How should program performance be evaluated?