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California State Senate

BILL DODD

SENATOR, THIRD DISTRICT



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Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
California State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

re: Support data collection of revenue needs of vulnerable water systems, household water utility debt

Dear Board Chair Esquivel:

I write to support the State Water Board's efforts to collect data on the important issues of revenue needs of vulnerable water systems and household water utility debt levels.

The issue of water access and affordability has long been a priority issue of mine. As you are aware, I have authored several bills focused on water affordability, (AB 401), better transparency around water data (AB 1755), and creating more protections for low-income families who are impacted by water service disconnections (SB 998).

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of life in difficult and unpredictable ways – and water affordability is no exception. That is why I support the Board taking proactive and intentional action to better assess 1) to what extent small and vulnerable water system revenue is being negatively impacted, and 2) to better understand the level of household water debt levels that could result in significant numbers of water shutoffs once California's statewide water shutoff moratorium expires.

I support the Board's efforts to take action on this issue and encourage such data to be collected by end of this year, so that it can help inform thoughtful solutions as we look to the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Dodd".

BILL DODD
State Senator, 3rd Senate District