

# Affordable and Safe Drinking Water Initiative

February 8, 2017

# Workshop Purpose and Format

- Update on staff analysis for low-income rate assistance (AB 401) and safe drinking water assistance (SB 552)
  - Methodology
  - Cost Estimates
- Human Right to Water Web Portal
- Panels to discuss key policy considerations
- Receive public input

# California's Progress on the Human Right to Water

- Established mechanisms for consolidating small drinking water systems in disadvantaged communities with larger systems to solve contamination problems. (SB 88, 2015)
- Created new requirements so that new drinking water systems will not be approved if they exacerbate safety and affordability issues. (SB 1263, 2016)
- Invested \$325 million on upgrades to drinking water treatment systems through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund.
- Established a Clean Water for Schools program to make \$9.5 million available to schools for water bottle filling stations and point-of-use water treatment devices.

# AB 401

- Develop a plan for a statewide low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program
  - California would be the first state to implement a statewide LIRA program
- Report to the Legislature due February 1, 2018
- Public scoping meetings held in October & November 2016
  - Additional meetings will be held in Spring 2017
- UCLA leading economic and programmatic analysis
  - UC Berkeley performing legal analysis

# Questions for Panelists

- How could the program benefit amount be determined?
- How could eligible residents receive a benefit?
- How could the program be administered, both for revenue collection and for benefit distribution?