

**State Water Resources & Control Board meeting**  
**Monday, August 14, 2017**  
**Aaron Rabinowitz Speech**

My name is Aaron Rabinowitz. I am the second generation owner of a local ice cream manufacturing business that has been operating in San Diego for over 30 years.

I am here because I am concerned about the large number of households in San Diego that have had their water shut off.

Since 2013 the city council has approved 55% in water rate increases. People being forced to live without running water in their homes was already a major problem before these increases. How can a 20%, or even 35% reduction on a bill that has gone up 55% solve the problem of households having their water turned off?

I also am concerned with how this program will be funded. Levying taxes or fees on every water customer making more than just 200% of the federal poverty level will make water unaffordable for many working class families in San Diego. This will lead to more shutoffs. According to an August 9<sup>th</sup> article in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* buying a median-priced San Diego County home requires a minimum yearly income of just over \$120,000 dollars. I mention this statistic to demonstrate that an income of more than 200% of the federal poverty level is no guarantee that you will not need assistance to keep your water turned on.

I would also like to mention that running a business that manufactures food, I know a good deal about the importance of hygiene and food safety. There is a whole supply chain of food for the ingredients before they come to my store. There are farm workers who milk the cows, people at processing plants, those who pick and process the other ingredients and more. If anyone along that chain of food supply does not have running water in their home it can lead to unsanitary conditions that should not be found in a wealthy modern country. Workers who are forced to live in unsanitary conditions can pose a threat to the public health, even if the business they work for follows all health and safety regulations.

We need more than just a 20-35% reduction in water bills for those who are unable to pay. Shutoffs need to be ended and the program to fund this relief should be funded by ending tax cuts for corporations and wealthy individuals who don't need them, not by raising rates for working class families and small businesses. We know that big corporations like Google, Apple, Northrop Grumman and others receive such generous tax breaks that they often pay little to nothing while the rest of us receive no such special treatment. Thank you.