



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



CMUA
CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
ASSOCIATION



January 26, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814 Sacramento, CA95814

RE: Assembly Bill 80 (Committee on Budget) and Senate Bill 91 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Rental Protections and Assistance

Dear Governor and Legislative Leaders:

The undersigned organizations collectively represent the breadth of municipal utility providers in communities throughout California, including water, sewer/wastewater, and electricity services. As publicly owned electric utilities (POU) and water agencies, our members are local governments that are locally owned by local customers and rates are based on cost-of-service.

Our members have been steadfast during the COVID-19 crisis, consistently providing local services that have made it possible for California's stay at home orders to be successfully adhered to as residents' immediate needs for water, sanitation, and electricity continue to be provided for in a safe and reliable manner, even when customer payments are outstanding.

We extend our appreciation to you and the Legislature for setting up a process that will allow renters to access funds to pay down utility debt through their landlords and for ensuring that funding is dispersed in a timely manner. However, COVID-19 response impacts have left many POUs, public water agencies, and their customers with a significant amount of utility debt that we anticipate will not be fully addressed by this initial funding.

While we believe the agreement represented in Assembly Bill 80 (Committee on Budget) and Senate Bill 91 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) is a positive start to addressing these issues, we believe there is more work to be done in this area, including assistance for homeowners, commercial customers, and direct assistance for utilities to help address arrearages.

Our members are committed to working with customers to address billing issues and stand ready to work with your Administration and the Legislature toward a more comprehensive solution.

Sincerely,



Alyssa Silhi
California Special Districts Association



Danielle Blacet-Hyden
California Municipal Utilities Association



Adam Quinonez
Association of California Water Agencies

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Assembly Member Phil Ting, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget
Committee Members, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee Members, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget