



February 2, 2021

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

Re: COVID-19: Distribution of California's Share of Federal Funding for Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to request a meeting with key members of your Cabinet to discuss how to expedite distribution of California's share of the \$638 million for a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program that the federal government included in its December stimulus bill, as well as any additional federal funding for this purpose, if it becomes available.

As you know, the State Water Resources Control Board released the results of its statewide survey of water systems, which found that California residents owe an estimated \$600 million in unpaid drinking water bills along with \$400 million dollars in other utility debt tied to the water bill. There is an urgent need to assist low-income households impacted by COVID with relief for water debt.

To access the federal aid, the State must develop a mechanism for distributing the funding. A number of State Agencies have been discussed, including the Department of Community Services and Development and the Office of Emergency Services. To ensure quick and efficient distribution of these funds, we request a virtual meeting to discuss the existing mechanisms that are available to ensure timely and efficient distribution of funds.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this meeting request.

Sincerely,



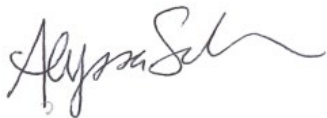
Jennifer Capitolo
Executive Director
California Water Association



Danielle Blacet-Hyden
Deputy Executive Director
California Municipal Utilities Association



Cindy Tuck
Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations
Association of California Water Agencies



Alyssa Silhi
Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association



Jessica Gauger
Director of Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

cc:

The Honorable Keely Bosler, Director of the California Department of Finance
Ms. Ana Matosantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Ms. Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom