



ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

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April 15, 2014

Honorable Fran Pavley
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1036 (Pavley) – Support

Dear Senator Pavley,

ORA (Office of Ratepayer Advocates) is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). ORA's statutory mandate is to obtain the lowest possible rate for utility service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. ORA also advocates for customer and environmental protections in connection with utility service.

ORA supports your SB 1036 which would authorize urban water suppliers to include within their water management plans certain energy-related information including, but not limited to, the energy required to treat, deliver and store water, and would also require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a methodology for urban water systems to voluntarily report on the amount of energy their water system uses, as specified.

ORA supports your efforts to provide urban water suppliers with a methodology and framework to report data related to the embedded energy in their water supplies. SB 1036 will help ensure that energy intensity data is regularly collected, updated and presented in a uniform manner statewide, thereby furthering the accuracy of energy-savings estimates for water conservation projects. This will ultimately serve to facilitate the deployment of water-energy projects statewide and ensure that water-energy projects undertaken are cost effective to ratepayers.

ORA is hopeful that this will lead to the creation of a statewide database for such information. A statewide database of energy intensity data would facilitate the assessment of cost-effectiveness for water-energy nexus projects, as well as help determine the appropriate division of costs for water-energy partnerships.

Facilitating cost-effective Water-Energy Nexus projects is currently a priority for ORA. ORA was recently successfully in petitioning the CPUC to open a Water-Energy Nexus rulemaking (R.13-12-011) that will address the appropriate methodology for assessing the cost effectiveness of water-energy nexus partnerships.

We look forward to participating in that rulemaking and working with you on these important issues. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call ORA's Legislative Advisor, Rebecca Lee, at (916) 327-1407 or me at (415) 703-2381.

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Como, Acting Director
Office of Ratepayer Advocates

By
Rebecca Lee
Legislative Advisor