



ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
Tel: 415-703-2381
Fax: 415-703-2057

JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

<http://ora.ca.gov>

March 19, 2015

Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 401 (Dodd) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Dodd,

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

ORA supports your AB 401 which would require the Department of Community Services and Development, the State Board of Equalization and other stakeholders to develop a statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program plan, as specified.

All Californians should have access to safe, reliable and affordable water service. AB 401 would help advance these commonly-shared goals by developing a plan to establish a statewide and centralized low-income fund to assist eligible low-income water customers.

ORA looks forward to working with you to help ensure those persons most in need have access to discounted clean and reliable water service. 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