



# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING  
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

January 9, 2019

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000



Re: Options for Implementation of a Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program

Dear Ms. Townsend:

I work in Special Districts for the County of Fresno and my service areas include districts in Cantua Creek and El Porvenir. My customers are typically two months behind on payments so I am thrilled with this assistance program. I approve of the funding source, the qualifying income level, and the assistance tiers.

My only concern is with the ideas to distribute the assistance. I do not think the tax credit would be beneficial to my customers. Before I came to Public Works, I worked for Social Services coaching participants in the Welfare to Work program. Most people receiving aid do not file taxes so they would not see the tax credit. I think the best option for distribution is the EBT card.

This is a necessary and optimistic plan and I am pleased that the State of California is moving in this direction. Thank you for your work on this program.

Best regards,

Hilary Malveaux  
Staff Analyst  
Special Districts Administration