

**Stanley Brown's speech to the State Water Board 6/28/17 regarding the Water Board thinking outside the box and implementing SWPAUW's demands**

Good evening. My name is Stanley Brown and I am a disabled landscaper living in West Oakland. I am speaking to you today as a member of the Service Workers Project for Affordable Water and Utilities, or SWPAWU. SWPAWU is a committee of the Bay Area Workers Benefit Council, run by and for low-income service workers, dedicated to prevent water and utility service shutoffs. We teach volunteers how to do case by case advocacy on behalf of homeowners and renters who request assistance when they are in danger of losing their water service or other utilities. We have had a surge of new members reporting no running tap water in their homes.

Our committee has fought for over 500 low-income heads of household whose residential water or utility service was turned off by EBMUD or PG&E primarily in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

I am speaking to the inadequacy of the four scenarios and call on the State Water Board to think outside the box. We demand that the State Water Board implement the following to full-fill your duty to implement AB 685 and 401:

- 1) Install a permanent moratorium on disconnection of water service for any customer whose income is at or below the federal poverty level.
- 2) Eliminate all fees and fines, disconnect and reconnect fees, deposits, water theft fees charged for any water rate-payer whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- 3) Forgive all past water debt for families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- 4) Install rate adjustments so that household water costs do not exceed 2% of household income, per federal standards, for any customer whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.