

ORPP



100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, CA 93436

August 21, 2017

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair  
And Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
c/o Ms. Mary Yang  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 "I" Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered by email: [Mary.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov)

Subject: Comment Letter-LIRA Program Scenarios

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the City of Lompoc (City), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the efforts of the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to develop a statewide low-income water rate assistance program. The City has reviewed the Board's four program scenarios and attended the Board meeting in Fresno on August 10, 2017. The City owns and operates its own water utility, which supplies water to approximately 10,000 City customers.

The following is a list of concerns/thoughts to ease implementation of a statewide assistance program:

- The City does not have the staff or the financial resources to administer a low-income assistance program. Therefore, the City supports using one of the existing low-income programs to implement the assistance program: California Alternate Rates for Energy, Energy Savings Assistance Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or Universal Service Program.

- Make the assistance a reduction of the fixed charge on a customer's water bill. Consumption tiers are too variable and differ between water agencies. It is easier to forecast the cost of the program through a fixed charge.
- The City does not support a tax credit because many low-income customers do not file income tax returns.
- The City does not support a state water public good charge on local utility bills.
- The City does support the use of existing state fines and penalty revenue to support the assistance program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the low-income water rate assistance program. If you have questions, please contact Susan Segovia at (805) 875-8297 or Jennifer Main at (805) 875-8252.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wiemiller  
City Manager

Cc: Larry Bean, Utility Director  
Susan Segovia, Senior Administrative Analyst  
Jennifer Main, Conservation Coordinator