ACLU
CALIFORNIA
ACTION

a slice of
NEW YORK

EMERALD
NECKLACE

APEN
ASIAN PACIFIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
NETWORK

BTU

CALIFORNIACALLS
an alliance to renew the dream

ASIAN AMERICANS
ADVANCING
JUSTICE

CALIFORNIA
COASTKEEPER
ALLIANCE

CARENT
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC RENTERS COUNCIL

CA
DEM
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

CALIFORNIA
HEALTHY NAIL SALON
COLLABORATIVE

CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT
POLICY CENTER

CLCV
California League of
Conservation Voters

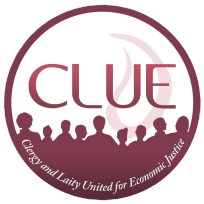
CALIFORNIA
LATINAS for
REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE

California Rural
Legal Assistance
Foundation

CCEJN
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Ceres

CHILD CARE
LAW CENTER

CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

CLUE
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice

Community Stabilization Project
"Tenant Stability Leads to Community Stability"

CLEAN WATER
ACTION

COMMUNITY WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

CRL
Center for Responsible Lending

East Yard
Communities
For Environmental Justice

ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
FOR ALL

EQUAL RIGHTS
ADVOCATES

Friends Committee on
Legislation of California

FOOD&
WATER WATCH

THE
GREENLINING
INSTITUTE

Heal the Bay

HOUSING
¡VIVIENDA
AHORA!
NOW!

HIP
HUMAN IMPACT PARTNERS

IAPMO

INNER
CITY
LAW
CENTER

ITPI
IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

IWSH.org

laane
A NEW ECONOMY FOR ALL

SACRED PLACES INSTITUTE
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

September 1, 2021

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Pro tem
California State Senate

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker
California State Assembly

Re: Extending the Utility Shut Off Moratorium and Water and Wastewater Arrearages Payment Program Amendments

Dear pro-Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to extend the moratorium for shutoffs for water and energy customers until March 31, 2022, in order to allow for agencies to distribute arrearages funds before Californians lose access to their water or power.

We greatly appreciate the action of the legislature to allocate $2 billion to address Covid-related energy and water debt. However, the energy and water shutoff moratoriums expire on September 30, 2021, while the budget trailer language approved by the legislature allows state agencies until March 31, 2022, to distribute these funds to pay off customer debts. This gap in time between the expiration of the moratorium and distribution of funding will allow water systems to shut off water for customers still struggling to recover from the pandemic. There are limits on utilities' abilities to shut off customers' service between that period, but these limitations are wholly insufficient to protect Californians who otherwise could receive these funds. We urge the Legislature and Governor to act to extend the shutoff moratoriums before the end of the legislative session.

We propose the following amendments:

Government Code Section 16429.5

(f) (1) Within 60 days of receiving CAPP funds, a utility applicant shall issue CAPP assistance benefits to customers as bill credits to help address the eligible past due balance and shall include a statement that the credits are a result of California's CAPP funding. Utility applicants shall ensure all available active and inactive residential and commercial accounts are included in CAPP applications. If CAPP funding is not sufficient to meet utility applicant requests, utility applicants shall prioritize the issuance of CAPP

assistance in the following order: (A) active residential customers who are past due and who, absent the CAPP assistance might be subject to service disconnection, consistent with current law, due to nonpayment of balances incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period, (B) active residential customers with delinquent balances incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period, (C) inactive residential accounts with delinquent balances incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period, and (D) commercial customers with delinquent balances incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period. An energy utility shall not disconnect a CAPP recipient's utility service, regardless of balance owed after applying a CAPP benefit, for 90 days after a CAPP benefit is applied. *An energy utility shall not disconnect a residential or commercial utility customer before March 31, 2022.*

Health and Safety Code Section 116773.4

(e) (1) A community water system shall provide customers with arrearages accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period a notice that they may enter into a payment plan and that they have 30 days from the date of the notice to enroll in the payment plan. A payment plan and its associated rules offered by a community water system of any size shall conform with Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 116900), notwithstanding limitations in that chapter relating to a community water system's size. A community water system shall not discontinue water service to a customer that remains current on a payment plan.
(2) A community water system ~~receiving funds under this chapter~~ shall not discontinue water service due to nonpayment of past-due bills before either of the following dates, whichever date is later:
(A) ~~September 30, 2021.~~ *March 31, 2022.*

We also request the legislature amend the Water and Wastewater Arrearages Payment Program to provide the State Water Board with the flexibility to address water debt that has been transferred to property tax rolls or other third party entities. Some water agencies in the state have already transferred customer utility debt over to counties as property tax liens. The existing language does not provide the State Water Board sufficient flexibility to provide relief to these customers. The legislature must work with the State Water Board to develop language allowing them flexibility to cover these debts.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue – we would be happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ahkiam, Water Campaign Director
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Belen Bernal, Executive Director
Nature for All

Michael K. Claiborne, Directing Attorney
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Sergio Carranza, Executive Director
Pueblo Unido CDC

Cindy Donis, Community Organizer
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Jennifer Clary, California Director
Clean Water Action

Angela Mooney D'Arcy, Executive Director
Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples (SPI)

Brandon Dawson, Director
Sierra Club California

Nikita Koraddi, CA Legislative Advocate
Natural Resources Defense Council

Uriel Saldivar, Senior Policy Advocate
Community Water Center

Evan Minton, CA State Policy & Programmatic Manager

Bruce Reznik, Executive Director

Voices for Progress

Jonas Minton, Senior Water Policy Advisor
Planning and Conservation League

Chione Lucina Muñoz Flegal, Managing Director
PolicyLink

Jorge Rivera, Organizing & Advocacy Campaign Director
The Utility Reform Network (TURN)

Michael Rincon, Environmental Policy Researcher
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles (PSR-LA)

Melissa Romero, Legislative Affairs Manager
California League of Conservation Voters

Betsy Reifsnider, Sacramento Policy Associate
Mono Lake Committee

Lorena García Zermeño, Policy & Communications Coordinator
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

Nayamin Martinez, MPH, Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Jay Ziegler, Director of External Affairs & Policy
California Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

Kevan Insko, Director
Friends Committee on Legislation of CA

Robyn Fischer, Director of Government Relations
International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

Jay Ziegler, Director of Policy and Internal Affairs
The Nature Conservancy

Alexis Sutterman, Energy Equity Program Manager
California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)

Veronica Carrizales, Policy & Campaign Development Director
CALIFORNIA CALLS

Kevin G. Baker, Interim Executive Director
ACLU California Action

Matt Legé, Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California State Council

Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Claire Robinson, Managing Director
Amigos De Los Rios

Cynthia Castillo, Policy Advocate
Western Center on Law and Poverty

Erin Rodriguez, CA Policy Advocate
Union of Concerned Scientists

Sasha Harnden, Public Policy Advocate
Inner City Law Center

Maria Moreno, Lead Organizer
ROC The Bay

Cindy Clark, Policy Manager
Ceres

Jessica Ramey Stender, Senior Counsel
Equal Rights Advocates (ERA)

Kevin Al Perez, Co-Founder/President
Somos Familia Valle

Belen Bernal, Coalition Coordinator
OurWaterLA Coalition

Sean Bothwell, Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Dain Hansen, Executive Vice President
International Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Foundation (IWSH)

Regina Q. Banks Director
Lutheran Office of Public Policy CA

Marisabel Torres, CA Policy Director
Center for Responsible Lending

Jassy Grewal, MPA, Legislative Director
UFCW Western States Council

Donald Cohen, Executive Director
In The Public Interest (ITPI)

Francisco Dueñas, Executive Director
Housing Now!

Patricia J. Flores Yrarrázaval, Project Director
Orange County Environmental Justice (OCEJ)

Marisol Franco, Director of Policy Programs
Women's Foundation California

Faith Lee, Policy Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice- CA (AAAJ-CA)

Laura Feinstein, Sustainability & Resilience Policy Director
SPUR

Juliet Christian-Smith, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer
Water Foundation

Dr Roy Wilson, Executive Director
Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center

Rita Medina, Deputy Director, State Policy & Advocacy
Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights

Kimberly Fuentes, Policy & Communications Director
California League of United Latin American Citizens

Mary Grant, Public Water for All Campaign Director
Food & Water Watch

Rebecca Gonzales, Director of Government Relations & Political Affairs
National Association of Social Workers, CA Chapter (NASW-CA)

Yassi Eskandari, Esq., Attorney & Policy Director
Sustainable Economies Law Center

Michelle Seyler, J.D., Executive Director
Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice

Sophia Simon-Ortiz, MPH, Senior Public Health Organizer
Human Impact Partners

Swati Sharma, Research & Policy Director
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Yassi Eskandari, Esq., Coordinator
Worker-Owned Recovery California

Mark E. Carlson
Lutherans Restoring Creation - CA

Esther Malkin, Founder
Monterey County Renters United

Kim Kruckel, Executive Director
Child Care Law Center

Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director
NextGen California

Mar Velez, State Policy Senior Manager
Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA

Agustin Cabrera, Coalition Director
RePowerLA Coalition

Tracy Rosenberg, Executive Director
Media Alliance

Thomas J Collishaw, President/CEO
Self-Help Enterprises

Jessica Tovar, Organizer
Local Clean Energy Alliance

Bob Erlenbusch, Executive Director
Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness (SRCEH)

Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Kurt Petersen, Co-President
Unite Here Local 11

Carolyn Brown Co/Director
Community Stabilization Project

Igor Tregub, Chair
CADEM Environmental Caucus

Mari Perez-Ruiz, Chair
CADEM Renters Council

Connie Choi, Esq., Policy Director
California Immigrant Policy Center

Kirk Vartan, Founding Member/Worker Owner
A Slice of New York

Carmelita Kelly Miller, Senior Climate Equity Director
Greenlining Institute

Alexis Cureton, Coalition Coordinator
Energy Efficiency for All

Norma P. Garcia, Esq. Policy Counsel
Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)

Noe Paramo, Legislative Advocate
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Julia Cato, Chair
Berkeley Tenants Union

Ari Neumann, Director
Rural Community Assistance Corp

Annelisa Moe, Water Quality Scientist
Heal the Bay

Marlene Montanez, Associate Director
Long Beach Forward

Ilaf Esuf, Housing & Economic Policy Analyst
United Way Bay Area