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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

March 26, 2021

The Honorable William Dodd
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 223 Water Bill Debt Forgiveness/Shutoffs – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Senator Dodd:

SB 223 would create new requirements for water systems – most notably, adoption of an “arrearage management plan,” by which customers with delinquent balances would have their debt forgiven, which conflicts with Proposition 218. Orange County Water District (OCWD) respectfully requests that SB 223 be amended to remove violations of Proposition 218.

Proposition 218 prohibits public water agencies from charging rates that exceed the proportional costs of the service attributable to the parcel. This prevents public water agencies from using ratepayer revenues to subsidize other ratepayers within the same customer class because such a practice would result in some customers paying more than the cost of service. Some of the new requirements proposed in SB 223 would be in direct conflict with Proposition 218.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and consideration of amending SB 223. Please do not hesitate to contact me or OCWD Legislative Liaison Alicia Dunkin at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 if you have any questions and/or if we may be of any assistance on water policy issues in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE
General Manager

The Honorable William Dodd
March 26, 2021
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cc:

Senator Dave Min, 37th District
Senator Patricia Bates, 36th District
Senator Tom Umberg, 34th District
Senator Bob Archuleta, 32nd District
Senator Josh Newman, 29th District
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74th District
Assemblymember Laurie Davies, 73rd District
Assemblymember Janet Nguyen, 72nd District
Assemblymember Tom Daly, 69th District
Assemblymember Steven S. Choi, Ph.D, 68th District
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk- Silva, 65th District
Assemblymember Phillip Chen, 55th District