



August 31, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1125 (Menjivar) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the undersigned organizations, I am writing to express our support for and respectfully request your signature on SB 1125, relating to the establishment of a state-administered low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program. Our organizations strongly support state efforts to protect water affordability and have consistently advocated for a LIRA program that is workable and efficient for the public water agencies that will play a key role in its administration. SB 1125 is the result of years of effort and collaboration, and we are pleased to support it.

ACWA has long supported a durable, workable solution for water affordability assistance. Water rates have risen in recent years as public water agencies have invested heavily in repairing and replacing aging infrastructure, preparing for climate change, and complying with increasingly stringent regulatory standards. As state and federal investments in water infrastructure have continued to decline, the costs of those investments have increasingly fallen on ratepayers. While the vast majority of Californians have access to affordable water, the upward pressure on water rates is a burden for some low-income households.

SB 1125 proposes implementing a LIRA program – implemented as funding is available – that would provide water rate assistance to those who need it most while minimizing the financial and administrative burden on public water agencies. Paired with AB 2739 (Soria), which proposes a sustainable funding solution for water affordability without raising taxes, SB 1125 is an important step toward achieving the Human Right to Water.

For these reasons, ACWA and the undersigned organizations are pleased to support and respectfully request your signature on SB 1125. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at SorenN@acwa.com.

Sincerely,

Soren Nelson
Senior Policy Advocate
Association of California Water Agencies

Aaron Avery
Director of State Legislative Affairs
California Special Districts Association

Charles Delgado
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

Hilary Straus
General Manager
Citrus Heights Water District

Drew Kleis
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City of San Diego

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