

ACWA State LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH ALERT

Association of California Water Agencies • 916.441.4545 • fax 916.325.2306 • www.acwa.com

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

August 4, 2006

ACWA State Legislative Alert #06-18

LEGISLATIVE ALERT: AB 2951 (Goldberg)

*Contact Your California Business Partners to Urge Their
Legislators to Support AB 2951*

AB 2951 is working its way through the legislative process in the California State Senate. It is now time to reach beyond our community. ACWA is asking member agencies to engage with their top business partners in a joint effort to seek passage of this bill. If each member agency contacts at least three business partners to explain the importance of getting this bill passed, then legislators will hear from a more diverse and broader group of interests. Businesses can help by contacting their local Senator via phone or by sending the attached sample letter to encourage their support for this extremely important bill when it is heard in committee and on the floor. By getting California businesses involved in the support efforts, both Republicans and Democrats will get a clearer understanding of how far reaching this bill is if it were to fail passage.

The passage of AB 2951 (Goldberg) is critically important in clarifying the law as to the rights and responsibilities of local agency public utilities and the public institutions they serve. It would preserve the authority of local public agency utilities to charge commodity rates that include a capital component to pay for the costs of ongoing capital improvements needed to serve all customers. The bill is needed in light of recent legal challenges seeking to undermine the authority of public utilities to include continuing capital costs in their monthly rates and impose those rates on other public entities, particularly public schools and educational institutions and state agencies.

With this bill's passage:

- ❑ AB 2951 would provide that all public agencies be subject to charges for water, sewer and electricity that contain a capital facilities component.
- ❑ AB 2951 would protect the ability of public agency utilities to equitably apportion the costs of operating, maintaining, repairing, and replacing their system facilities among all customers – public and private.

Without passage of this bill:

- ❑ Public agency utilities could be forced to raise the rates and fees paid by residential and commercial customers if schools are no longer required to pay their fair share of the capital costs of system serving them.
- ❑ Public agency utilities would be forced to annually negotiate their monthly rates with every public school, community college, CSU campus, UC campus, and state agency located within its service territory.

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For more information, please contact ACWA Legislative Advocate Whitnie Henderson at (916) 441-4545 or by email at whitnieh@acwa.com.

ACTION NEEDED FROM YOU: CONTACT YOUR AGENCY'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

- ✓ Call your top three business partners to encourage their active support for AB 2951.
- ✓ Provide those businesses with a copy of the sample letter so that they can quickly contact their local state senator using the list provided below.
- ✓ Be sure to ask them to Cc both your agency and ACWA on any correspondence to their local state senator so that you receive the outreach credit you deserve. You are eligible to receive one point for each of the three businesses that make contact with their local state senator (Maximum 3 points per agency).

Important Information

Action Taken: To receive ACWA outreach credit, send copies of letters that have been sent and circle those that apply from the following list. Fax or e-mail this section along with the outreach letter to ACWA for outreach tracking:

(Circle all that apply)

Phoned ____ Personal Meeting ____ My Legislator will Testify ____ (circle legislator name)

Agency Name: _____

Agency Contact: _____

ACWA Fax Number: 916.325.2306 (Attn: Sheri Van Wert)

E-mail Reply: sheriv@acwa.com

Name	Phone	Fax
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Sam Aanestad, SD 04	916.651.4004	916.445.7750
Dick Ackerman, SD 33	916.651.4033	916.445.9754
Richard Alarcon, SD 20	916.651.4020	916.327.5703
Elaine Alquist, SD 13	916.651.4013	916.324.0283
Roy Ashburn, SD 18	916.651.4018	916.322.3304
Jim Battin, SD 37	916.651.4037	916.327.2187
Debra Bowen, SD 28	916.651.4028	916.323.6056
Gil Cedillo, SD 22	916.651.4022	916.327.8817
Wes Chesbro, SD 2	916.651.4002	916.323.6958
Dave Cox, SD 1	916.651.4001	916.324.2680
Jeff Denham, SD 12	916.651.4012	916.445.0773
Denise Ducheny, SD 40	916.651.4040	916.327.3522
Joe Dunn, SD 34	916.651.4034	916.323.2323
Bob Dutton, SD 31	916.651.4031	916.327.2272
Martha Escutia, SD 30	916.651.4030	916.327.8755
Liz Figueroa, SD 10	916.651.4010	916.327.2433
Dean Florez, SD 16	916.651.4016	916.327.5989
Tom Harman, SD 35	916.651.4035	916.445.9263
Dennis Hollingsworth, SD 36	916.651.4036	916.447.9008
Christine Kehoe, SD 39	916.651.4039	916.327.2188
Sheila Kuehl, SD 23	916.651.4023	916.324.4823
Alan Lowenthal, SD 27	916.651.4027	916.327.9113
Mike Machado, SD 05	916.651.4005	916.323.2304
Abel Maldonado, SD 15	916.651.4015	916.445.8081
Bob Margett, SD 29	916.651.4029	916.324.0922
Tom McClintock, SD 19	916.651.4019	916.324.7544
Carole Migden, SD 3	916.651.4003	916.445.4722
Bill Morrow, SD 38	916.651.4038	916.446.7382
Kevin Murray, SD 26	916.651.4026	916.445.8899
Deborah Ortiz, SD 6	916.651.4006	916.323.2263
Don Perata, SD 9	916.651.4009	916.327.1997
Chuck Poochigian, SD 14	916.651.4014	916.327.3523
Gloria Romero, SD 24	916.651.4024	916.445.0485
George Runner, SD 17	916.651.4017	916.445.4662
Jack Scott, SD 21	916.651.4021	916.324.7543
Joe Simitian, SD 11	916.651.4011	916.323.4529
Nell Soto, SD 32	916.651.4032	916.445.0128
Jackie Speier, SD 8	916.651.4008	916.327.2186
Tom Torlakson, SD 7	916.651.4007	916.445.2527
Ed Vincent, SD 25	916.651.4025	916.445.3712

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Association of California Water Agencies

Leadership Advocacy Information Since 1910

Legislative Alert

TO: *[Insert local senators name here]*

FROM: *[Insert CALIFORNIA BUSINESS NAME here]*

RE: Assembly Bill No. 2951 – Support

The passage of AB 2951 (Goldberg) is critically important in clarifying the law as to the rights and responsibilities of local agency public utilities and the public institutions they serve. It would preserve the authority of local public agency utilities to charge commodity rates that include a capital component to pay for the costs of ongoing capital improvements needed to serve all customers. This bill will not have a fiscal impact on public agencies, including universities and schools. This bill is important for ensuring that all customers pay their fair share of the rates charged for receiving service.

With the Passage of this bill:

- ❑ AB 2951 would provide that all public agencies be subject to charges for water, sewer and electricity that contain a capital component for ongoing maintenance of the system.
- ❑ AB 2951 would protect the ability of public agency utilities to equitably apportion the costs of operating, maintaining, repairing, and replacing their system facilities among all customers – public and private.

Without Passage of this bill:

- ❑ Public agency utilities could be forced to increase the rates and fees paid by residential and commercial customers if schools are no longer required to pay their fair share of the capital costs of system serving them.
- ❑ Public agency utilities would be forced to annually negotiate their monthly rates with every public school, community college, CSU campus, UC campus, and state agency located within its service territory.

For the aforementioned reasons, *[Insert your business name here]* respectfully requests a “YES” vote on AB 2951.

Cc: The Honorable Jackie Goldberg

[Insert requesting water agency’s name here]

ACWA