



July 27, 2017

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 623 (Monning) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher,

On behalf of Rainbow Municipal Water District, I am writing to express our opposition to SB 623 (Monning), which would establish a special fund to be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board to assist those who do not have safe drinking water.

While we agree with the goal of assisting disadvantaged communities that do not have safe drinking water, SB 623 needs to be amended to address several fundamental flaws related to funding categories and eligibility, as detailed by the Association of California Water Agencies. Additionally, if language proposing a statewide tax on water, also known as a public goods charge or ratepayer assessment, is amended into the bill, SB 623 would become completely unacceptable to public water agencies.

While there is clearly a need to help fund sensible long-term solutions and assist the disadvantaged communities that do not have safe drinking water, requiring local water agencies across the state to collect a new tax for the state is not the solution. This is a social issue for the state. Rainbow Municipal Water District believes that the state's General Fund is an appropriate source of funding for this important social issue.

For these reasons, Rainbow Municipal Water District opposes SB 623 and respectfully requests your "NO" vote when the bill is taken up in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

If you or members of your staff have any questions, please contact me at tkennedy@rainbowmwd.com or 760-728-1178 Ext. 130.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kennedy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Kennedy, General Manager
Rainbow Municipal Water District

The Honorable William Monning
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Ms. Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Mr. John Kennedy, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ms. Cindy Tuck, ACWA Deputy Executive Director for Governmental Relations

