



ORA

Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission

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March 27, 2018

The Honorable Jim Beall
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 959 (Beall) – Support

Dear Senator Beall:

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). ORA's mission is to advocate for the lowest possible rates for customers of California's regulated utilities consistent with safe, reliable service levels, and the state's environmental goals.

ORA supports SB 959, as amended on March 22, 2018, which would require a water corporation with more than 10,000 service connections to maintain on its website an archive of all advice letters submitted to the CPUC beginning on January 1, 2019.

SB 959 would make water advice letters submitted to the CPUC more easily available to utility customers. This is important because advice letters allow a water company to obtain CPUC approval for certain types of actions, such as a water rate increase which can substantially impact customers' monthly bills. ORA supports this bill because it would provide customers with easier access to information they need to stay well-informed about their water utility service.

ORA looks forward to working with you to implement this consumer-focused legislation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me at (415) 703-2381 or at elizabeth.echols@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Echols
Director