

BILL AB401 -- 2015, WATER  
public workshop by state water board  
input on how to set up subsidy: low income rate assistance (LIRA)  
\*STOP state corporate tax breaks (48 BILLION/YEAR)

Hi, my name is Daniel Miller. I was born and raised in San Diego and I have lived in California my entire life. I am a restaurant server, an EMT, and a pre-med student. I am here addressing the water board today to underscore the importance of access to water for all, and the ramifications of an inadequate subsidy program.

As a part of the working class, I am demanding that the state put an end to all water shut-offs and provide affordable water for all. In doing so, there are two crucial aspects of the proposed Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA): 1) that the funding for this program does NOT come from other members of the working class and 2) that the amount subsidized is greater than 20%.

Today we are hearing testimony from families throughout California with horrifying stories of going weeks or longer without life's most precious resource – water – because our government shut them off. This should be a criminal act, but so far the law says it's not. While there are 24,000 water shut offs annually in San Diego, and tens of thousands more statewide, corporate behemoths like Google, Facebook, and Apple are not paying their fair share of taxes. What's worse is that companies that manufacture war and death like Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin are receiving over 400 million dollars in tax breaks from 2014 until 2029. If this continues, the state will be directly responsible for thousands of deaths by impeding proper hygiene through the lack of water. The State Water Board MUST act, not to "help out" this situation, but to end it altogether.

Having worked in the service industry since high school, I cannot emphasize enough the need for equal water accessibility. Additionally, having studied and worked in healthcare, I know the public health implications of not having access to water. If those that work in California's \$126 billion dollar tourism industry cannot bathe, wash dishes, or flush their toilets, then common food-borne illnesses will become public health disasters. In closing, we are demanding the state to stop water shutoffs and provide affordable water to ALL citizens. Therefore, if the state decides to implement a subsidy program, the funding must NOT COME from other members of the working class. I implore the water board and ALL state officials to stop the corporate tax breaks that could easily provide water for all. Water is a right not a commodity.