

DOCKETED

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ANTHONY RENDON, Ph.D.
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APPROPRIATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT
AND SOCIAL SECURITY
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

June 30, 2015

Robert Weisenmiller, Chair
Andrew McAllister, Commissioner
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Drought Response Program

Dear Chair Weisenmiller and Commissioner McAllister:

The California Energy Commission's (CEC) response to Governor Brown's Executive Order B-29-15 will play a major role in California's development of sound water conservation programs. I commend the work that the CEC, staff, and others from Department of Water Resources and the State Water Board have done to establish and implement bold regulatory steps, and I want to thank you for inviting me to participate in the conversation.

I write this letter to bring to your attention the needs of my constituents, and others throughout the state, as they do their part during this time of drought to adjust their daily lives in order to preserve the State's resources. The communities I represent struggle with gaining access to clean drinking water and tools to conserve the little water they do have. The City of Maywood, to give an example from my district, has contaminated water and a heavily poor and immigrant population. The City is often excluded from water conservation programs because programs are not designed to be within their reach. This dynamic is not an isolated case and can be seen in communities throughout the state.

Many of my constituents reside in multifamily housing units. Programs that currently apply to single family homes do not appeal financially or operationally to landlords. In designing future programs it is important that the CEC include the needs of individuals that live in multifamily homes and residences.

I encourage the CEC to address this disparity of access in the workshops and programs it is developing to address the drought. In the process of designing the state-mandated fixture rebate program, I urge the CEC to incorporate the needs of the state's underrepresented communities.



into the mechanisms of the program. More specifically, the program should include the following qualities:

- Informational and outreach material in languages other than English that represent the diversity of the state and the specific communities where the programs will be offered,
- Technical *and* non-technical information on the best available products eligible for rebates to enable individuals to make informed buying choices,
- A process for enforcing statewide product quality standards and assisting those families who receive substandard products,
- A system for recognizing community demographics (such as the number of families, types of households) and the potential for a diversity of needs,
- An inclusive outreach program to spread information about rebate and conservation opportunities,
- Development and implementation of a “rebate means test” to ensure that the limited funds are made available to those who most need the program and other assistance, and
- A mechanism to track program use demographically and geographically.

I appreciate the CEC’s consideration of my recommendations. As the state and its residents engage with the worsening effects of the drought, it is absolutely vital that *all* Californians are given the tools to do so. The CEC has a powerful role to play in providing these tools, and I encourage the CEC and staff to take advantage of this position.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY RENDON