

State of California

Memorandum

Date: January 30, 2016

To: Commissioners and Advisors

From: Jamie Ormond
Advisor to Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval

Subject: Discussion and Action on Proposed Appointments to the Low-Income Oversight Board

Public Utilities Code § 382.1 establishes a Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) to advise the Commission on low-income electric, gas, and water customer issues. The LIOB serves as a liaison between the Commission and the low-income ratepayers and representatives. The LIOB is comprised of eleven members. Three appointments will expire on February 5, 2016. Two positions are held by members selected by the Commission who have expertise in the low-income community and are not affiliated with any state agency or utility. One position that became vacant is held by a representative of private weatherization contractors. In addition, the current water corporation representative has retired. The California Water Association has identified a new water representative in Dave Linam; additionally, the Department of Community Services and Development has reappointed Jason Wimbley, the current CSD representative, to another term. The positions are for two-year terms from the date of appointment by the Commission.

Commissioner Sandoval recommends that, during the February 11, 2016 business meeting, the Commission approve the appointments of Ortensia Lopez, Larry Gross, Patricia Watts (Private Weatherization Contractor Representative), Jeffrey Linam, and Jason Wimbley to the LIOB.

Ms. Lopez is a founding member of the LIOB and has served five terms. She is a recognized leader on a number of issues facing low-income communities and has provided valuable contributions to LIOB. She has been the Executive Director of El Concilio of San Mateo County for over 18 years. The organization has provided energy education and weatherization for over 20,000 households. Prior to that, Ms. Lopez was the President and Co-founder of the Bay Area Latino Non-Profit Association. Ms. Lopez has extensive volunteer experience and has won numerous awards for her community contributions and leadership.

Mr. Gross was appointed to the LIOB on January 12, 2012. He has been the Executive Director of the Los Angeles-based Coalition for Economic Survival (CES) for over 40 years. CES is a tenants' rights organization serving low and moderate income renters throughout the greater Los Angeles area and its mission is to preserve affordable housing. Mr. Gross was appointed by the Mayor and Chairperson of the L.A. City Council Housing and Community Development Committee to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Study of the Economic Impact of Major Rehabilitation Evictions on low income households. He was also a member of L.A. City Councilmember Eric Garcetti's Slum Housing Task Force. He was a City Council appointee to the seven-member Tenant-Landlord Oversight Committee of the Economic Study of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Los Angeles Housing Market.

Ms. Watts has served as the Private Weatherization Contractor representative on the LIOB for the past four years and served as the board's Vice-Chair. Ms. Watts has been the President and CEO of FCI Management Consultants in Long Beach for over 16 years. Prior to that, she was the President and Owner of a management consultant agency specializing in public affairs, community relations and marketing for over 10 years and served in several different roles at Southern California Edison. Ms. Watts is an active community member, serving on several boards and providing outstanding leadership.

Jeff Linam is the Vice President of Rates for California American Water and Hawaii American Water. As a member of the executive leadership team, Jeff and his team handle the policy development, preparation, filing and processing of all rate requests, acquisitions and other proceedings before the State Public Utility Commissions. With more than 20 years of experience working for regulated utilities in California, Jeff has also worked in public accounting and management consulting. He holds a bachelor's in mathematics/economics from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from the UCLA Anderson School. He is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Management Accountant. Jeff currently serves on the board of Metro Ministries, a faith based organization committed to working with low income individuals, families and communities to overcome poverty and to achieve economic success through employment, education, social services and leadership development. Jeff has also served on several public school boards focused on improving education to underserved communities.

Jason Wimbley currently serves as the Chief Deputy Director, with the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), a position he has held since April 2013. Previously, Mr. Wimbley served as CSD's Energy Program

Director and was responsible for ensuring successful administration of federal low-income energy assistance programs and services to low-income Californians.

Currently, Mr. Wimbley serves as CSD's designated representative to the Low-Income Oversight Board, an advisory board established by the legislature to advise the California Public Utilities Commission on low-income electric and gas customer issues and serve as a liaison for the Commission to low-income utility customers and representatives. Mr. Wimbley possesses extensive and unique experience in working with low-income communities, local governments, utility companies, and community-based organizations to foster strong partnerships and the advancement of energy initiatives serving the interest and needs of low-income Californians. He welcomes the opportunity to serving another term on the LIOB and truly looks forward to assisting the LIOB with fulfilling its legislative purpose.

Ms. Lopez, Mr. Gross, Ms. Watts, Mr. Linam, and Mr. Wimbley are highly qualified for the appointments and will be valuable additions to the LIOB.