

State of California

Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco**MEMORANDUM**

Date : February 13, 2018

To : The Commission
(Meeting of March 1, 2018)

From : Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen

Subject: 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 is comprised of 11 members who serve two-year terms from the date of appointment by the Commission.

Terms for five of the 11 LIOB members expired in January and February 2018. The LIOB is comprised of 11 members and there is specific statutory guidance on the required experience for board members. One LIOB member is selected by the Governor and one member is selected by the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD). The remaining nine members are selected by the Commission. For the members that are selected and appointed by the Commission, I solicited candidates by an Assigned Commissioner Ruling in the Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Program consolidated proceeding (CARE/ESA) (Application 14-11-007, et al.), through public announcements and communication channels at other state agencies, and in conformance with the LIOB Charter, adopted in Resolution E-4095.

I recommend to the Commission the appointment of the following highly qualified candidates to the LIOB:

Ms. Patricia Watts is an incumbent member of the LIOB, having been appointed to her initial two-year term in January 2012 as the private weatherization contractor representative. Ms. Watts is President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FCI Management Inc., a woman and minority-owned consulting firm for energy and water efficiency projects. Ms. Watts also serves on several non-profit boards in Southern California including Community Build, a community development organization focused on bringing capital investment into South Central Los Angeles.

Mr. Larry Gross is an incumbent public member of the LIOB, having been appointed to his initial two-year term in January 2012. Mr. Gross is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Economic Survival, a tenants' rights organization serving low and moderate-income renters throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Mr. Gross has served on numerous public committees and currently serves as President of the City of Los Angeles Board of Animal Services Commissioners, having been appointed by Mayor Garcetti in 2014.

Mr. Jeffrey Linam is an incumbent member of the LIOB, having been appointed to his initial two-year term in February 2016, as the water corporation representative. Mr. Linam is Vice President of Rates and Regulatory for California American Water and Hawaii American Water with over 20 years of experience working for regulated utilities in California. Mr. Linam also 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. The California Water Association recommended Mr. Linam as the LIOB's water corporation representative.

Ms. Maria Stamas is a new public member to the LIOB. Ms. Stamas is an attorney and policy director with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Ms. Stamas is NRDC's lead attorney for a coalition-based initiative, Energy Efficiency for All, through which she works closely with affordable housing owners and residents, workforce development groups, program implementers, and impacted communities with the goal of securing healthy, affordable, and sustainable housing for low-income Californians living in rental housing. Ms. Stamas serves on the board of Women Energy Associates.

I also want to inform you that, **Mr. Jason Wimbley** begins a new two-year term as the LIOB representative for the California Department of Community Services and Development, where he serves as the Chief Deputy Director. Mr. Wimbley possesses extensive experience in working with 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, including California's Low-Income Weatherization Program.

I ask for your support for the appointment of these candidates to serve on the California's Low Income Oversight Board.

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